



# SOUTHERN ACCENTS

It's been a very busy year for Southern Accents. The largest of its kind in the Southeast, this family-owned business was established in 1969. Its mission is to save architectural elements that would otherwise be lost in the demolition of historic structures.

Located in Callman, Alabama, the architectural antique store has spent the past several months on the road. In addition to salvaging structures throughout the nation, they made their presence known in New York City this past February during fashion week.

Back in Alabama, they quickly regrouped, making an appearance at the Birmingham Home and Garden show followed by the Building Home and Remodeling Show in Huntsville.

Southern Accents owner, Garlan Gudgeon, and his team designed and created a fantastic set for the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) award winning menswear designer Billy Reid. The set was the brainchild of Reid and Gudgeon, who had previously collaborated on Reid's 2010 Fashion Week set.

"When commissioned for this year's top runway show, we wanted to construct a set that would showcase not only Billy's incredible fashion sense but also highlight our creativity with the use of distinctively Southern salvage pieces." Gudgeon pointed out. The set was formed from hundreds of wooden tiles produced



By Loretta Gillespie

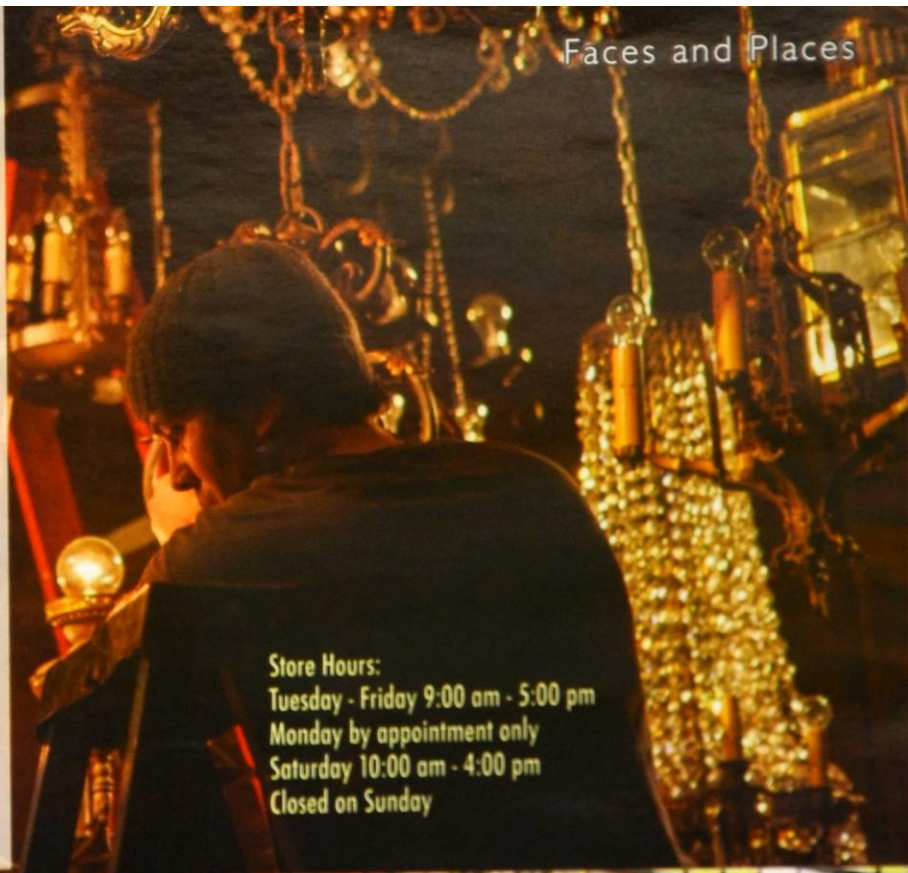
Faces and Places

from reclaimed floors, giving the backdrop the look of a wall of wooden bricks. Very rustic and masculine, it perfectly emphasized Reid's spring line of clothing which looked smashing against the rough-hewn textures.

To give the stage a contrasting element of glamour, 30 vintage chandeliers of various shapes and sizes were brought from Cullman to NYC. They were hung at varying levels, forming a montage of soft light reflecting from thousands of roped crystals and dangling prisms. The effect was nothing less than stunning.

After returning from the Big Apple, the Southern Accents crew began preparing for the two Home and Garden Shows.

"This was our first time to participate in either home show. Both are premiere events for building, remodeling, home and garden products in Alabama. Southern Accents presence was a great fit. We received a tremendous amount of positive feedback from both shows and plan to return next year," said Garlan.



**Store Hours:**  
Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday by appointment only  
Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Closed on Sunday

## GOES ON THE ROAD

The first weekend in May found Southern Accents heavily involved with the Southern Makers festival in Montgomery, a highly curated festival designed to explore the creative heritage of Alabama.

When approached about becoming involved with this project, Gudger jumped at the chance. "There has been an artistic renaissance developing in Alabama for the past several years," he said. "Creative artisans in the fields of food, fashion, art, architecture, and music, all passionate about their individual industry, have been working independently to promote their wares. In the past, we have worked with many of the Makers individually. The chance to join forces and work side-by-side with a collective group of some of the most talented people from across the state was exciting."

Southern Accents' main contribution to the show was the staging. Garlan Gudger and his team constructed the entrance, stage, workshop area and the dumpster wall

which contained the "What Inspires You" chalk board, all from salvaged materials.

You can see the amazing collection of vintage and unique building materials, light fixtures, iron gates, fountains, corbels, doors, columns, and much more for yourself. A visit to Southern Accents is like stepping back in time. The company has managed to save thousands of antique and vintage elements that would otherwise have succumbed to a wrecking ball. "We save old stuff," said Garlan.

Visit their showroom, their website at [www.southernaccents.com](http://www.southernaccents.com), or catch them on the road... you will be inspired by the passion they possess for what they do!

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