



A blend of international and homey cottage styles, **Ambiente's** finds are charming grace notes for contemporary homes.

**Where:** 2828 152nd St., South Surrey, B.C., (604) 541-9315; 1179 56th St., Unit 200, Tsawwassen, B.C., (604) 948-9315; or visit [www.ambiente.ca](http://www.ambiente.ca).

**Owner:** A native of Germany, Jutta Rapp immigrated to B.C. in 1998, and in 2001 opened Ambiente, a small shop (much like the one she had owned in Germany) selling handmade accessories for the home. She opened a second location in Surrey, B.C., last August.

**Style:** A mix of casual and contemporary pieces — for indoors and out — from Canada and foreign locales like France and Germany presented in a relaxed atmosphere (calming music plays in the background, and fragrant oil is always burning).

**Best buys:** Linen napkins in playful spring colours like turquoise, bright green and pale yellow (\$4 to \$6); mattress-look throw pillows (\$37); pretty storage baskets (\$17 to \$25); old-world train-station-style wall clocks (\$119); snack bowls (\$19 each) and Belgian chocolates (\$8/package).

**What to watch for:** Turquoise and lime-green glassware (\$4 to \$12). A new home decor line to help organize daily living, including dark brown rattan storage baskets (\$15 to \$30). Bright, fresh original artworks by Denise Christensen (around \$1,000). Handsome silk flowers displayed in specially designed vases.

**What's flying out the door:** Modern hurricane lamps in three sizes (13"-, 16"- and 19"-high; \$39 to \$49 each). Oversized 26" x 41" coco-fibre doormats (\$45 to \$59 each) with designs and inlays like bees and daisies (some mats have rubber framing).

**Sound bite:** "There's a difference between a house and a home — and I aim to provide all those accessories that transform a house into a home," Jutta says. — Nadeyah Kailan



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Paintings, *Apple and Wrought Iron* (\$900) by Denise Christensen; clocks, \$119 each; welcome mat, \$38; candelabra, \$72; lamps, \$37 each; white table, \$315;

fence pieces (behind table), \$130 each; candlesticks, \$62 to \$77. **Bottle, \$3.** Clocks, \$44 to \$108; candlesticks, \$25 to \$30; frames, \$98 to \$129; round pillows, \$27. **Bowls, \$19; Belgian chocolate, \$8.**