

SHOPPING WITH
AVROKO

The Scavengers

Scouring specialty shops for the perfect mismatch.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DONNA ALBERICO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES (ABOVE) AND LARS KLOVE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES (ALL AT RIGHT BUT FAUCET)

From left, William Harris, Adam Farmerie, Kristina O'Neal and Greg Bradshaw.

DON'T be surprised if walking into the latest restaurant by the New York design firm AvroKO feels like stepping into another time and place. The interior and menu of Double Crown, which opened last month at 316 Bowery (Bleecker Street), are inspired by the collision of cultures during Britain's presence in India, Singapore and China in the 19th century, interpreted with a downtown twist.

The four principals of AvroKO, Greg Bradshaw, Adam Farmerie, William Harris and Kristina O'Neal, have plenty of experience designing modern spaces that mix in a few his-

ideas, objects and materials," Mr. Harris said.

They never know when they'll find the right piece to translate a concept. They once got brass ornaments at the Antiques Garage flea market, 112 West 25th Street, and used them for texture on the walls of the Monday Room, a lounge connected to Public. "That was even a week after opening," Ms. O'Neal said.

Looking for similar inspiration, they recently shopped for architectural hardware. At Olde Good Things, 124 West 24th Street, where they had previously found metal screens for Double Crown, they dug through piles of glass doorknobs, brass hinges and door knockers. "We often look for something with a bit more

The designers also recommended specialty-hardware manufacturers like Nanz, P. E. Guerin, E. R. Butler and H. Theophile for meticulously made pieces with an almost jewelry-like quality. "A lot of these things are kind of expensive, so you can't use that much of it," Mr. Bradshaw said. "But you can pick your moments for special pieces." **TIM McKEOUGH**

A minimalist brass pull bar, right, and polished nickel latch, below, provide a clean look, both to the trade only; Nanz, (212) 367-7000.



A chrome faucet has a design that evokes the 1890s; \$745, Barber Wilsons & Company, (800) 727-6317.



A new French lever with rosette has a '60s feel; \$545, H. Theophile, (212) 727-0074.

A contemporary recessed drop ring pull stays out of the way, to the trade only, Nanz.

A cast-brass Victorian-style gravity hook holds coats or hats, \$3.50, grandbrass.com.

A vintage iron hinge, above, \$25, and handle with nickel finish, left, \$95, deliver old-school style, from Olde Good Things, (212) 989-8401.

brass handle, above, and door push, left, order, P. E. Guerin, (2) 243-5270.