

DOING THE CHARLESTON

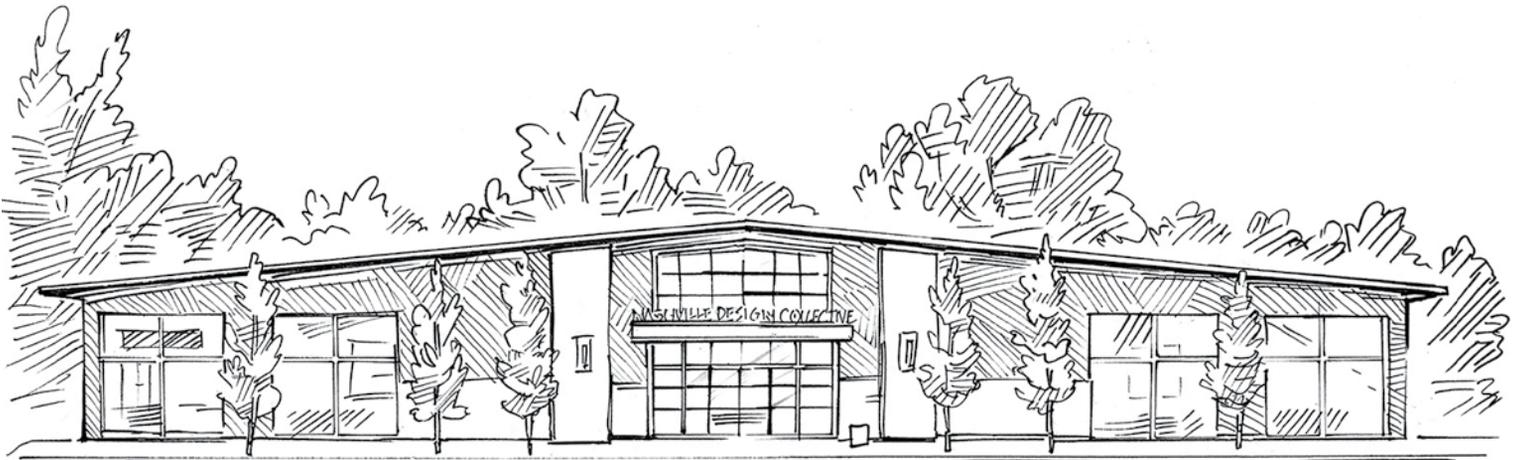
Like the city's signature dance, Charleston's upper King Street is on the upswing again—all the result of Mitchell Hill. The company's namesake founders, Michael Mitchell and Tyler Hill, realized that the city needed a first-ever multi-line showroom. They found an Art Deco-era building and are filling it with some of the most notable brands on the market—Julian Chichester, Farrow & Ball, Ray Booth's collection for Hickory Chair, among them. In addition to the showroom functioning as a resource for both design aficionados and to-the-trade industry professionals, Mitchell and Hill have included an art gallery, with an ever-changing series of exhibitions. "We've seen Charleston grow into a design hub," says Mitchell, and, addressing Charlestonians, "we want to be seen as a design resource in your backyard."

—David Masello



KIM GRAHAM

Michael Mitchell (right) and Tyler Hill are new creative forces in Charleston. They recently opened Mitchell Hill, a new multi-line showroom on upper King St.



Nashville's newest star is the Nashville Design Collective, which makes a strong architectural statement in the city's already coolest neighborhood, Wedgewood-Houston (WeHo).

NEW IN NASHVILLE

For a long time now, Nashville has become known for a lot more than one of its earliest and most enduring inventions, country music. Design is, increasingly, the new focus of this ever-expanding city, a development best exemplified in the just-opened Nashville Design Collective (NDC). It makes sense that the 50,000-square-foot facility would choose to be situated in the heart of Wedgewood-Houston (WeHo), the coolest neighborhood in town. (The NDC's newest neighbor includes Soho House.) Fifteen showrooms are, or will soon be, calling the NDC their new home—among them, Circa Lighting, Christopher Peacock, Robin Rains, Waterworks, Design Galleria Kitchen and Bath Studio, Peacock Alley, Textures Flooring, François & Co., Kolo Collection, and more. One of America's most creative cities had the idea to create a locus for residential and commercial design ideas. And now it's been realized.—David Masello