



Kauppa

Feel the arctic air as you enter this two-year-old temple to Finnish design. Upstairs, the womenswear is gloriously overrun by Marimekko, the 60-year-old Helsinki company whose vibrant textiles have appeared on everyone from Jackie O to Carrie Bradshaw (well, okay, Sarah Jessica Parker). Caftans, shifts and halter maxis come in new and classic prints on silk, viscose and batiste cotton. The famous Unikko pattern appears on raincoats, purses and cosmetic cases – there are even napkins printed with the huge red poppies. Downstairs offers a nicely edited collection of home goods, including paper-thin porcelain by Jatta Lavi, Lapuan Kankurit's woollen blankets and Verso's tabletop accessories in felt. Craving more Finnish flavour? Pick up a box of salmiak liquorice from near the register.

Oude Spiegelstraat 6 (622 4848/kauppa.nl). Open Mon 13.00-18.00, Tue-Sat 11.00-18.00, Sun 13.00-17.00.

Pina Amsterdam

Don't confuse this Keizersgracht corner shop with the one down the block. Pina and fellow Downtown participant Van Ravenstein (at #359) have similar white façades, interiors rainbowed by high-end women's apparel and both stores favour European designers. Pina, however, is less Benelux-centric. Mediterranean currents are especially strong this summer, with representation by Patrizia Pepe, Nina and Paul & Joe Sister. Shop owner and stylist Josephine van Geloven has a dress for every occasion – work, wedding, backyard barbecue or backseat on a Vespa – and she'll offer advice at the drop of a hem.

Keizersgracht 233 (320 8225/pina-amsterdam.nl). Open Mon 13.00-18.00, Tue-Sat 11.00-18.00, Sun 13.00-17.00.



Open Shop

Joan Jett gone Kawaii? It's not easy to summarise Open Shop's daily changing stock of avant-garde clothes and accessories. Showcasing one-of-a-kind hand-sewn creations, there are seven racks for seven designers – each of whom spends one day in-house. So, if in doubt about where on your trunk that mesh tunic should be cinched, coordinate a visit with your designer's register duty. From neon-infused '80s dresses to campy-cute jewellery (plastic joystick earnings, anyone?), the collection favours gals of a post-Punky Brewster sway, though men can score big with 100% Halal. This eco-friendly company makes bamboofibre T-shirts with cheeky political messages. Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 291(528 6963/open-shopamsterdam.com). Open daily 12.00-19.00, Thur until 21.00.

