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NEW ORLEANS DESIGNER TRANSFORMS OLD LEATHER COATS INTO ECO-CHIC HANDBAGS

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Green is the new black as the fashion industry embraces a more eco-friendly approach to design. So, if you just can't part with that Top Gun inspired bomber jacket or that leather blazer your ex gave you years ago, no worries. [Uptown Redesigns](#), a New Orleans-based, eco-conscious design studio, is transforming vintage and outdated leather coats into unique, inspired, one-of-a-kind handbags.

Uptown Redesigns sources leather coats from thrift, consignment and vintage shops, and also accepts jackets from clients for individualized custom work. Each coat is carefully deconstructed, cleaned and conditioned before it is transformed into a high-quality, custom-made leather handbag.

Uptown Redesigns is firmly committed to being economically resourceful and limiting environmental impact. That is why virtually the entire original coat is utilized in the design process. Typically, the pockets, stitching, buttons, belt and trim are incorporated into each handmade bag.

"At Uptown Redesigns, we think both style and substance are important," says Sandy Philpott, owner and designer, Uptown Redesigns. "By reusing high quality materials and letting the original assets of each coat be showcased in a new, updated product, Uptown Redesigns is limiting waste and reducing unnecessary consumption – while also creating a usable, durable and eco-chic handbag."

The bags are lined with upcycled clothing and 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 virtually every manner.

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. Uptown Redesigns is a featured vendor at various New Orleans events throughout the year. Please check the website for more information.

About Sandy Philpott, owner & designer, Uptown Redesigns

Uptown Redesigns was founded by Sandy Philpott in 2009 in Annapolis, Maryland's Uptown District, and relocated to the Uptown District of New Orleans, Louisiana in spring of 2011. A former educator, businesswoman and interior decorator, Sandy has 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.