



MADE IN NEW YORK

# Screen Gems

Analisse Taft rescues endangered vintage silk screens and brings them back to life



AS A YOUNG TEENAGE model, Analisse Taft quickly learned that what looked glamorous on the outside was in reality all about business. “As a model, you’re ultimately running your own company,” she says, a lesson learned and deftly applied to the four-year-old SoHo showroom she owns today, ALT for Living. Her vision was to have a one-stop-shopping emporium housing bespoke fabrics, floor coverings, and furnishings, some of which she has discovered on her travels abroad but many of which are handmade by artisans within a 50-mile radius. “Decorators and architects come in here and really enjoy the process of looking,” she says. “They aren’t on their hands and knees digging around—they can see everything all at once.”



### The Test Of Time

Two printers manually reproduce the design Chloe on an original decades-old wooden screen (TOP LEFT). Amelie (ABOVE), another screen from the line of Living Vintage prints. The entryway in the Civil War-era mill in Red Hook (LEFT). See Resources.

DOUG YOUNG





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Soon after opening her showroom, Taft visited an old mill in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and while rummaging around the Civil War-era building (“You feel like you’ve literally stepped into a time machine”), she stumbled across thousands of vintage silk screens, some of which date from the 1940s. “They were tossed around like scrap wood and were going to be burned,” she says. Taft saved the screens from an untimely demise and commissioned the factory to use them to make her new 16-pattern fabric line, Living Vintage. “I hadn’t ever tried fabric design—or printing, for that matter—but it was such an organic process. I’m putting these prints back into the world. It’s actually quite romantic.” —*Miranda Agee*

**Screen Star**  
(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) In her SoHo showroom, Analisse Taft sits on a Mercury daybed from decorator Shawn Henderson’s Amalgam Collection. A basket of wallpaper samples sits below a screen. Some of the rescued screens, not currently in production, line the wall as dramatic art. See Resources.