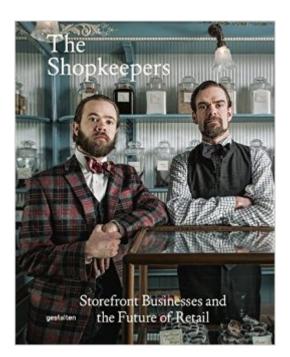
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The Shopkeepers: Storefront Businessesand The Future Of Retail





Synopsis

Good stores still exist. In fact, their numberis growing. Well-designed specialty shops that are inspired by the small manufacturers and mom-and-pop operations of the past are now sprouting up. These outlets are defying e-commerce and anonymous onlineshopping with outstanding products, originalinterior design, innovative concepts, and, first and foremost, friendly and competentcustomer service. The Shopkeepers explores this new storeculture through examples such as barbershops, fish smokeries, tailors, and milliners, as well as retail spaces specializing in stationery, hardware, buttons, home dAccor, or coffeemakers. They can be found off the beatentrack as well as in the hearts of major cities from Berlin to Beirut. The book makes itclear that they are all driven by the passionthat their founders and operators have fortheir business ideas and products, whethervintage eyeglasses, textiles from India orChina, specialty books, soaps, olive oils, ortropical fish. While some shops are basedon innovative ideas, others are reinterpretations of traditional family businesses. The Shopkeepers also introduces someof the personalities behind these excitingretail concepts. Many have been runningtheir shops for years but are only nowbeing recognized by a new generation of consumers for their acumen, integrity, and knowledge --from shoemakers who trulyunderstand their craft to culinary experts who can differentiate between 200 types of chocolate or cheese with their eyes closed. Some are such interesting characters that the chance to interact with them is reasonenough to attract potential customers. In the stores featured in The Shopkeepers, the customer is again king and can find a personal, quality retail experience that the internets imply cannot provide. The book remindsus all of the value of exceptional service and of meticulously selected products which arebuilt to last and on which one can depend. If they didn't exist already, they do now.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The global research in finding these small, unique stores, some less than 200 sg feet, is amazing. I didn't know about 95% of these businesses. The photography is top notch. The subject is all about small shops selling unique, high quality, low run products. One shoe manufacture in Europe has been making exactly 300 pairs of shoes per year for about 100 years. I'm inspired by the dedication to quality, even for such small runs of product. But the publisher of this book apparently is not inspired by quality on a small scale. The print and design quality of this small run book is terrible. The printing was done on a laser printer. A very nice laser printer, but you can tell the toner is sitting on top of the page, not part of the page like ink used in an offset press. The reflectivity changes where the toner is vs the paper. And the paper isn't the nice coated paper you would expect in a \$60 coffee table book - toner doesn't stick to that kind of paper. On demand toner based printers are good for junk mail, not books like this. Obviously this is a low run book - but China offers real offset printing and excellent guality at economical prices now. Even worse than the printing is the layout. It's perhaps the worst I've ever seen in a book at any price. Most free things are far better designed. There is no grid. Every page is freeform, but not in a good way. Margins, gutters, everything seems different on every page. Even within the same page widths and spaces seem arbitrary. There are as many as 9 different font sizes and fonts on a page. Body text ranges from larger than Reader's Digest blind-as-a-bat size (32 pts maybe) to microscopic, 7 pts perhaps - all on the same page!

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