

LOG IN | MY ACCOUNT | SUBSCRIBER SERVICES | ADVERTISE | ABOUT US | CONTACT US |

36F FORECAST »



FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION 914 . 500 . 1000  
WWW.GOTRANSFORM.COM

Home Archive Dining Shopping Nightlife Resources Party Pictures Signature Events Calendar Best Of Weddings Westchester Home

ADVERTISEMENT

**The Peekskill Brewery** | *Lovers & Haters*

Serving fine craft beers and food designed with a pint in mind

Saturday, February 14th Valentine's Day...JOIN US in our  
Lover's Dining Room or the Broken Heart Bar  
Call 914-734-BEER for reservations

EMAIL PRINT DELICIOUS DIGG YAHOO! COMMENTS

# A Few Of My Favorite Things

A sit-down with Barbara Schumacher, owner of Fleur, Mount Kisco's garden statuary store

BY: SUSAN HODORA PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2, 2007 AT 12:00 AM

## A Few Of My Favorite Things

### A Sit-Down With...

*Barbara Schumacher*

*Owner of Fleur, Mount Kisco's stone garden statuary and antique shop*

By Susan Hodara

Photography by John O'Donnell and Chris Dei



In Barbara Cirkva Schumacher's world, chic stands effortlessly alongside rustic, cutting-edge lives among relic, and whimsy mingles with classic. This double take on life, satisfied by her eclectic Madison Avenue apartment and her Mount Kisco country home, also plays out in her career. Schumacher's store, Fleur, the high-end Mount Kisco shop focusing on French and English stone garden statuary and garden antiquary, is only a few miles from the 30-acre estate where she lives with husband John Schumacher, former

## Subscribe




Subscribe today >>

ADVERTISEMENT

**edc**  
Elemental Design Concepts

Westchester County's  
Premiere Home Design Center  
Is Now Open!



**A Fresh Concept in Design  
A Fresh Concept in Color  
A Fresh Concept in Contracting**

**neff**  
Interior Design | Custom Wood Flooring  
Custom Carpentry | Italian Furniture  
Neff Kitchen Design & Installation | Home Theater  
Bathroom Design & Installation | Lighting Design  
Decorative Painting | Commercial Design

197 East Post Road | White Plains, NY  
914.422.3323 | [elementaldesignconcepts.com](http://elementaldesignconcepts.com)

chairman of Bonwit Teller and former president of I. Magnin, and their finely coiffed standard poodle, Raja. “A garden is constantly changing,” she says. “Each season you have the chance to rethink it.”

Seasonal evolution is true of fashion, too, a fact that Schumacher, division president of fashion, watches, and fine jewelry for Chanel Inc., knows well. Based in Manhattan during the week, she oversees retail and wholesale national sales, marketing, and real estate, crossing the globe nearly every week. What binds her two seemingly contradictory endeavors is, she says, “my love of beautiful objects.”

The couple’s Mount Kisco home, which was built in 1921 in the style of a hunting lodge and today evokes an Italian villa, is filled with beautiful objects. With a view of the Croton Reservoir to the west, it’s surrounded by gardens—lilac bushes, cherry and apple trees, and more than 300 varieties of roses—and furnished, perhaps not surprisingly given the lady of the house’s proclivities, with a mix of beautiful antiques and contemporary pieces.

On a recent morning, hours before she and John headed off to vacation in Capri, Schumacher discussed some of her favorite possessions—an eclectic array with which she adorns her home, her garden, and herself.

#### ON TIME



“It’s a tough job to wear Chanel every day,” Schumacher quips. The diamond-studded, ceramic J12 watch, introduced in 2000 and inspired by a class of racing yachts, is, she says, “one of Chanel’s most sought-after iconic pieces”—one she owns and wears proudly.

#### GARDEN BUSTS

## In the Current Issue

February 2009



### Features

**20 Great Meals Under \$20.09 »**  
**Westchester’s New Restaurateur »**

### Web Exclusives

Hot Plates | February 9, 2009 »  
 Wine Dinners »  
 Bet You Haven’t Eaten Here Yet »  
 Hot Plates | February 2, 2009 »  
 Love Bites: Westchester’s 20 Most Romantic Restaurants »

### Departments

Richard and Me »  
 Letters »  
 Honoring Our Own »  
 Just a Tip »  
 The Matchmaker »  
 This Month’s Winner & Losers »  
 Sledders Shangri-Las »  
 Some Inconvenient Truths »  
 10 Most Romantic Places to Kiss »  
 Top 5: Carly Phillips »  
 Things We Love »



A terracotta model of Eros from 18th-century Italy was discovered in Paris. “I fell in love with the detail on his face and the tendrils in his hair,” Schumacher says. The marble torso from Greece, dating back to the second century AD, was a surprise Christmas present from John, bought at auction to celebrate their fifth anniversary of living in Mount Kisco.

#### IN A GOOD LIGHT



The Schumachers’ chandelier, a mercury sphere suspended in the center of a circular iron band about three feet in diameter, is “the ‘wow’ piece in our living room,” Barbara says. The top edge of the band serves as a candleholder for 20 candles; 20 hand-blown glass balls dangle below them.

#### FASHION ACCENT

Things We Love »

A New Twist on An Old Classic: The White Shirt »

New Stores »

To Your Health »

Undercover: A Lingerie Aficionado Bares It All »

Sweet Heart »

Winging It »

Sweet Dominican »

Have a Heart—Eat Oprah’s Favorite Cake »

The Accidental Oenophile »

Green with Anger »

Nibbles »

Wine for the Sweet Tooth »

Bar None »

Point-and-Click Gourmet »

To a Tea »

Four-Star French »

Home Theater »

Culture, Etc. »

Factory Master »

FotoFiles »

Taste Maker »



Schumacher's purple satin purse, called Coco's Croco, is inspired by Chanel's classic 2:55 bag (named for February 1955, when Coco Chanel designed it). "Mr. Lagerfeld loves to play with the historic 'codes' of Chanel," she says. "I don't know if I'd want to wear an entire purple outfit, but I love it as an accent color."

#### VINO FINO



The Schumachers were introduced to Montevetrano 2002, a red wine from a vineyard south of Salerno, by the owner of one of their favorite restaurants in Capri, where they've vacationed for the past 20 years. They've been drinking it ever since "for special occasions," Barbara says. "It's smooth and light. Whenever I drink it, I think of Capri." Bottles of Montevetrano 2002 have their place in the couple's restored wine cellar, home to 2,000 bottles of wine.

#### AN UNLIKELY PAIR



Nestled in the verdant garden abutting the patio that Schumacher calls “our summer dining room” are two stone armless Italian busts dating back to the 1830s. “We got them in Paris on our first buying trip for Fleur. We were so worried about making mistakes, but they have become two of our most special pieces.”

#### TIME OUT



Even though the Schumachers felt they didn't have a proper place to hang them, they couldn't resist purchasing these clocks, each 69 inches across, with a sky-blue face, hands of gilded zinc, and gold-leaf numbers. Handmade in the early 1900s, the clocks still function and today lean against an outbuilding on the property. “We think they were originally on either side of a pool house,” Barbara says. “The coloration is fabulous, and I love the fact that they're a pair.”

#### FAUX BOIS



Among Schumacher's favorite pieces of Faux Bois (which is French for “false wood”) are a bench and chair that sit beside this stone stag, one of a pair dating from the late 19th century. “It is,” she declares, “the only deer allowed inside our fence.”

This article appears in the [Fall 2007 issue of Westchester Magazine](#) - [Buy this issue »](#)

Do you like what you just read here? [Subscribe to Westchester Magazine »](#)

Add your comment:

[Log In](#) [Create an account](#)

[Create an instant account](#), or please log in if you have an account.

Email address (not displayed publicly)

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

**Verification Question.** (This is so we know you are a human and not a spam robot.)

What is 5 + 5 ?



[Archive](#) | [Dining](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Nightlife](#) | [Resources](#) | [Party Pictures](#) | [Signature Events](#) | [Best Of](#) | [Weddings](#) | [Home & Garden](#)

[My Account](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Advertise](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Weather](#)

Copyright 2009 Today Media, Inc. All rights reserved.

powered by [RIVISTA](#) | [A Godengo Technology](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

This site is a member of the [City & Regional Magazine Association Online Network](#)

- ALABAMA**
- [Birmingham Magazine](#)
- CALIFORNIA**
- [Alameda Magazine](#)
- [Diablo Magazine](#)
- [Marin Magazine](#)
- [Oakland Magazine](#)
- [Palm Springs Life](#)
- [Sacramento Magazine](#)
- [San Diego Magazine](#)
- CONNECTICUT**
- [Greenwich Magazine](#)
- [New Canaan Darien Magazine](#)
- [Westport Magazine](#)
- [atHome in Fairfield County Magazine](#)

- DELAWARE**
- [Delaware Today](#)
- FLORIDA**
- [Gulfshore Life](#)
- [Sarasota Magazine](#)
- GEORGIA**
- [Atlanta Magazine](#)
- HAWAII**
- [Honolulu Magazine](#)
- ILLINOIS**
- [Chicago Magazine](#)
- INDIANA**
- [Evansville Living](#)
- [Indianapolis Monthly](#)
- LOUISIANA**
- [New Orleans Magazine](#)

- MAINE**
- [Bangor Metro](#)
- [Down East](#)
- MINNESOTA**
- [Minnesota Monthly](#)
- MICHIGAN**
- [DBusiness Magazine](#)
- [Grand Rapids Magazine](#)
- [Hour Detroit](#)
- [Traverse Magazine](#)
- MISSOURI**
- [St. Louis Magazine](#)
- [417 Magazine](#)
- NEW YORK**
- [Buffalo Spree](#)
- [Hudson Valley Magazine](#)
- [Westchester Magazine](#)

- OHIO**
- [Cincinnati Magazine](#)
- [Ohio Magazine](#)
- PENNSYLVANIA**
- [Main Line Today](#)
- RHODE ISLAND**
- [Rhode Island Monthly](#)
- TENNESSEE**
- [Memphis Magazine](#)
- TEXAS**
- [Texas Monthly](#)
- WASHINGTON DC**
- [Washingtonian](#)
- WISCONSIN**
- [Madison Magazine](#)