

The
IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

AHEAD OF
the TREND
>> OUR
FAVORITE
FALL
FADS

LEGALIZE
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HIP
COLLEGIATE
STYLE

DETAIL
ORIENTE
THE SEASON'S
MUST-HAVE
ACCESSORIES

BOSTON'S DAPPER GUIDE
to ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE and COUTURE

\$2.50 OUTSIDE OF METRO BOS



Openings

STOP & SHOP

A pair of stores worth perusing

BOSTON: Armoire

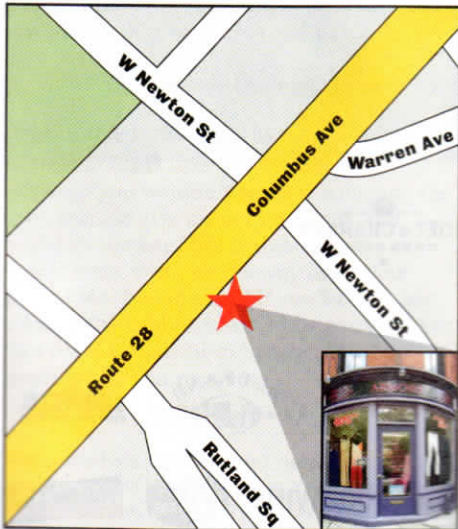
BETWEEN THE WINE Emporium and Le Petit Robert Bistro sits Armoire, tucked away like a great fashion find. Just three months old, the consignment shop boasts upscale labels including Calvin Klein and Gucci. "The first few weeks and months were rather slow, but word of mouth got around, and we've seen a steady pickup in our traffic," general manager Bobby Dickens says. "Before we arrived, there wasn't much shopping at this end of town. Aside from Tremont Street, clothing stores are a rarity in the South End."

Another rarity: Armoire splits its merchandise equally among the sexes. Dickens credits this to the neighborhood. "The male population of the South End gives us an opportunity to attract a market that is sometimes forgotten." Even with its men's selections, the most popular items remain handbags and accessories. "Sunglasses rarely stay overnight; a pair of Christian Dior is here for maybe half a day."

Plans for expansion are already under way. "Eventually the idea is to open a retail boutique and let the consignment shop serve as an outlet where items that don't sell in one season can be discounted," he says. For now, old still seems new again.

KYLE WRIGHT

Armoire, 482 Columbus Ave., Boston
(617-236-5838) armoireboston.com



CAMBRIDGE: Passport

MOST TRAVELERS spend their first moments at a hotel trying to transform themselves from tired tourists into groomed globetrotters. Thanks to Passport, they can arrive and depart in style. Owner Jessica Good has stocked her Harvard Square boutique with chic, travel-friendly apparel and accessories. "I've always been a big traveler," Good says. "Passport is a perfect match for Cambridge because of the different people from all over the world that are coming and going all of the time."

Opened last week, the store offers versatile clothing in flexible fabrics. "You won't find any linen pants," she jokes. Instead, most pieces come in jersey or other cotton blends that are less likely to wrinkle. Lines include Love by Ya-Ya, Rachel Pally and Twinkle. And for the items that do get crumpled, there's Crease Release, a packable spray. Jetsetters can also pick up specialty luggage designed to meet pesky airline requirements and transparent makeup bags that accommodate the ever-changing standards for carry-on cosmetics.

Good's parting advice: Wear sunglasses. "They call it 'the red-eye' for a reason," she observes.

LINDSAY SCALERA

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