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Top of the shops
Global

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Preface

Just the right selection of top-quality products, knowledgeable and helpful staff and an inviting setting – these are the simple ingredients for an enjoyable shopping experience. Here are 10 places that have got it right, from a shoe shop in Melbourne to a tailor in Hong Kong.

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01
Centre Commercial
Paris

Founded in 2010 on rue de Marseille in Paris, Centre Commercial is an ethically driven retail space. It stocks well-wrought clothing for men and women by young French designers such as Valentine Gauthier, Roseanna, Christine Phung and Bérangère Claire.

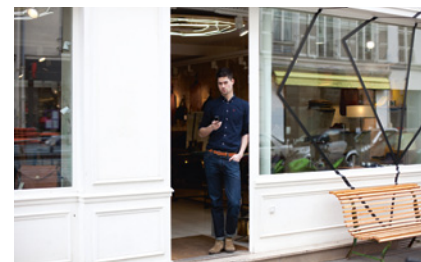
Alongside the clobber you can find a selection of vintage furniture, art pieces and a few great reads. “It’s a collective space, uniting local, social and environmental initiatives,” says co-founder Sébastien Kopp (who is also behind sports footwear label Veja). “The space has been conceived as the antidote to fast-paced retail. It is a place to slow down.”

The stark, unrendered walls, salvaged wood flooring and lighting by Brazilian artist Kleber Matheus illustrate the brand’s philosophy and bring the values of its products to the fore. “Our designers all endorse their own style signatures and also share their passion for French artisanal crafting traditions,” says Kopp.

2 rue de Marseille

Why it works:

Centre Commercial’s beautiful, uncluttered approach and quality clothing make a good reason to slow down when you find yourself by the busy terraces of Canal St Martin on a sunny afternoon.



03
Osswald
Zürich

Founded in Zürich by Boris Dreiding, boutique perfumery Osswald has been a family affair for over 90 years. Dreiding’s daughter Tamara Dreiding is now at the helm, and the brand’s strong ethos of in-house training continues to produce knowledgeable staff with a nose for aromatics. Inside, the shop’s crisp design owes much to its 1994 revamp by Bern-based architect Christoph Ott, whose Swiss-wood interiors lend to the space’s already inviting atmosphere. As well as boasting a collection of over 1,500 perfumes, reputation has afforded Osswald enviable connections within the industry, putting it at the top of the list for exclusive scents from Hind Al Oud to Frédéric Malle and many more. Managing director Werner Abt says the brand’s philosophy hasn’t changed since its foundation in 1921. “We want to offer our clients classic values that don’t depend on style or season,” he says.
17 Bahnhofstrasse, Paradeplatz

Why it works:

Osswald focuses on selling only perfumes. With its 4,000 offerings and well-trained staff, it is the shop to head to for exclusive scents and to gain some knowledgeable insight into the world of olfactology.



02
Trunk Clothiers
London

From its charming Chiltern Street home in London’s Marylebone, Trunk Clothiers (which shares some links with MONOCLE) offers everything from sharply cut suits to stylish swimwear. Set over two floors, the space is warm and intimate with wood flooring throughout. “Rather than going with a traditional shop-fit we wanted to make it more personal and Trunk feels almost like someone’s home,” says founder Mats Klingberg. Finishing touches include clothing rails from Beirut-based Acid Design & Production and shelving from Ercol. Expect impeccable service and a selection of international menswear brands – Boglioli, Incotex, Alden and Gitman Vintage to name a few. As Swedish-born Klingberg says, what’s important is “provenance, quality, timeless design and brands with an interesting story behind them”.
8 Chiltern Street

Why it works:

Cosy, smart-planned interior and a well-edited selection of menswear brands (most of which are exclusive to Trunk) have proved to be irresistible. The impeccable customer service adds to the shopping experience.

