

travel



Swedish Shopping

Palm Beach designer **Lars Bolander** explores historic Stockholm's hot spots for the finest in objets d'art and furniture

WHEN SWEDISH-BORN PALM BEACH DESIGNER LARS BOLANDER describes Stockholm, he sounds unabashedly poetic. "The city is an architectural marvel," he says. "I just love it."

At first glance, Stockholm seems like a vision of floating tiaras, but that is only part of what Bolander adores. On one hand, the ancient watery capital of Sweden is elegant and aristocratic. On the other, it is a natural repository of treasures that are here because the country has not been at war since 1814 and has not been invaded for 300 years.

Adding to its allure is the fact that shopping in Stockholm is amazing. "My work is often influenced by the great things I find in Sweden, where I know many dealers in the city and in the country as well," Bolander says.

Sprawled across 14 islands connected by 53 bridges, the city progresses

ABOVE: A view of the harbor and rooftops of Gamla Stan, or the Old Town, reveals the area's charm. LEFT: On the island of Djurgården, Lars Bolander and glass designer Ingegerd Råman chat in her studio. Examples of her glassware and pottery are in the background. "I love simplicity and empty spaces," Råman says.

BY MARION LAFFEY FOX

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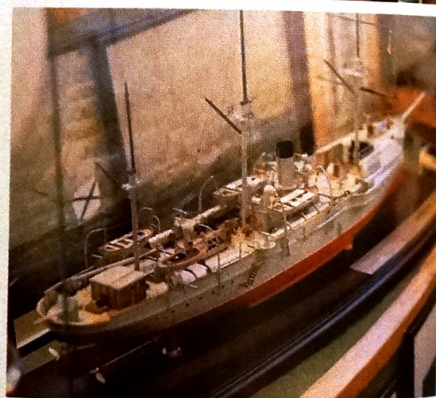
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for charming, mostly Gustavian, painted furniture, drop leaf kitchen tables called *slagboards*, cupboards, benches, and chairs. In the rare case the designer can't find what he's looking for, he heads across town to the area around Östermalms Saluhall. Before perusing the neighborhood, Bolander pauses in the busy indoor market for a delicious fish repast at a popular eatery called **Lisa Elmqvist**.

Fortified on Swedish *gravad lax*—salmon marinated in sugar, salt, and dill—or pike perch with wild mushrooms, he checks out nearby **Rehns**, an eclectic faux-painted shop housed in a former cinema lobby, where offerings can range from a carved carousel fish to a leopard rug. "We deal with lots of interior decorators," says Thomas Rehn, "so we have everything from period pieces that reflect our weakness for gilt and mahogany Empire furniture to quirky objets d'art." Around the corner, at **Lundgrens**, Ian, Theo, and Kristina Lundgren boast the largest collection of period chandeliers in Sweden. The small, two-room shop also features fine mirrors, furniture, wall sconces, and lamps.

Minutes away from Lundgrens at **Solgården**, Marianne von Kantzow Ridderstad fills in any gaps with newly produced reproductions of old Swedish designs. Inventory in the all-white shop includes 10 types of tables, 50 types of chairs, numerous sofas, cupboards, and beds. "We do high-class Gustavian reproductions by five different craftsmen and are the only shop in Sweden with painters on site, so clients can actually monitor the color they want," Ridderstad says. Although Bolander prefers bona fide antiques, he admits "the craftsmen in Sweden are extraordinary people who can copy old things extremely well. They have a feel for soft, Nordic colors and a great technique."



TOP: C.E. Thomas deals in antique botanical prints and maps. MIDDLE: Bolander and Björn Kreuter stand in front of a wall of mostly 18th-century Russian icons from the Pskov region. BOTTOM: A model of the Russian ship Mandzhur, once the flagship of the Emperor's Siberian fleet, can be found with other sea treasures at Fartygsmagasinet.

From Solgården, Bolander heads to Gamla Stan, Stockholm's Old Town, where some buildings date from as early as the 13th century. A few faded red, yellow, and gray doorways and arches recall that the 18th and 19th centuries passed here. Some of the city's most desirable apartments crouch over dusty bookstores, trendy

boutiques, art galleries, and antiques shops. "I love walking around Gamla Stan," Bolander says. "You always meet extraordinary people who have a tremendous amount of knowledge."

When Bolander's not browsing **C.E. Thomas** for antique botanical prints and maps or **Björn Kreuter** for Russian icons, as well as pewter, copper, brass, and silver pieces, he is poring over nautical treasures in Freddy Braun's fascinating shop called **Fartygsmagasinet**. This is the place to find anything smacking

of sea lore, including maps, paintings, scrimshaw, ship's furnishings, ceramics, and brass and copper lamps and fittings.

Bolander loves Stockholm for what it was and what it has become. "Stockholm today is very different from when I lived there. The atmosphere is more international and trendy, yet traditions are deeply rooted, and the Swedes take just as great pride in their history as they do in their present accomplishments." ♦

For details, see Sourcebook, page 142.



Photo by Bida Williams



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if you go

where to shop:

Amells Konsthandel, Birger Jarlsgatan 14, 011-46-8-611-41-93

Björn Kreuter Antikhandel, Köpmangatan 18, 011-46-8-21-03-33

C.E. Thomas Antique Maps & Prints, Köpmantorget 2, 011-46-8-10-73-01

Fartygsmagasinet, Österlånggatan 19, 011-46-8-20-93-98

Hagelins Antik AB, Karlavägen 22, 011-46-8-678-35-25

Lundgrens Antikhandel AB, Kommendörsgatan 20A, 011-46-8-661-20-00

Orrefors & Kosta Boda, Birger Jarlsgatan 15, 011-46-8-545-040-84

Polstjernen Antikviteter AB, Arsenalsgatan 5, 011-46-8-611-39-73

Rehns Antikhandel AB, Sibyllegatan 26, 011-46-8-663-34-51

Skajs Antikhandel, Lästmakargatan 6, 011-46-8-611-76-80

Solgården, Karlavägen 58, 011-46-8-663-93-60

Svenskt Tenn, Strandvägen 5, 011-46-8-670-16-00

where to stay:

Grand Hôtel, Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8, 011-46-8-679-35-00, waterfront luxury hotel

Victory Hotel, Lilla Nygatan 5, Gamla Stan, 011-46-8-506-400-00, nautical décor

where to eat:

Bon Lloc, Regeringsgatan 111, 011-46-8-660-60-60,

Spanish-influenced cuisine
Lisa Elmqvist, Östermalms Saluhall, 011-46-8-553-404-10, freshest fish in town

Leijontornet (in the Victory Hotel), Lilla Nygatan 5, Gamla Stan, 011-46-8-506-400-80, intimate dining

Pontus in the Green House, Österlånggatan 17, Gamla Stan, 011-46-8-23-85-00, featuring chef Pontus Frithiof