

Accessorizing exercise

A buying expedition in Red Bank,
New Jersey's fashionable Broad Street



Interior designer
Ria Gulian turns to
Red Bank for some of
Manhattan's finer wares.

AT THE CORNER OF WHITE and Broad in the heart of Red Bank, New Jersey's shopping district, *New York Spaces* meets up with interior designer and former American Society of Interior Designers president Ria Gulian, owner of Designs by Ria in Long

Branch. First things first, we head into Starbucks, lounge over lattes, and map out our mission for the day: to shop for decorative accessories for two of Gulian's clients.

"Details are like accessories on a woman," says Gulian. "A room is not dressed until it's accessorized." When

selecting decorative elements, Gulian thinks about balance, shape, texture, and lighting to create different levels for the eye to focus on. But it isn't just about pleasing the eye. The swishing sound of a rattan ceiling fan, the smell of aromatic candles or the way a wool carpet feels under bare feet—such details spark the other senses too.

Both of the clients Gulian has in mind reflect current trends. One homeowner loves the Tommy Bahama tropical look; the other longs for traditional luxury. "The 'new tropical' is not the 1980s fans and baskets on the wall décor," says Gulian. "It's a British colonial aesthetic that draws inspiration from natural elements like reeds, sea grasses and mahogany. It represents a sophisticated, well-traveled homeowner who wants casual elegance."

Fully caffeinated, we venture across the street to Tesori at 41 Broad. A well-curated selection of unique jewelry and home accessories, Tesori's wares are handpicked by the shop's owner, a former New York stylist. Gulian is immediately drawn to a kind of glass menagerie on shelves, which exactly represents the new tropical style. There's a pink cockatoo shaggy pillow, \$115, paired with a large-scale wooden decoupage bowl, \$325, from R. Pulvermacher Inc. Also part of the collection is a stunning glass vase adorned with cockatoos, \$143. Still in safari mode, Gulian spots a fabulous silver elephant wine cooler, \$90. "This would certainly make a statement while adding height to a bar area," she says.

We stroll toward the back of Tesori,