

the thirty-a REVIEW™

a review of 30-A's finest people • places • things

HOME ON 30-A FOR THE HOLIDAYS

INSIDE:

30-A's Finest Dining

Events on 30-A

Real Estate and Community News

Shopping, Art, Fashion and More!

The Contemporary Digs
of Hotel Veridian

Cotton + Quill Designs Merge Coastal Inspiration with Southern Charm

BY AMELIA PAVLIK



Fall pillow lines



Beautiful scarves

Bold patterns infused with warm grays and rich pops of color are the hallmarks of Cotton + Quill's fall and winter collection of custom-designed, hand-illustrated linens and stationery.

"Much of my inspiration for this collection came from a visit to Italy's Amalfi Coast," says owner and designer Mary Catherine Folmar. "The Amalfi Coast's swanky architecture and relaxed vibe is reflected in the chic and laid-back designs of this collection."

All of Folmar's designs begin as a sketch, with her inspiration stemming from the lifestyle and culture of coastal towns around the world. For example, her inspiration for the 2012 spring and summer line came from the 30-A area.

"My husband's family has been vacationing here for years, and when he brought me here for the first time a few years ago I fell in love," says Folmar. "I loved everything from the beautiful beaches to the small town atmosphere. Needless to say, the 30-A area is like a second home to my husband and me."

Patterns from the spring and summer collection included coral reef, seahorse, and whale designs offered in punchy tangerines and greens and relaxing blues. The Amalfi Coast-inspired designs feature more abstract patterns and names such as "Capri", "Pompeii", and "Café de Tazzo".

Folmar, who debuted the company and its wares at the June 2012 West Indies Market in Rosemary Beach, is a self-proclaimed southern belle and world traveler who always had a passion for the arts and design. She earned a degree in industrial design from Auburn University and has worked as an environmental graphic designer for *sky design* in Atlanta.

While in Atlanta, Folmar decided to make her dream of designing a textile collection a reality. She moved to Birmingham where she began working as a freelance designer and eventually opened an online storefront for Cotton + Quill.

"My goal is to provide products that are custom designed by myself and are custom made in Birmingham," says Folmar. "All of the materials used in the products are made in the USA and many of them come from the southeast."

Attention to detail is key to Cotton + Quill's products. The pillows are made using custom-

designed, linen-cotton fabric that is lined with 100 percent cotton, filled with a down-feather insert, and finished with a covered-button closure.

The scarves are created using custom-illustrated, cotton-voile and cotton-silk fabric — and can even double as a light sarong for long days on the beach. And when it comes to the stationery line, each illustration is hand drawn and the envelopes are hand-lined with vintage wallpaper.

Other Cotton + Quill products include stadium cushions — in colors to suit football fans at almost any southern university — shower curtains, cocktail napkins, tea towels, tiles, and planters, which are created using reclaimed spindles from a 1929 historic Alabama home.

If you're looking for something for your youngster, Cotton + Quill offers a collection of hand-sewn octopus toys. Each octopus has its own name (ranging from Olivia to Otis), personality, and a story that is sure to inspire a child's imagination.

Although the business is currently primarily online, Folmar will continue to showcase Cotton + Quill items at markets and festivals in the 30-A area and Birmingham.



Mary Catherine Folmar

"My goal is to have a central location for the design and production of our products," says Folmar. "This location would serve as a place of inspiration and education for design and art for the community, with the goal of providing employment to underprivileged women."

But for now, Folmar is content with seeing the ideas in her head become a reality and knowing that her customers enjoy the Cotton + Quill products as much as she does. "I just want to thank all of the customers who have supported and continue to support us as we grow and break into new avenues of design — none of this would be possible without you," she adds.

For more information call (256) 874-4592 or visit Cotton + Quill online at www.cottonandquill.com, or follow the company on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CottonQuill.