



Uptown Redesigns

An inventive, eco-friendly venture is taking shape in Annapolis, Maryland, and making great strides in the increasingly popular world of upcycling and eco-fashion. *Uptown Redesigns*, founded in 2009 by Sandy Philpott, takes old leather coats and upcycles them into stylish and high-quality, custom-made leather handbags. A constantly rotating boutique collection of completely unique leather bags are on display and available for immediate purchase at the online shop: www.uptownredesigns.com. *Uptown Redesigns* also takes custom orders and will transform clients' own leather coats into beautiful new bags.

Owner/Designer, Sandy Philpott

Uptown Redesigns was founded by Sandy Philpott in 2009 in Annapolis, Maryland's Uptown District. A former educator, businesswoman, and interior decorator, Sandy combined her entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and her lifelong passion for sewing to develop this new venture. *Uptown Redesigns* is not only a reflection of Sandy's innovative style and practicality, but also demonstrates resourceful practices that limit waste and reduce unnecessary consumption and stress on the environment.

"I like to focus on the practical use of products in addition to their aesthetics, so that my ultimate designs are usable, durable, and beautiful. I also have a strong affinity for fabrics and textiles, and have a hard time parting with outdated (but high quality) clothing, sweaters, jackets, and linens. I believe that in today's world, it is important to not only be economically resourceful, but also to leave as little impact on our environment as possible. It just makes complete sense to take formerly enjoyed, but no longer used, high-quality materials and fibers, and let their originally valuable assets be showcased and reused in a new, updated product."

How It Works

All of the bags are made from previously used leather coats salvaged from thrift, consignment, or vintage shops, along with ones that are donated directly to Uptown Redesigns. The coats are brought into the studio, deconstructed, cleaned, conditioned, and are each individually redesigned into completely unique bags. As much as possible of the original coat is used, and the original pockets, stitching, buttons, belt, and trim are often incorporated into the new designs. The bags are lined with upcycled silk scarves, silk clothing, or other discarded fabric remnants. Aside from basic sewing notions, very little new hardware or materials are integrated into the new designs making the handbags truly upcycled in almost every manner!

Availability

The bags can be purchased directly online at www.uptownredesigns.com. Uptown Redesigns also is a vendor at various local Annapolis events (posted on the website) throughout the year. Contact Uptown Redesigns directly (uptownredesigns@gmail.com) for information on wholesale pricing and/or for custom requests.