

SHOP TALK



For your listening pleasure: the lounge at the newly redone Sony Style store on Madison.

Submit information by mail or fax (673-8382) to Brandon Holley. Include details of store, merchandise, sales, telephone number and nearest subways. Deadline is ten days before publication date. Listings information will not be accepted over the telephone.

JUST OPENED

Lillian Vernon

1417 Kings Highway between 14th and 15th Sts, Midwood, Brooklyn (718-382-1761). Subway: D, Q to Kings Highway. 10am-7pm.

Fans of the venerable Lillian Vernon catalog now have a place to browse. The small outlet carries end-of-season, discontinued and overstocked goods from the monogram-happy line of housewares and gifts. Unfortunately, you can't get your initials on fishing-rod racks or anything else here, but if you're already nostalgic for the holidays, there are loads of Christmas wreaths and ornaments, as well as toys and kitchenware.

HIGH TECH

Sony Style

550 Madison Ave between 55th and 56th Sts (833-8800). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 59th St; N, R to Fifth Ave. Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 10am-4:30pm.

The flagship store of the Japanese multimedia conglomerate sells electronic hardware (CD players, video cameras, Walkmans) and software (CDs, video

game cartridges, etc.). But shopping here has less to do with the final purchase than with the experience itself: showrooms designed by James Mansour and Ralph Lauren, staff uniforms by John Bartlett and Donna Karan and couches by John Hutton of Donghia. You can listen to any Sony CD (lots of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, no Superchunk or Stereolab) or watch a clip from any Sony videotape at a bank of computers that also offers a virtual website of information about each artist (tour dates, new albums) or film. You can play video games until someone asks you to leave, or toy with all the functions on the video cameras aimed at the crowds on Madison Avenue. Downstairs, the attentive staff will set up a test drive of whatever combination of DAT players, video machines and speakers you want while you're at the café mainlining caffeine. Carry your mocha and Danish over, and, voilà, instant living room.

Time Out
New York

The complete weekly guide
January 3-10, 1996 Issue No. 15 \$1.95