

# 6

## RETAIL & FASHION

Home to new designers and artisanal tradition, Antwerp's lanes offer a shop window on the city's creative spirit.

### THE OVERVIEW

Pack your bags

Antwerp's manageable scale, winding gothic streets and independent shops make for small-town charm with worldly appeal. There's Graanmarkt 13 for contemporary homeware, and staples such as glove-maker Ganterie Boon are unique and alluring. Begin your stroll on the Meir Straat and swing by Schuttershofstraat, Steenhouwersvest and Lombardenvest before discovering some sparkle in the diamond district.



#### 2 ATELIER SOLARSHOP

Science of selling

Piëtro Celestina and fashion designer Jan-Jan Van Esschehis started this independent shop in the lesser-known Borgerhout district. "We see it as a kind of laboratory," says Celestina. Vintage furniture sits alongside Van Essche's fashion line, with jewellery and art from Belgian and international talent. [ateliersolarshop.be](http://ateliersolarshop.be)

#### 1 COCCODRILLO

Stepping out

Geert Bruloot and his partner Eddy Michiels opened this men's and women's footwear shop on Schuttershofstraat in 1984 to showcase exemplary shoes such as Martin Margiela's Tabi split-toe slippers. Today it offers global brands from Lanvin to Grenson alongside Belgian designers including Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester and Raf Simons. [coccodrillo.be](http://coccodrillo.be)



#### 3 GRAANMARKT 13

Home from home

This neoclassical townhouse just off the Schuttershofstraat is a contemporary retail space designed by Vincent Van Duysen. The ground floor is dedicated to fashion and accessories by designers including Belgians Christian Wijnants and Sofie D'Hoore, and Milanese handbag label Paula Cademartori. The rooftop garden supplies herbs and honey for award-winning chef Seppe Nobels' restaurant in the building's basement.

When founders Tim Van Geloven and Ilse Cornelissens opened in 2010 they set out to create a place where everyone would feel at home – which explains the rental apartment upstairs that sleeps six. [graanmarkt13.be](http://graanmarkt13.be)



#### 4 STUDIO HELDER

Meet the makers

This design agency-cum-shop was founded in 2010 by creative duo Diana Keller and Brecht Baert (pictured). Their creations, such as tables, lamps and sofas, are complemented by the likes of Belgium-based Ministry of Mass homeware and jewellery by Stephanie Schneider 17. "We see our shop as a 3D business card, where we can interact naturally with our customers," says Baert. [studiohelder.be](http://studiohelder.be)



# 1456

The year Bruges-born Lodewyk van Berken invented the revolutionary cutting device that made Antwerp the centre of the global diamond trade.

# 6

The Antwerp Six designers: Marina Yee, Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester, Dirk Bikkembergs, Walter Van Beirendonck and Dirk Van Saene.

## 5 GANTERIE BOON

### Attentive glover

The shop's oak interior dates back to the 1920s, when the current family took over from Italian glove-makers. Today third-generation owner Sofie Possemiers (pictured), who succeeded her mother Patsy Sarteel, sells gloves handmade in France, Italy and Hungary. Pull on a cashmere-lined number and don't be afraid of wear and tear: there's a free repair service for buyers.

[glovesboon.be](http://glovesboon.be)



## 7 COPYRIGHT

### Fine words

Get your fill of art and architecture books at this shop on Nationalestraat. Founded by Hilde Peleman more than 25 years ago, it has been at the Modenatie building near Momu since 2001. Large windows cast light on monographs, magazines and coffee-table books heavy on the subject of typography and design; there's also a decent range of stationery.

[copyrightbookshop.be](http://copyrightbookshop.be)



## 6 MAGAZYN

### Design covered

Magazyn is an excellent stop for handsome homeware, stocking everything from paperweights to pillows. It was opened in Steenhouwersvest in 2012 by Thomas Haarmann and is filled with gems, such as vintage Alpha glassware and cotton bedsheets from Italy.

Following the success of his bronze candleholder, German-born Haarmann (pictured) has put together an



exquisite furniture collection and is due to add to the line-up this year. "I always wanted to create a shop suited to my taste and my way of thinking," he says. We're pleased he did.

[magazyn.be](http://magazyn.be)



## 8 CAFÉ COSTUME

### Making the cut

The third generation of the Van Gils family – whose eponymous suits were already an international favourite – started the Café Costume menswear shop at Het Zuid.

Shoppers have a choice of myriad materials and buttons with which to design a truly tailor-made suit. "In Milan and Paris we select a range of high-quality fabrics based on our personal taste but also based on interesting weaving techniques, as well as unique colours and textures," says Bruno Van Gils. "Besides our Edition de Luxe range, we have hundreds of fabrics coming from the best weavers in Italy and the UK."

[cafecostume.com](http://cafecostume.com)



## ANTWERP BUYS

### Five to visit

- 1 **Recollection**  
Homeware and clothing, as well as furniture from Piet Hein Eek.  
[therecollection.com](http://therecollection.com)
- 2 **Wunderkammer**  
The sister shop of independent bookseller Stad Leest sells design-oriented objects.  
[steenhouwersvest.be](http://steenhouwersvest.be)
- 3 **Verso**  
The city's best-stocked department store, with a glass-domed roof.  
[verso.com](http://verso.com)
- 4 **Morrison**  
A menswear gem from the brothers behind knitwear label Howlin'.  
[morrison.be](http://morrison.be)
- 5 **Baltimore Bloemen**  
Mark Colle's timber-clad florist shop is our pick for posies.  
[baltimorebloemen.be](http://baltimorebloemen.be)



## 9 MADE BY HAND

### Perfectly formed

Functioning as a space for Belgian designers, Made by Hand is a tiny shop near the Kloosterstraat antique district. "Our items are made in limited editions and locally produced," says co-founder Ambrosius Smets. The stock ranges from delicate merino-wool scarves by La Femme Garniture to leather bags by Mayenne Nelen and porcelain jewellery by Something Inside.  
[KorteVlierstraat 17](http://KorteVlierstraat17)