



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bungalow Homewares Gallery opens

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA— Bungalow Homewares Gallery opened its doors to the public for the first time today, Wednesday, April 16, 2008. A much-anticipated addition to the neighborhood's commercial strip on Mount Vernon Avenue, the store offers home furnishings, accessories, and supplies with an eclectic style, a casual scale appropriate to the smaller homes typical of the neighborhood, and an eco-friendly emphasis.

Visitors to the new store frequently remarked on the breadth and variety of the products, as well as on the care lavished on arrangement and display. Selections include furniture for the living-, dining-, and bedroom; bed and bath linens; decorative accessories such as throw pillows, candles, picture frames, and vases; plates, bowls, glasses, and other items for the table; and much more. Bungalow Homewares has sourced its products from vendors near and far. The beeswax candles, for example, are handmade in North Carolina, while the napkins are crafted by a women's collective in Transylvania. Skilled artisans in Thailand, Spain, California, Texas, and elsewhere have all contributed to the rich mix of colors, textures, and materials that characterize the store's ambiance.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," comments Daryl Wakeley, one of the owners. "Everyone has been telling me that the neighborhood needs a store like this, and as residents ourselves we're happy to be able to fill that niche."

One aspect of that niche is the size and proportions of the furniture pieces arrayed throughout the retail space. "We live in a bungalow here, too," says Mr. Wakeley, "and it was a struggle to find a new sofa that would even fit through the front door. Everything we saw was over-scaled and over-stuffed. And we thought that we couldn't be the only people facing that problem."

It's not only the furniture and accessories that boast an environmental emphasis. The building that houses the new venture, a long-abandoned urban brownfields site, has been cleaned up, renovated, and brought back to life. The walls are painted with clay- and soy-based, zero-VOC paints, which are available for sale in the store. The floor is the original concrete tinted with a water-based stain. Display fixtures are constructed of such renewable materials as sorghum, bamboo, and sunflower husks; and the lighting is from energy-efficient fixtures, including compact fluorescents.

"It's only the first day," Mr. Wakeley remarks, "but already there's a feeling of welcome here."

BUNGALOW HOMEWARES GALLERY is an independent retailer located in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia, offering home furnishings, accessories, and supplies with an eclectic style, a casual scale, and an eco-friendly emphasis. The store is open 10 AM–6 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, please contact Daryl Wakeley at 703.299.8899 or by email at info@bungalowhomewares.com.