

# TODAY

## KANSAS CITY

VOLUME I. ISSUE 4. WINTER 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOAVE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP.



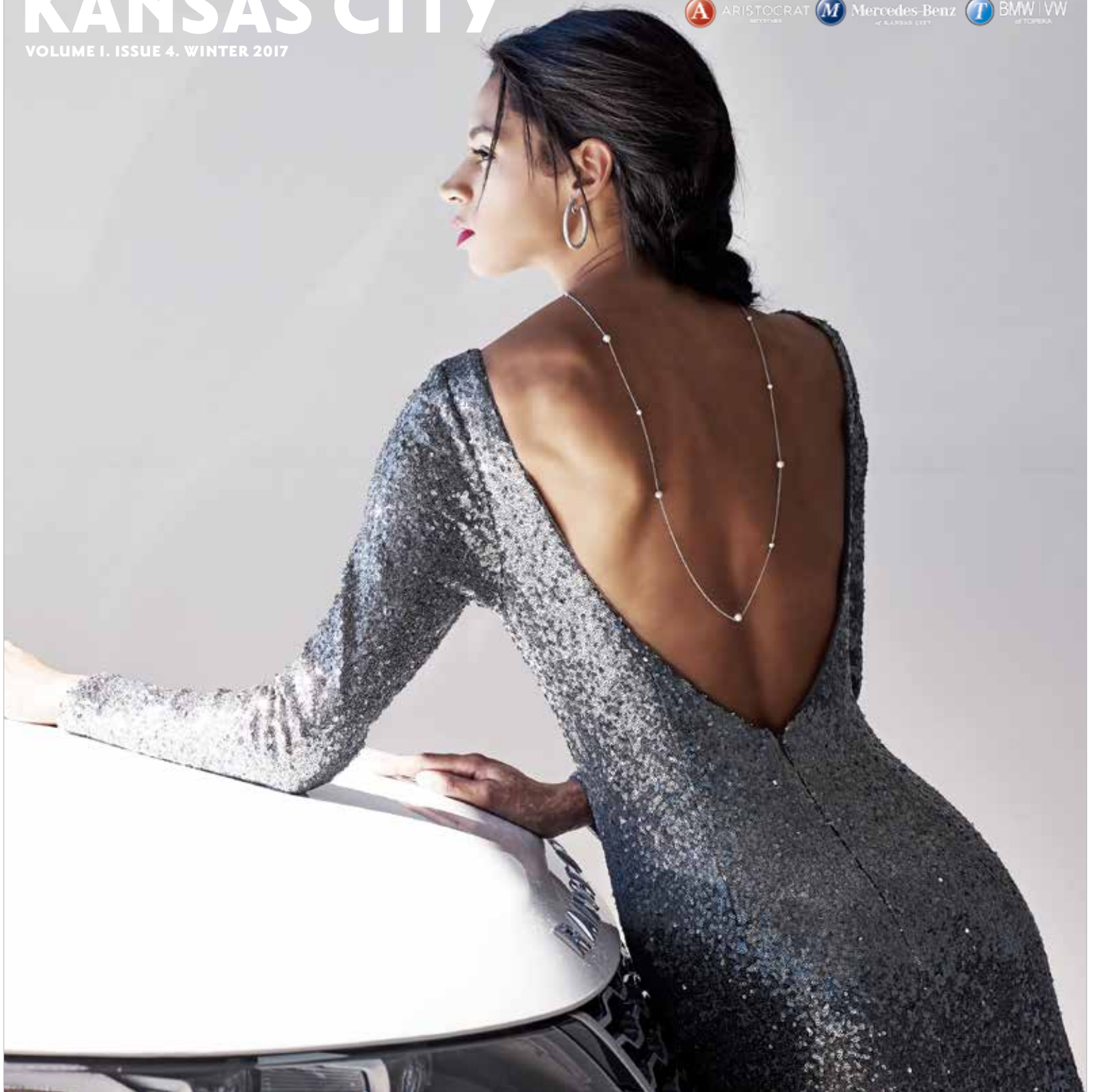
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As this year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for your support and the positive feedback we have received on our new magazine. We feel this is a great way to provide you with information on all of the new and exciting products that we have to offer.

The responsibility of representing our automotive brands is even more exciting when we realize the choices our customers have, like 84 models of SUVs, from the time-tested and bold Mercedes-Benz G550 (G-Wagon) to our newest addition, the Alfa Romeo Stelvio, Alfa's first SUV in its 100-year history. Land Rover just brought the Range Rover Velar to the market, its latest SUV that has technology that we will see in the entire Land Rover line in the coming years.

While we are discussing SUVs, I would be remiss to not mention the federal government is still offering the Section 179 accelerated tax deduction on SUVs that are 6,000 pounds and over. This is something to discuss with your tax accountant, but many of our business clients have taken advantage of this over the last decade. So see your accountant, and then come see your salesperson, who can help you with your selection.

This tax incentive is just one incentive; manufacturers are offering others as the year ends. So if you have your eye set on a new car or SUV before the year ends, ask your sales consultant about what incentives might be available on your vehicle of choice.

I would like to end the year with a mention of our oldest brand partnership, Mercedes-Benz. I am very proud to announce that we have been allocated one of the most rare vehicles that Mercedes-Benz has ever brought to the United States market, the Maybach Cabriolet. Only 75 will be imported into the United States, so having been selected to represent this flagship of technology and luxury is an honor that I believe represents the quality of our business and our employees.

I wish you a very happy holiday season and a Happy and Successful New Year.

Marion Battaglia, President



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As is our goal in the development of *Today Kansas City*, we hope to keep it ever changing and fresh for our customers. When you receive the issue in your “inbox,” you look forward to what is new as well as quality you have come to expect. This issue is a reflection of that philosophy, as we welcome Stewart and Emily Lane to our editorial group.

Stewart and Emily will add a new, younger perspective on the metro restaurant scene while also bringing a great list of credentials to their offerings. Stewart is the research and development chef for Inspired Occasions, so many of the new items Lon and his team offer come from the kitchen of Stewart and Emily. Emily has designed her career in public relations and marketing for various arts and sports organizations. They make a magical team of internationally trained chef and a well versed and polished writer.

While we celebrate the new additions to our staff, we also celebrate the holiday season with a fashion section that “sparkles with the season” and a special section highlighting current and classic watches. So if you need to drop a hint or need an inspiration for a special holiday gift, you might find it in those pages.

New continues to be the theme of this issue as Tom Strongman road tests the all-new Range Rover Velar, which offers styling that takes Land Rover products to a new height and interior styling and ergonomics that will be found in the very top of the Range Rover line in the next model year.

I hope you enjoy this final issue of the year, and we look forward to 2018 and continuing to evolve *Today Kansas City*, hopefully keeping it something you look forward to finding in your “original inbox.”

## CONTRIBUTORS

**ARCHITECTURE:** We have a new architectural contributor for this issue, **Eric Linebarger**. Eric is a senior project designer and senior associate at HOK Architecture, Kansas City, Missouri, who in his 15-year career at HOK has overseen the renovation and new construction of inspiring corporate work environments in Kansas City and nationwide, ranging in size from 2,000 to 400,000 square feet.

**FOOD:** **Emily** and **Stewart Lane** are newlyweds and natives to Kansas City. Stewart is the research and development chef for premiere catering company Lon Lane’s Inspired Occasions. Emily has designed her career doing marketing and events for various arts and sports organizations. Together, they have created a life where they are surrounded by food, culture, and friends with whom they share culinary experiences. The accompanying food photos, by **Anna Petrow**, are both indulging and captivating works of art.

**AUTOMOTIVE:** **Tom Strongman** has a degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri and was formerly the director of photography and then the automotive editor of *The Kansas City Star*. Tom, a member of the Missouri Press Association Photojournalism Hall of Fame, has written about and photographed cars for more than three decades.

**FASHION:** The fashion team is comprised of a group of nationally published individuals. The team includes photographer **Kenny Johnson**, fashion stylist **Amani Skalacki**, and hair and makeup artist **Jessica Frieze** for **Shelby Herrick Salon**.

**DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT:** **Jennifer Lapka Pfeifer** has been involved in the fashion community in Kansas City from helping bring the 18th Street Fashion Show to life to promoting the burgeoning garment industry rebirth. She also serves as the executive director of Rightfully Sewn.

**TRENDS:** **Kelsey Cipolla** is a local writer, editor, and social media specialist. She has covered everything from Kansas City’s food and drink scene to home and fashion design to health and fitness trends.



**ON THE COVER:** 2018 Range Rover Velar; Bella Bridesmaids: Theia, Giselle smoke sequin dress; Mazzaresse: Pavé, diamond hoop earrings; Pavé, link diamond necklace; Hannah, model with Voices &.



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**2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE**

**Mazzarese:**

Mazzarese, diamond hoop  
18k white gold earrings;  
Omega, ladies Seamaster  
diamond bezel with diamond  
markers and mother of pearl dial

**Alaskan Fur:**

coral pink mink jacket

**Eye Style Optics:**

Robert Marc, sunglasses







# The Evolution of the Workplace in Kansas City.

As an architect who specializes in corporate offices, I spend a great deal of time thinking about the impact of the modern workplace. After all, more than 35 percent of our lives is spent working, most commonly in traditional office environments. We spend nearly as much time in our workplaces as we do awake in our own homes. And the research shows that the design of our workplaces has a dramatic impact on our happiness, motivation, and even our health.

Today's workforce values a collaborative and authentic culture, quality of life perks, and flexible work environments more than ever before. This undeniable shift is evidenced in spaces throughout the city that are adapting to meet the needs of the modern employee in intuitive and creative ways.

Here's a closer look at three local workplaces that embody the evolution of the modern office environment.

## DAIRY FARMERS OF AMERICA HEADQUARTERS

### *Attracting and Retaining Talent*

The design of a new three-story headquarters for Dairy Farmers of America, the nation's largest milk marketing cooperative, pays tribute to the 15,000 dairy farmer owners the organization represents while communicating its global reach.

The design uses every program element and design detail – from a milk bar to blackened steel silverware – as an opportunity to tell DFA's functional and cultural stories. The space is chock-full of amenities, from bocce ball to a fitness studio, creating a space to attract and engage the best and brightest.

The open office is a cultural change for DFA. Its previous office had more than 176 closed offices. The new space, which opened in May, has just 10. To promote collaboration, the workplace has more than 100 meeting rooms for a staff population of fewer than 500 people. Even the CEO's workspace can be easily converted into a shared meeting space.



Individual workstations have personal storage wardrobes and height-adjustable desks. Custom wood screens at each workstation provide privacy and connections to the farmers they serve. This transition to workstations that provide the individual employee flexibility subtly reinforces the organization's people-first mentality.

## AMC THEATRES HEADQUARTERS

### *Telling a Brand Story*

The new AMC Theatre Support Center in Leawood, Kansas, is an image of efficiency and innovation, uniquely tailored to help AMC meet its goals for driving reinvention and growth in the theater business. The building creates a layered and visually interesting experience for employees and visitors and turns the idea of office building on its head, with fun communal spaces and expansive outdoor patios to give employees a reprieve from the workplace.

The interior of the new Theatre Support Center is fresh and bright with project teams grouped into "neighborhoods" within the open and flexible floor plan. A bold white, black, and red color scheme is carried throughout the interior

offices and meeting rooms and numerous whiteboard surfaces offer a backdrop for continuous brainstorming and idea sharing. Each floor has a kitchenette/break room, conference areas, and workspaces. Details like a graphic history wall and creative graphics inspired by movie posters tell current and future employees about AMC's rich legacy.

## POLSINELLI PLAZA VISTA

### *Building Workplace Design Standards*

Designed to showcase views of Country Club Plaza, the interior environment for Polsinelli's 450 employees at Plaza Vista is timeless and metropolitan. A seven-story, cantilevered stairwell winds through the center of the building and acts like a sculptural wood ribbon that creates visual and physical connectivity.

The plan's strategic adjacencies optimize operational efficiencies and give Polsinelli the flexibility to reconfigure the layout. Polsinelli's modern work environment features collaborative seating areas throughout the building and sit-stand workstations in all administrative and associate offices. Multipurpose training rooms provide space for





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mock trials, while the hospitality lounge provides flexible seating options. Hospitality lounges and a modern sophistication make the Polsinelli project one that is informing the design of law offices across the nation. The workplace design standards developed at Plaza Vista have impacted the way the rapidly growing law firm incorporates its brand into its spaces across the country. In each city, the space is distinctly “Polsinelli” but with local art, amenities, and hospitality spaces that reflect the culture of the community.

Polsinelli’s Allison Berey, chief marketing officer, told *MetroWireMedia* of the Plaza Vista project, “It was a complete rebrand in terms of our brand strategy: the design, the creative execution, and the underlying value proposition we developed and started to convey to the workplace. If you look back at the historical architecture of our buildings and brand, it really was a different level of sophistication than where we are now. It was far more traditional. Now we’ve really moved in this direction of a more contemporary brand design

and architecture. We’re ensuring that the vision for our space nicely aligns with the brand we are building nationally.”

In each of these cases, we see the workplace function as an extension of broader organizational growth and cultural goals. Smart facility managers and executives understand that people are their chief currency and most important asset. In turn, the workplace needs to be tailored to meet their needs. Whether that’s a bocce ball court, daycare offerings, or a full-service kitchen, these amenities should be responsive to the unique makeup of the employees. And this means executives have to be willing to ask questions, honestly evaluate their existing work environments, adjust corporate policies, and better understand the amenities that would make their organization a desirable place to work.

By doing this, we stop thinking of offices as simply a place people go and, instead, take a cue from DFA, AMC, and Polsinelli and think of office spaces as the heartbeat of a company. ♦





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L I N D B E R G 



# Meet Me at the (Supper) Club.

As a couple who frequents the restaurant scene in Kansas City, we try our best to keep our finger on the pulse of what is new and innovative in our local food scene. The year 2017 has brought about two places in particular that have become stops for us on a routine basis, and now we cannot imagine our city without them. We're delighted to share our take on Corvino Supper Club and The Monarch Bar.

**EL:** Our first visit to Corvino Supper Club was so memorable. It was the last date we went on before leaving for our wedding in Colorado, so we were feeling pretty celebratory. That said, it doesn't take an occasion to have the sense that something special is happening at Corvino, as every gorgeous detail makes you believe they were waiting especially for you. It's dark, moody, elegant yet unpretentious, and, if you're lucky, you might have someone playing the upright bass or piano on stage. The wait-staff is knowledgeable and patient, explaining things precisely and humbly. They all seem truly proud to be serving the food that Chef Corvino is creating. And starting our





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THE DRY-AGED BONE-IN RIBEYE

meal with glasses of the 2013 Argyle Brut sparkling wine from Willamette Valley, Oregon, kicked off everything on the right foot.

**SL:** Then we moved on to perusing the menu. It is arranged from light to heavy and allows the diner to enjoy several small plates rather than one entrée. We love eating that way, where we can share and enjoy a variety of flavors and textures.

Chef Michael Corvino's food comes to the table as if it was pulled from a photo shoot. His plating style is elegant but relaxed, an organic approach that mirrors his quality of ingredients. The fried chicken ssam, with crisp dark-meat chicken served with tender lettuce and homemade hot sauce, was an elevation to all other chicken dishes. If you're feeling indulgent, the made-for-two (or more)

dry-aged bone-in rib-eye is an experience worth having. And the steak tartare, topped with a smoked béarnaise and pickled mustard seeds, reinvents the age-old classic. That's a repeat order for me.

**EL:** Speaking of repeat orders. . . I think I've requested we order the chicken ssam every time we've been in there since, haven't I? It's so satisfying. One thing that I really love about the bar situation is that they feature several wines on tap from Proletariat Wine Company, one of the first keg-only wineries. I think it's a nice nod to Chef Corvino's hometown of Walla Walla, Washington (where the winery is based), and I love that it's more environmentally conscious.

**SL:** Speaking of environment, the entire atmosphere of Corvino Supper Club changes at 10 p.m. when the late-

night menu, featuring the famous Corvino cheeseburger, starts up, along with some of the best live music in Kansas City. And leaning into my wife's love of all things sweet, the late-night desserts, like ice cream sandwiches or dark-chocolate brownies, showcase perfection in their simplicity.

**EL:** Chef Corvino and his wife/business partner, Christina, haven't missed a detail. From the atmosphere, to the food and bar menu, to earthenware plates on the tables, and the napkins printed with the signature Corvino raven, their care and love of this place shines through each and every time we visit.

**SL:** They also feature an intimate Tasting Room (by reservation only, a two-and-a-half-hour experience) complete with wine pairings.

Needless to say, our first visit to Corvino Supper Club wasn't our last, and we look forward to enjoying more visits for years to come.

Corvino Supper Club, located at 1830 Walnut, is open Monday-Saturday beginning at 4 p.m. Reservations recommended. ♦

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*Emily and Stewart Lane are newlyweds and natives to Kansas City. Stewart is the research and development chef for premiere catering company Lon Lane's Inspired Occasions. Always a happy recipient of Stewart's creations (especially desserts), Emily has designed her career doing marketing and events for various arts and sports organizations. Together, they have created a life where they are surrounded by food, culture, and a tremendous group of friends and colleagues with whom they share culinary experiences.*



## Libation Migration

In what feels like a perfecting melding of cocktail-focused minds, Kansas City gained The Monarch Bar late this summer. This trifecta composed of Mark Church, Kenny Cohrs, and Brock Schulte brought to life what they had all dreamed of: a visually stunning, hospitality focused, and endlessly creative bar that drips with elegance. From the menus, which read like short stories complete with ornate line drawings, to the large marble bar with a butterfly chandelier art installation hanging above, to the artistic glassware, even their bookshelves appear curated, add in a cocktail, and you're in for a treat. Featured here, this aptly named cocktail, Certain Kinds of Trees, refers back to the migratory patterns of monarch butterflies, where they often return to the same forests or even the same tree. This cocktail features persimmon and mace infused Laird's apple brandy, egg white, lemon agrumato, lemon juice, and Pineau des Charentes (a French apéritif). This cocktail has bright citrus notes and a touch of sweetness but also a bite from the high-proof brandy. And it comes to you (almost) too beautiful to drink, although that seems to be the case with everything at The Monarch Bar. Prepare to have all of your senses delighted. ♦

*The Monarch Bar, located at 4808 Roanoke Parkway, is open Monday-Saturday, 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. Reservations not required but are encouraged.*



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# The Newest Range Rover Charts Its Own Path with Cutting-Edge Design.









There's a new member of the Range Rover family named Velar and it slots in between the Evoque and the Range Rover Sport. The name has a significant place in the history of Land Rover, because in 1969, when the first Range Rover prototypes were being developed, they wore Velar badges to keep their identity a secret. Velar is derived from the Italian word *velare*, which means to veil or keep covered.

The unveiling of the new Velar took place last March at the Design Museum in London. Land Rover says it is a "mid-size SUV shaped by the concept of reductionism, reducing complexity to develop a pure design." They even made a 15-minute film, "The Crafting of Simplicity," to show how the vehicle was created from a clean sheet of paper using the Jaguar Land Rover Lightweight Aluminum Architecture. That platform is also used for the Jaguar F-Pace utility vehicle.

The Velar's styling is clean and pure. Land Rover says the Velar "relies on technology-enabled design to provide the next logical step in expanding the Range Rover portfolio." The smooth body looks as if it were milled from a solid block of steel, and the optional 22-inch split-spoke wheels on the top Velar First Edition give the vehicle a solid stance. The sloping roof with black pillars emulates the Evoque but is not quite as low. The vehicle's overall presence is more street than an off-road, and it looks fast and sleek even while sitting still. That makes sense since most SUV buyers never use their vehicles off-road no matter how capable they are.

The Velar is available in 11 configurations with prices starting at \$49,900 and topping out with the First Edition at \$89,300. There are three engines from which to choose: a 2.0-liter four-cylinder with 247 horsepower, a 2.0-liter turbodiesel with 180 horsepower, and a supercharged 3.0-liter V-6 with 380 horsepower. Each engine is mated to an 8-speed ZF transmission with all-wheel drive standard.

The six-cylinder models have a tow rating of 5,500 pounds and an optional Advanced Tow Assist helps the driver back up a trailer.

The Velar wouldn't be a Range Rover without an intelligent Terrain Response all-wheel-drive system, of course, and the driver can choose settings for various driving conditions such as sand, gravel, mud, and snow in addition to hill descent control, low traction launch, and gradient release control.

I drove a First Edition and the power and torque of the supercharged V-6 are impressive. Superchargers deliver extra power at low rpm so throttle response is nearly immediate. A dab of throttle is all it takes to merge onto the freeway or leap away from a stop. The eight-speed automatic transmission seems to always be in the right gear for the situation. Shift paddles on the steering wheel make it easy for the driver to drop down a couple of gears for a quick burst of power, when needed.

The First Edition is limited to 500 units in the U.S. and is available for only one model year. It is more luxurious than the top HSE model, and it comes in three colors: Corris Grey, Silicon Silver, and Flux Silver, a satin finish. The full leather interior has Light Oyster/Ebony two-tone seats, a 1,600-watt Meridian sound system, and the 22-inch wheels.



The off-white leather on the seats, dash, door panels, and steering wheel was beautiful to look at and lovely to touch. It made the cabin feel light and airy, but I can imagine it be difficult to keep clean over time.

The instrument panel has a reconfigurable screen that allows the driver to choose from several gauge layouts, ranging from a traditional tachometer/speedometer design to one with a full-size navigation screen that has the map in the driver's line of sight.

Two 10-inch touchscreens in the center console and instrument panel take the place of analog controls for most of the vehicle's functions. Touchscreens are clearly the wave of the future and while they are beautifully designed and operate much like a computer tablet, I thought adapting to them might be a challenge, but no. Ditto for the control pads on the steering wheel. It's true that new owners will need to take time to learn the menu

system, because the layers of complexity are similar to learning a new phone or tablet. There are knob-like rings for operating the Terrain Response system and climate control.

The Velar has a suite of driver-assistance features such as autonomous emergency braking with pedestrian detection, driver conditioning monitoring, reverse traffic detection, lane-keeping assist, and adaptive cruise control. The lane-keeping assist actually tugs on the steering wheel if you start to veer into the next lane, and if you try to change lanes when a car is next to you, the wheel resists the turn. I found those features to be most useful in freeway traffic.

The newest member of the Range Rover family is handsomely designed and appeals to a wide range of buyers because there are several trim levels and a choice of one diesel or two gasoline engines. ♦



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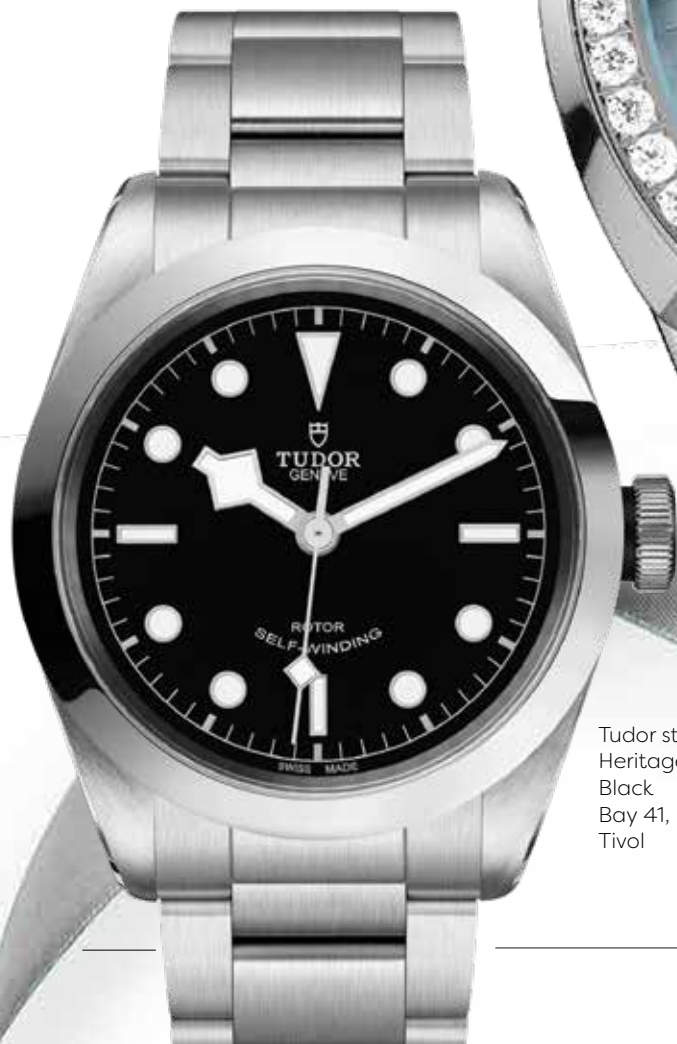
HOLIDAY FEATURE

# On Watch.

*The Classic Holiday Gift is New Again, and Just in Time.*

Watches have made a comeback; thank you, Apple! As the computer giant has remade the smartwatch market, the classic, upper end of the market has seen sales surge, and the product is more diverse than ever.

With this rewinding of the watches, we present to you some of the best of the season — just in time!



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Breitling Superocean Héritage Chronographe, 46mm stainless steel case on stainless steel bracelet, Meierotto



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# Youth Ambassadors.

In her journal, “M” wrote that she was sexually abused by a family member when she was younger and that she didn’t like to go to school because she couldn’t read or write well. Was it a call for help or just a statement of truth? When asked if she wanted help she said she did, but as a minor, a parent’s or guardian’s permission is essential. When we asked, we were granted permission to have her tested academically, but we were not given permission to seek outside professional help for her past abuse. At the age of 15, our shy, withdrawn student tested at the first-grade level of reading and writing. Today, she is a productive community member, working while taking college courses.

“T” is one of 10 children in a family. Five are in prison, four for murder and one for armed bank robbery; three joined the military to escape their environment; and one graduated high school and is working odd jobs. Against

all odds, “T” is now a student at UMKC and the first in her family to go to college.

And “K,” as a child, lived through many of her mother’s men. The last husband, “a good man,” was a crack addict who stole birthday money, Christmas presents, and beat her sister when she didn’t have money for more crack. “K” went to KU, is married, a mother of twins, and she and her husband, both past Ambassadors, currently are two of Youth Ambassadors’ finest teachers.

Youth Ambassadors (YA), a local nonprofit organization established in 2010, serves underserved teenagers, a substantial portion of whom have a history of multiple trauma exposure and who continue to live in compromising circumstances that often create barriers to their own success. Unabated intergenerational poverty, single-parent households, the continuation of blighted infrastructures, high unemployment, underemployment,



## GET INVOLVED

*We are grateful to all of our supporters for helping us empower teens from underserved Kansas City communities through education and inspiration. For more information, to volunteer, or to adopt an Ambassador, please visit [youthambassadorskc.org](http://youthambassadorskc.org).*

transiency, and teenage incarceration rates are among the myriad of problems our youth face.

Due to countless risk factors, our Ambassadors like “M,” “T,” and “K,” require positive role models and targeted support systems in order to work through personal barriers and reach their full potential. YA recognizes that empowering youth with life skills, job skills, social emotional learning and opportunities for creative expression contributes to the ultimate goal: that youth successfully transition into adulthood with the aspiration and skills to drive their education and employment opportunities.

A 2017 study by The Pennsylvania State University with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has shown the benefits of investing in social emotional health are increasingly evident. Research shows that “good social emotional skills can lead to better education, employment, and physical and mental health, and to fewer problems with substance abuse and antisocial behavior or relationships.” Key findings of the study showed that students were more successful in the learning environment and that they were more likely to graduate from both high school and college. In effect, they are more likely to get jobs, and jobs with higher paying salaries, which is a benefit to the individual and society as a whole. Developing better social emotional skills also helps individuals lead healthy lives and avoid risky behavior, which can contribute to physical and mental health problems, substance abuse, delinquency, and crime. The study concludes that investing in SEL programming

generates positive impact for individuals and society, as well as a positive impact on overall population health.

Youth Ambassadors is designed as an educational, employment program. Ambassadors are paid minimum wage to take four classes daily: Life and Job Skills, Art, Writing, and either Health, Speech, Financial Literacy, or Critical Consciousness & Employment Opportunities. In addition, they are taught that they are resilient and their voice matters. They alone can speak for themselves, so they are taught advocacy skills essential for positive change.

Annually, Youth Ambassadors provides employment to over 300 teenagers during non-school hours when youth are most susceptible to negative influences. Existing programming includes an eight-week summer intensive and an academic year Saturday academy. Small class sizes, with a ratio of seven to 10 students to every teacher, develop close student-mentor relationships and teach targeted skills through interactive teaching methods, including two-way teaching, team idea mapping, and discussion groups.

It takes every stakeholder together to solve the problems of poverty, trauma, and poor schooling. Youth Ambassadors believes each one of our teenage youth is the future of our community. Thanks to supporters, volunteers, and various community partners, we are able to empower teenage youth, building skills and competencies that allow them to be successful in their present daily lives and future endeavors. ♦





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# Prepping for the Future.

It is well documented that Kansas City is a philanthropic city; our residents support great causes and initiatives. In doing research on nonprofits, we found this mantle of giving has been taken up by four Pembroke Seniors: Michael Innes, Ethan Angrist, Matthew Berkley, and Grace Parkerson, who formed a group called “Guys & Gals Giving Grants” to raise funds for Harmony Project KC.

Harmony Project KC, based at the Northeast Community Center provides tuition-free, intense, orchestral music instruction, practice, and performance opportunities, building an orchestra with diverse young people in their own neighborhoods, after school and weekends, year-round, in a safe environment. “The program does not

solely focus on the musical aspect but also on their academics, social skills, and responsibility,” Innes explained.

Berkley added, “Our first goal was to spread awareness about Harmony Project KC; then we concentrated on asking for funding so more kids could attend.”

These four young philanthropists worked for six months researching, drafting letters, and creating a presentation. They’ve been meeting with everyone from CEOs and the heads of charitable foundations to their own grandparents and classmates’ parents. “After reaching out to family and friends, we started researching local foundations that support at-risk kids, education, and the arts,” Angrist said. “Then making

phone calls and getting appointments with funders. It was harder than any of us expected.”

The hard work has paid off for the kids at Harmony Project, as Guys & Gals Giving Grants has raised almost \$20,000 of its \$30,000 goal.

“It’s definitely been eye-opening,” Parkerson said. “We really had to sell ourselves and the program to people who didn’t really know us or the program at all. But once we got in the door, the program sold itself.”

“We are fortunate to have compassionate young people willing to engage with and commit to their community; it bodes well for our future,” said Laura Shultz, executive director of the Northeast Community Center and Harmony Project KC ♦





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Theia, Giselle smoke sequin dress

**Mazzarese:**  
Pavé, diamond hoop earrings;  
Pavé, link diamond necklace





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2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE



**Standard Style:**

Tibi, fur sweater;  
Baldwin, jeans

**Alaskan Fur:**

Goma, fur boot covers;  
Rex, ivory sheared hat  
with raccoon pom

**Eye Style Optics:**

Montblanc, sunglasses



**2018 Porsche Macan GTS**

**Halls:**

Peter Millar, blue sweater;  
Chelsey, scarf;  
Hugo Boss, coat jacket;  
Levi, grey pants

**Eye Style Optics:**

BMW, sunglasses







**2018 Porsche Macan GTS**

**Pinstripes:**

Porto bespoke,  
flannel striped suit coat;  
J.Z. Richards,  
blue silk hankerchief;  
Samuel Sohn, grey pant;  
St. Croix, polka dot blue shirt;  
Pinstripes, navy silk tie

**Eye Style Optics:**

Porsche design  
P'8509, Sunglasses



**2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE**

**Ulah:**

The Normal Brand, plaid shirt;  
The Normal Brand, stone sweater;  
3x1, dark jeans



## 2018 BMW X5

### Standard Style:

Ganni, purple jacket;  
Baldwin, jeans;  
Presley, tie neck blouse

### Eye Style Optics:

Lindberg, sunglasses

### Mazzarese:

Vianna Brasil, amethyst,  
opal and rose gold earrings



2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE

**Ulah:**

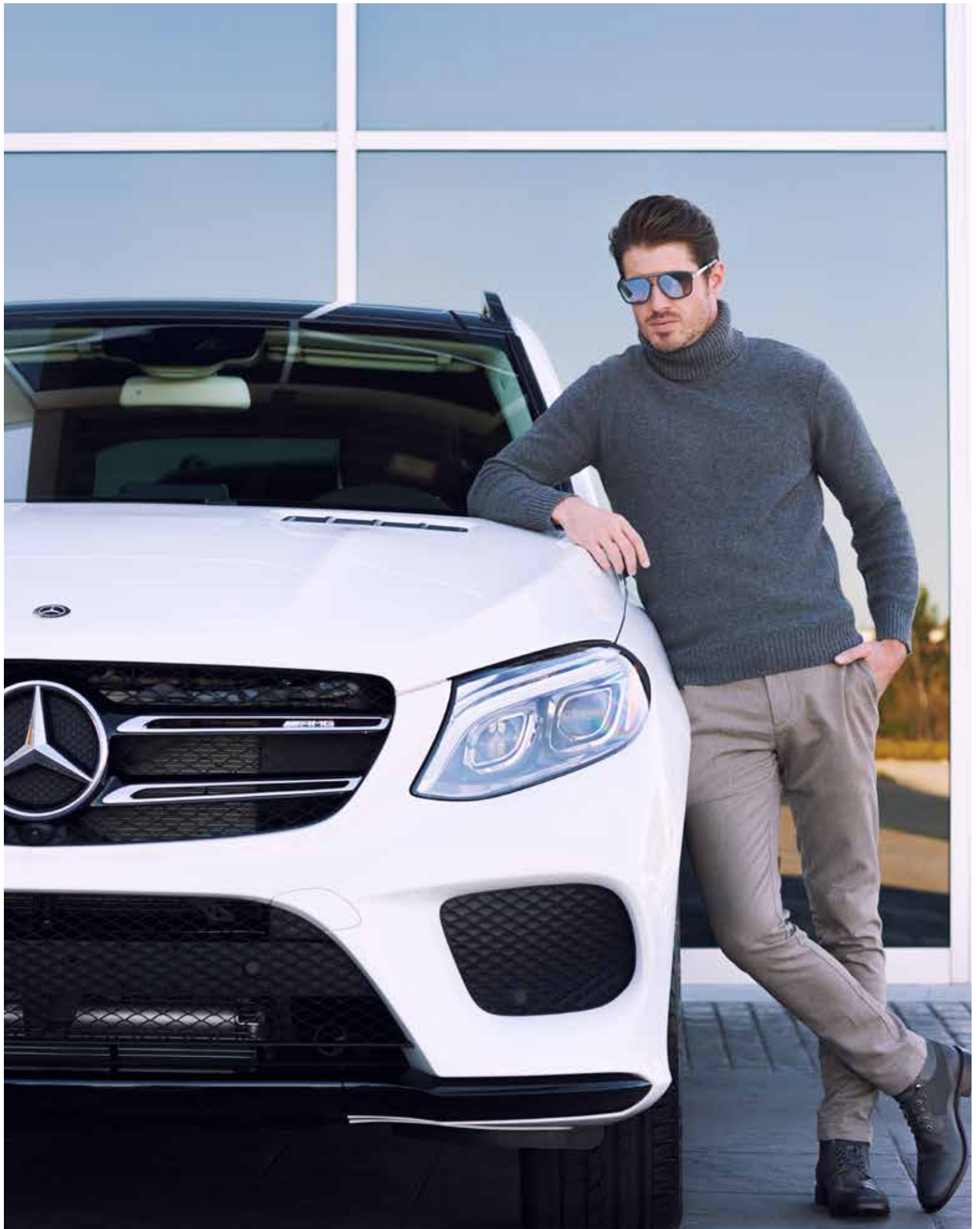
Benson B, cashmere grey turtleneck;  
J. Lindeberg flannel twill pants

**Eye Style Optics:**

ic! Berlin, sunglasses







2018 Mercedes-Benz GLE

**Alysa Rene:**

Jackett etc., bunny  
moto leather jacket;  
Hudson, super skinny jeans;  
Hardtalk, shirt tail tank;  
Georgina Luckie MKC  
Brands, blue crystal  
ring and necklace

**Eye Style Optics:**

La Vita E Bella,  
sunglasses





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# Hats On, Please!

In the Brookside neighborhood, there is a lovely milliner studio called Amina Marie Millinery, which is owned and operated by Amina Hood. Her hats have been seen around town at special events such galas, Kentucky Derby parties, and weddings; more and more frequently, they can be spotted punching up a woman's everyday outfit.

It is impossible to know when the first hat was crafted to protect the head from the elements, but artisans throughout history have elevated hat-making to a fine artform. In 18th-century Paris, Rose Bertin, with the help of her most important patron, Queen Marie-Antoinette of France, introduced haute couture millinery that caused a fervor amongst European nobility. In more recent history, Irish-born, London-based Philip Treacy has become a household name thanks to his flamboyant hats that have topped off looks for style icons Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Lady Gaga.

Kansas City's very own milliner, Amina Hood, is just back from three weeks in New York where she studied advanced couture hat-making with renowned, Russian-born, New York-based milliner Anya Caliendo. Whilst there, Amina also sourced materials from around the Fashion district for her next collection. I sat down



PHOTO BY MEG KUMIN



with this warm, playful, talented woman to ask her the following questions:

**1. How did you get into this?**

Life is full of wonderful surprises! A good friend of mine called me up and asked me to make a hat for her for the Burning Man festival. I literally laughed at her and said, "I don't make hats!" Four years later, Amina Marie Millinery (AMM) is a growing KC business that designs hats for clients worldwide.

**2. Where do you source your inspiration?**

Long before I started designing hats, I would pick up inspirational notions along my travels. I have drawers full of buttons, textiles, and beautiful baubles that inspire me every time I look at them.

**3. How do you compete with larger, older brands?**

We take pride in offering unique inspirations and custom designs for our clientele. Our hats are designed and manufactured in the US using the finest materials that we source worldwide, and all of our custom couture is hand sewn in our Brookside studio.

**4. What is the long-term vision for your brand?**

We plan to expand into the wholesale market with our ready-to-wear line.

**5. What accomplishments are you most proud of, in terms of your business?**

In 2015, I was a finalist in the James Lock & Co. competition, which is an international hat design competition hosted in London, and one of my hats was selected for the prestigious London Hat Week exhibition last year.

**6. Is there anything else you'd like for readers to know?**

AMM hats are available to purchase online at [aminamariemillinery.com](http://aminamariemillinery.com), by appointment at my Brookside studio, and at Dreams on Air, a SoHo NYC showroom next door to luxury designers Chanel and Issey Miyake. ♦

PHOTO BY STUART HEIDEMANN



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A background image of a snowy winter scene. In the foreground, a snow-covered car's side mirror is visible. In the background, a person wearing a dark coat and a hat is walking away from the camera on a snowy path. The overall tone is cold and wintry.

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# Home for the Holidays.

Karyn Brooke, founder of Sidelines Custom Floral Designs, has one simple piece of advice for decorating your home for the holidays.

“When you walk in, it should make you happy,” she says. Of course, that’s a good guiding principle when it comes to choosing your décor any time of year, but it feels especially appropriate during a season filled with so many memories and traditions.

## DECKING THE HALLS

The florist and design pro, who decorates both residential and commercial spaces for the holidays, says some of the clients she works with are starting from scratch, while others may have favorite pieces they want to incorporate into their festive décor. Regardless of where you’re beginning the decorating process, keep basic design principles in mind, she advises. The style of your home can



help you determine the aesthetic that will work best, and pay attention to your physical space – high ceilings call for a bigger Christmas tree, for instance. Your decorations may also depend on your household.

“If you have a house with little kids, you’re going to want bright colors and fun things and snowmen; those things they just love to look at,” Brooke says. For couples who find themselves with an empty nest for the first time, a more refined look might be called for.

Aim to highlight pieces you love, whether they’re family treasures or new finds, and don’t feel constrained by a traditional holiday color palette. Consider playing off colors present in your everyday décor for an unexpected look that works with your existing pieces, she says. Homes decorated in more neutral tones can serve as the perfect backdrop for punchier colors, or stay in line with your home’s aesthetic and opt for elegant all-white decorations or white and silver items. Gold has also made a major comeback in the last few years.

Brooke says garland lights are gaining popularity, too. The strands, which consist of many tiny lights bundled together, provide major visual impact and can be used inside or out, Brooke notes.

#### GO GREEN AND TAKE IT EASY

“I love the incorporation of real holiday plants in with artificial because the vast majority of people don’t do fresh trees,” Brooke says. “Arrangements of fresh-cut greens get that fragrance throughout the house, which is awesome, and that can be something that you do a week or two before Christmas.”

Blooming amaryllis is a favorite for the season, along with paperwhite narcissus and poinsettias, which are now being grown in unusual colors, she adds.

Since the most wonderful time of the year often ends up being the most hectic time of the year for many of us, plants or small touches like simple garlands or decorative bundles on nightstand tables can serve as a fun change to your



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day-to-day style without requiring much effort, Brooke says. And don't underestimate the power of introducing a seasonal fragrance, be it through scented candles or potpourri.

Decorating for the winter season rather than the holidays can also help save time and prevent stress. Brooke notes taking a more general approach and adding accents like trendy blue and white jars and snow-covered branches provide a fresh look with a longer life – so you can enjoy the New Year rather than worrying about taking down now-out-of-season items.

Perhaps the most significant way to quickly add a dose of holiday cheer is to focus on your tree, whether it's a table-top model or a creatively decorated artificial tree.

"You can take a plain green tree and fill it with Christmas lights, you can put some fake snow on the branches, you can add snowball arrangements, you can add silver, you can add crystal, you can add any of those things and it would be very simple and change a room," Brooke says.

#### MAKE IT PERSONAL

In her own home, Brooke says each room has its own personality for the holidays. The dining room is more

vintage while her living room has a Western feel because of its year-round décor. The spaces are tied together with ornaments.

"I like glass ornaments – the more color, the more detail, the older they are, the more they make me happy," she says. Her tree is gold wire and adorned with treasured ornaments passed down from her mother.

Brooke's collection of vintage reindeer also has sentimental roots. Every year, her father would buy her mother a centerpiece decorated with the red velvet reindeers with silver glitter antlers and noses from a flower shop on Troost Avenue, and Brooke's mother saved many of them over the years.

"It just reminds me of my dad coming home and making my mom so happy with a Christmas centerpiece," she says.

Incorporating those cherished items can be what makes a house feel like home during the holidays, and there's always a way to tie them into your décor, she says, whether it's by surrounding them with greenery or grouping several items together with glass balls and other seasonal accents.

"Everybody's Christmas is so different, and the options are just endless," Brooke says. "I think that's the fun." ♦



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- February 3 Clark Inside Music Series: Christine Grossman, viola
- February 7 Free Symphony Happy Hour: Bernstein and Beyond
- February 9–11 A Tribute to Kansas City Jazz, featuring Bobby Watson
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- March 8 Classics Uncorked: Including *2001, A Space Odyssey, Apocalypse Now, and Amadeus*
- March 10 The Music of Prince with the Kansas City Symphony
- March 15 Clark Inside Music Series: Joyce Didonato, Mezzo-Soprano
- March 16–18 A Century of Bernstein: Joyce Didonato sings Bernstein and Berlioz
- March 23–25 A Century of Bernstein: Yo-Yo Ma, Pines of Rome and Bernstein

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- February 17 Folly Jazz Series: Cyrille Aimee, vocalist
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- February 9 Dance Theatre of Harlem, Kauffman Center for Performing Arts
- February 16 Mitsuko Uchida, pianist in recital, Folly Theater
- February 24 Nathan Lee, pianist in free recital, Folly Theater
- March 2 Kathleen Battle, soprano and piano, choir, and narration: Underground Railroad – A Spiritual Journey, Helzberg Hall | Kauffman Center For Performing Arts
- March 17 The Staatskapelle Weimar Orchestra of Germany, Folly Theater

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- February 18 Charles Williams Trio, Polsky Theatre
- February 24 Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Polsky Theatre
- March 3 Musical Thrones: A Parody of Ice and Fire, Yardley Hall
- March 3 Russian String Quartet, Polsky Theatre
- March 10 Arlo Guthrie featuring Abe and Sarah Lee Guthrie, Yardley Hall
- March 11 Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Yardley Hall

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- March 18 Matt Otto Quintet, Polsky Theatre

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- December 16–April 1  
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### STARLIGHT THEATRE

- January 30–February 4  
“Forbidden Broadway,” National Tour
- February 13–18  
“Dixie’s Never Wear a Tube Top While Riding a Mechanical Bull,” National Tour
- February 27–March 4  
“Broadway’s Next HIT Musical,” National Tour

### KANSAS CITY ROYALS

- February 14 (approx.)  
Pitchers and Catchers Report to Spring Training, Surprise, Arizona





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## Family and friends faraway?

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We now proudly ship our world-famous barbecue to all 50 states, so you can give the gift of an authentic Kansas City meal to loved ones both near and far. Delivering a slab of ribs, a pound of burnt ends or even a legendary Z-Man Kit anywhere nationwide is now possible with just a few clicks.

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*"I love what I do," says Dr. Headley. "Nothing is more rewarding than helping people improve their life."*

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# Front and Central.

The seventh annual Martinis Women & Shoes event benefiting Central Exchange took place on Thursday, October 12. More than 150 women (and some men!) gathered together over cocktails and high fashion at Kansas City's premier fashion destination, Halls at Crown Center. Presenting sponsors included Aristocrat Motors, Halls, and Wlaa Style. Funds raised support Central Exchange, the venue and voice for women seeking to reach their full personal and professional potential. This event provides an opportunity for women to gather, network, and celebrate each other while previewing today's hottest trends. Six women from the community served as shoe models, and guests enjoyed private shopping after the show, as well as delectable treats by Central Exchange Executive Chef Peter Beffa. ♦



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European model shown: 2018 Range Rover Velar R-Dynamic HSE with optional equipment. \*Price shown is Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price for the 2018 Velar. Excludes destination/handling charge, tax, title, license, and retailer fees, all due at signing, and optional equipment. Retailer price, terms and vehicle availability may vary. See Land Rover Merriam or call (913) 677 3300 for details. © 2017 Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC.



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