

The Nester

By Alyssa Ettinger

It is no longer the season to wrack your brain thinking up the right gift for the often way-too-picky homebodies in your life. Good news: Buying the perfect present for the Nester on your list is a whole lot easier than it used to be—even easier, in fact, than it was this time last year. The reason? A whole slew of home-furnishings Web sites let you choose between shopping from home at familiar stores (like Restoration Hardware and Illume) and browsing new cybershops chock-full of unique and beautiful gifts.



Zeppelin Chrome Cocktail Shaker

No home is ready for guests without some showy barware. Mall store-turned-online retailer Restoration Hardware has reproduced this 1928 design, a chrome cocktail shaker shaped like a zeppelin. Your Nester will be able to pop a favorite CD in the stereo, mix up some cocktails, and play the hostess with the mostest.

www.restorationhardware.com, \$55

House Plants Made Easy

Anyone with a green thumb (and those who wish they had one) is sure to appreciate this CD-ROM. It includes all the information you need to keep your plants happy and healthy. In addition to the inspirational photo spreads, you'll find tons of easy-to-follow tips and advice from the pros.

www.amazon.com, \$29.95

Botanical Prints

Gallery-quality botanical prints complement any décor, and they're quite affordable at Art.com. The site includes a wide range of choices, and once you've settled on your gift, Art.com's online framing studio helps you find the perfect frame right at the site. What could be simpler?

www.art.com, prices vary

Down Pillows, Comforters, and Featherbeds

It's time for your Nester to stop delaying gratification and create a bed overflowing with down. And you can help with pillows, comforters, and featherbeds from the Internet's best location for down products. The Pacific Coast Feather Company offers a plethora of choices, including a hypoallergenic line, at factory-direct prices.

www.pacificcoast.com, prices vary

Matchstick Lamp

Combine clean, Asian-inspired design with slats of natural bamboo and you get this tall and architecturally interesting light source. Its simple design blends with most decorating schemes, and its price—under \$30—fits most budgets. It accepts up to a

60-watt bulb, so plenty of light shines through.

www.crateandbarrel.com, \$29.95

Orchids

An orchid somehow makes everything more elegant. And these days, lots of in-bloom or in-spike orchids are available online, ready to be shipped surrounded by heat-packs to keep them safe in cold weather. Choose from a variety of species: Chinese cymbidium, phalaenopsis, vanda, dendrobium. Whichever you choose, it'll be a gorgeous, exotic, and unexpected gift.

www.pacificorchid.com, \$13 and up

Vintage Office Furniture

One of the hottest décor trends is filling your home with reconditioned office furniture that's sturdy, utilitarian, and just plain fabulous. From metal bookcases to boardroom chairs to painted-metal doctor's office pieces, it's all available at A.P. Skyscraper. The selection changes frequently, so keep visiting to find the perfect pieces.

www.apskyscraper.com, prices vary

Complete Home 3D Design 4.0

Whether you're about to build a backyard deck or you just



want to know when to plant those bromeliads, Sierra Homes' Complete Home 3D has you covered. This eight-program bundle features a variety of 2D and 3D tools, including a home-improvement encyclopedia, a photo garden designer, and a guide to electrical wiring. It's a Nester's digital dream come true.

www.sierrahome.com,
Win95/98, \$69.95

Cashmere Blankets

Woven in Scotland of two-ply cashmere, these warm and cozy blankets are available in a large palette of beautiful shades, and they make the perfect gift for anyone you plan to spend cold winter nights snuggling with.

www.cashmereclub.com, \$648

