

# *NATURAL BEAU*

Isles Studio is a fabulous resource for beautifully curated gifts, garden pots, containers,  
written by ellen olson, photography by pennoyer-newman



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statuary, and plants.





Isles Studio is a feast for the senses. A beautifully curated collection of objects, art, taxidermy, and jewelry is housed in a charming Arts and Crafts bungalow built in the early 1900s. Located at 25th and Hennepin, Isles Studio also features a growing collection of statuary and containers, both terracotta and stone, and an artful selection of plants for indoor and outdoor use. Handmade ceramics from maker Astier de Villatte in Paris preserve 18th-century shapes for contemporary living. The coveted Maison Trudon candles, steeped in centuries of history, are favorites of the shop's most loyal customers.

Jeff Bengtson, Owner/President, opened Isles Studio in 2015. He aspired to create a destination that resembles a shop you might find when wandering the streets of Paris, a city he and his husband, David Bjork, have visited frequently. "We are trying to fill a niche where you can find unique, high-quality pieces that are handmade with classical details," said Jeff. "We spend a lot of time sourcing products that are hand-crafted, made by real people with stories behind each product."

Jeff often gets asked about the eclectic mix of products he carries, and he answers thoughtfully, "I believe they all work together. Many of the products have a strong connection to nature or are hand-crafted. We live in a high-tech, digital world, and gardening and nature feed the soul. Fashion is inspired by nature. Natural history and design go hand-in-hand. Our taxidermy is all ethically sourced, and our collection of birds and insects is beautiful in an interior environment. It all works." His vision makes for hours of leisurely browsing to find that one item that will make the perfect gift or add a unique flourish to a room in one's home. Jeff and his assistant, Jacob Pierre Louis III, are happy to provide assistance.

Before opening Isles Studio, Jeff owned a garden shop on 50th and France, Colibri Home and Garden, so his passion for gardening products is finely tuned. "Our collection of products has grown over the years and includes three lines of European-inspired pots for indoor and outdoor use," said Jeff. "I've curated a selection of the finest garden products, designed and created by masterful artisans."

Campo de' Fiori is a line of naturally mossed terra cotta planters that create the look of antiquity. They are made from materials drawn from the earth and age beautifully in the garden. Bergs Potter, founded in 1942, features pots designed in Denmark and produced at a small family workshop in Tuscany. They are made of high-quality materials that will live on from generation to generation. This spring, Jeff will add terracotta pots made by the master Guy Wolff in his Connecticut studio.

Jeff will also add containers from Pennoyer-Newman this season, which will be perfect for some of the topiary-styled plants and tropicals available in the spring. Pennoyer-Newman has a European aesthetic, which goes well with other lines carried at Isles Studio. The classic designs are manufactured from a lightweight material, a combination of pummeled marble, rock, and resin. The pots are cast from originals that once graced some of the most prestigious estates in the United States. The vessels are very large in scale, and they can be left outside, even in the harshest of Minnesota winters. "Pennoyer-Newman has expanded their line to include a stunning collection of mid-century style containers that will be appreciated by customers living in some of the stately homes in the Minneapolis Lakes area," remarked Jeff.

Isles Studio will resume Wednesday – Saturday hours in early March, and once the gardening season arrives, hours will be extended. Typically plant material arrives in May when the season begins in earnest. Add Isles Studio to your list of places to visit for gardening inspiration. You will not be disappointed!

[islesstudio.com](http://islesstudio.com)



