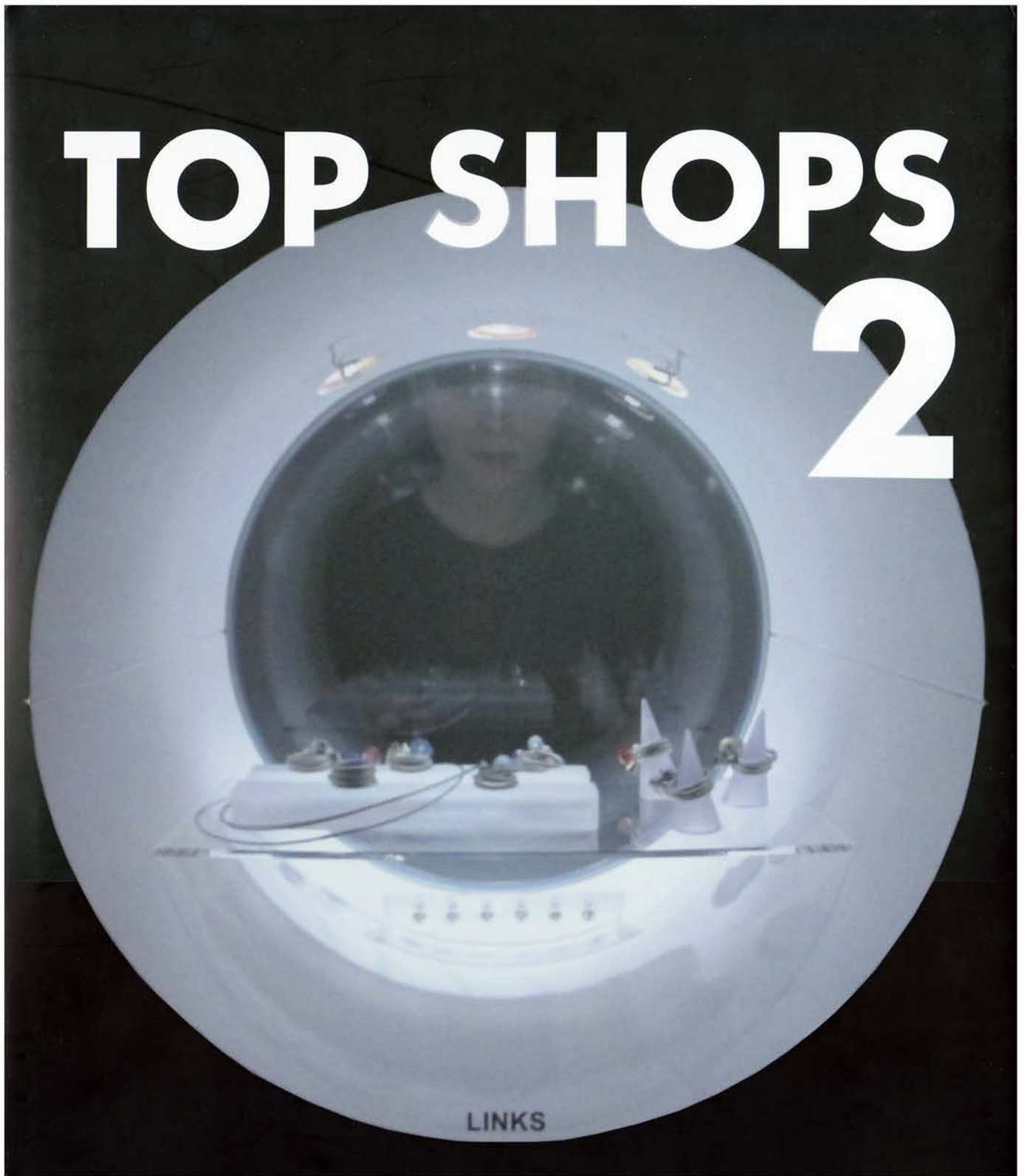


# TOP SHOPS 2



TOP SHOPS 2  
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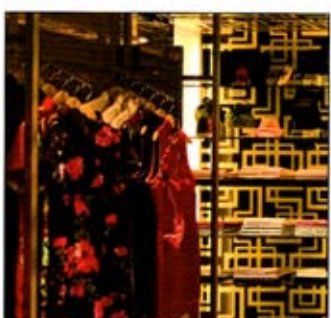
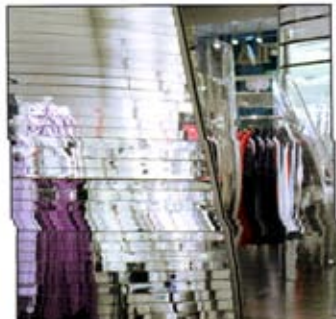
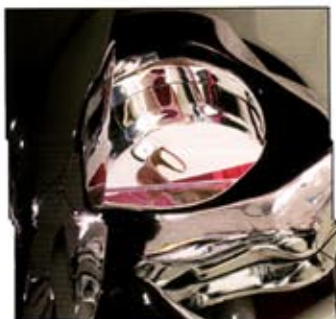
# Top Shops 2

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When designing commercial spaces it is necessary to consider not just the types of activities that will be carried out in them, but also the different locations, functions and environments that they will require. All commercial premises, however, need a basic infrastructure that creates an efficient working environment and facilities that ensure excellent customer service.

There have been considerable developments in the area of commercial spaces in recent years, mainly caused by the trend towards increasing numbers of shopping centers appearing in cities, following the influence of the American model. The proliferation of these centers has gone hand in hand with developments in new ways of understanding commercial premises. These include changes in the way internal spatial divisions are conceived (they were far more schematic and conventional in the past), the systematic use of light and color as integral elements of the architecture, the use of prefabricated materials and the widespread tendency to use transparent spaces, with few visible separations.

In order to provide a representative vision of the most innovative recent designs, we have tried as far as possible to show the great diversity of commercial spaces and their almost infinite decorative possibilities, as a kind of graphic guide to current and future trends in interior design for customer service spaces.

We have also made a considerable effort to show not just the overall design of each project, but also the most significant construction details, which in some cases are an essential part of the character of the finished space. For this reason we have included all kinds of graphic material, such as photographs, plans, elevations and axonometric views and sketches, together with a description of the work as it was conceived by the architect.

# ArchLAB -

## Antonio Pio Saracino + Steve E. Blatz Architects

### Tibi

Tibi is a contemporary women's wear boutique located in SOHO, NYC. Known for their T-shirt inspired bold print tees, Tibi challenged ArchLAB to develop a brand identity that made a strong statement reflecting the essence of the brand for their first longstanding retail boutique.

The architecture of this 300sqm (3200sqft) retail space is inspired by the decorative print aesthetics of the client's work. The architects, principals Antonio P. Saracino and Steve E. Blatz, transformed the prints into two folded canopies hovering within the typical SOHO white box. The sculpted forms of the canopies create an entrance arch visible from the storefront window that draws shoppers into the space.

The front canopy floats above the floor, folds down along the side wall, incorporates the cash desk and sweeps back up towards the ceiling creating an illusory perspective sense of movement into the space. Together, the two canopies divide the shop into four distinct shopping zones and bring an intimacy to the over-arched ceilings of the box. The canopies are handpainted with thick layers of acrylic paint in a fluid design evocative of the artistic nature of both the architecture and the client's collection. The black and green motif developed by the architects uses the signature colors of the client's brand. The handpainted canopies, with their decorative motif, were conceived to wrap around the shopper to create a playful architectural experience.

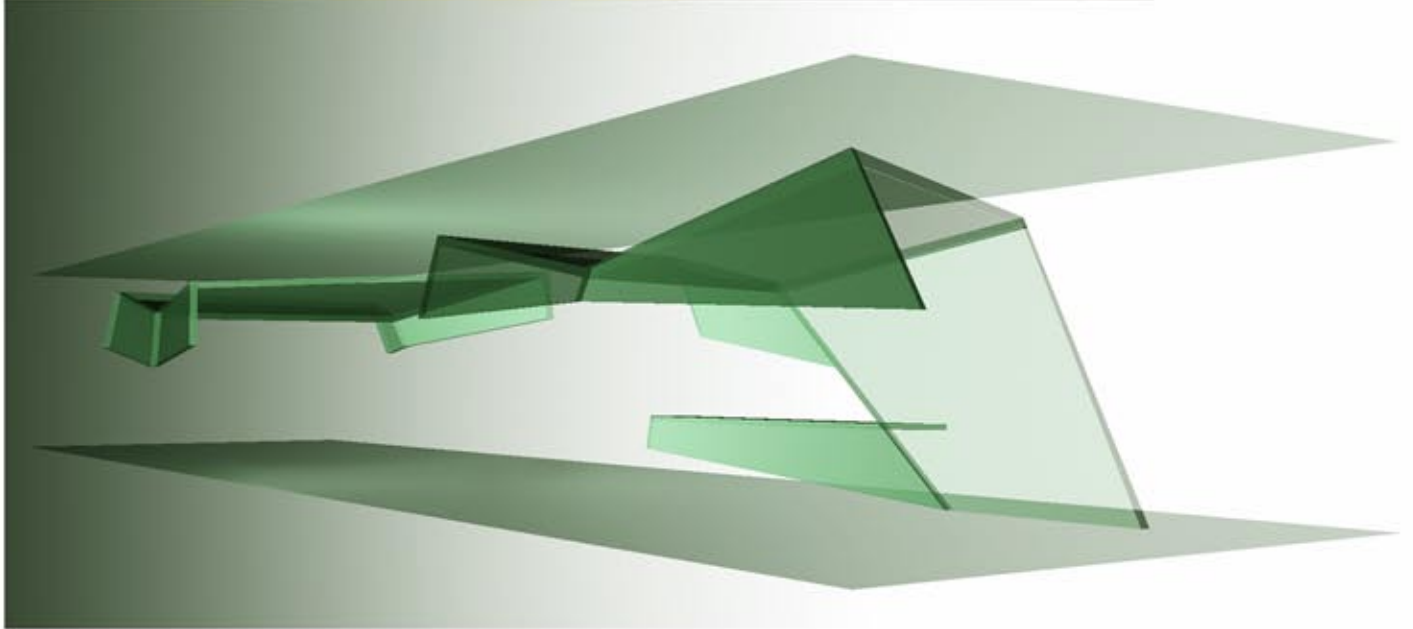
A lacated pale green display wall floats along one wall of the boutique and wraps itself around the stairs to the lower level that houses the pattern room. The lacated wall forms a children's play area near the rear dressing rooms so that mothers may shop undisturbed from their children.

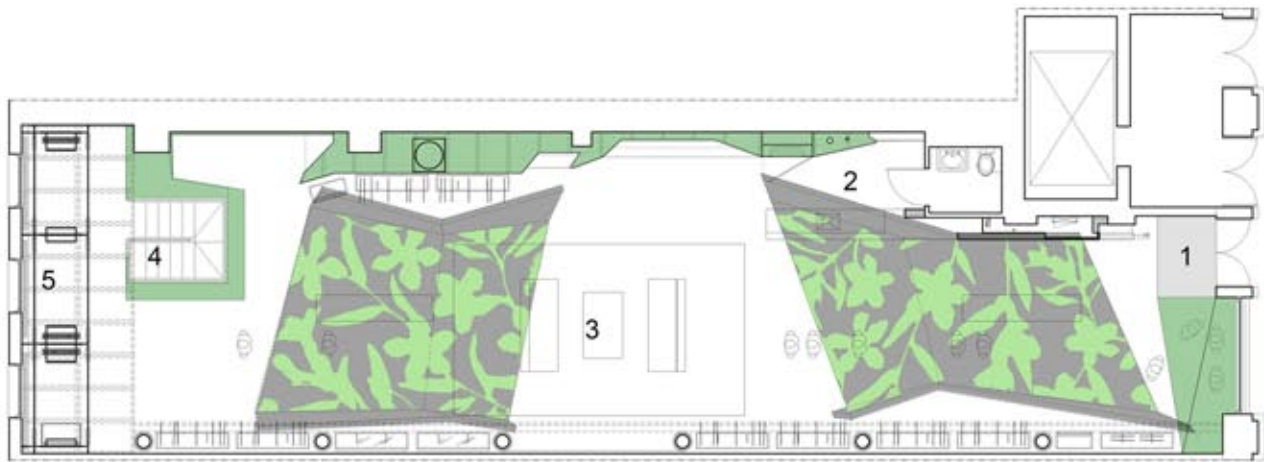
Large fitting rooms wrapped in white drapes in a custom steel structure sit at the back of the boutique below a full width skylight that brings natural light to the changing rooms. The fitting rooms include custom lighting designed by the architects. Minimalist custom designed blackened steel display fixtures form a simple backdrop to Tibi's products.

Location: New York, USA  
Photograph: Adam Blum  
Area: 320 sqft







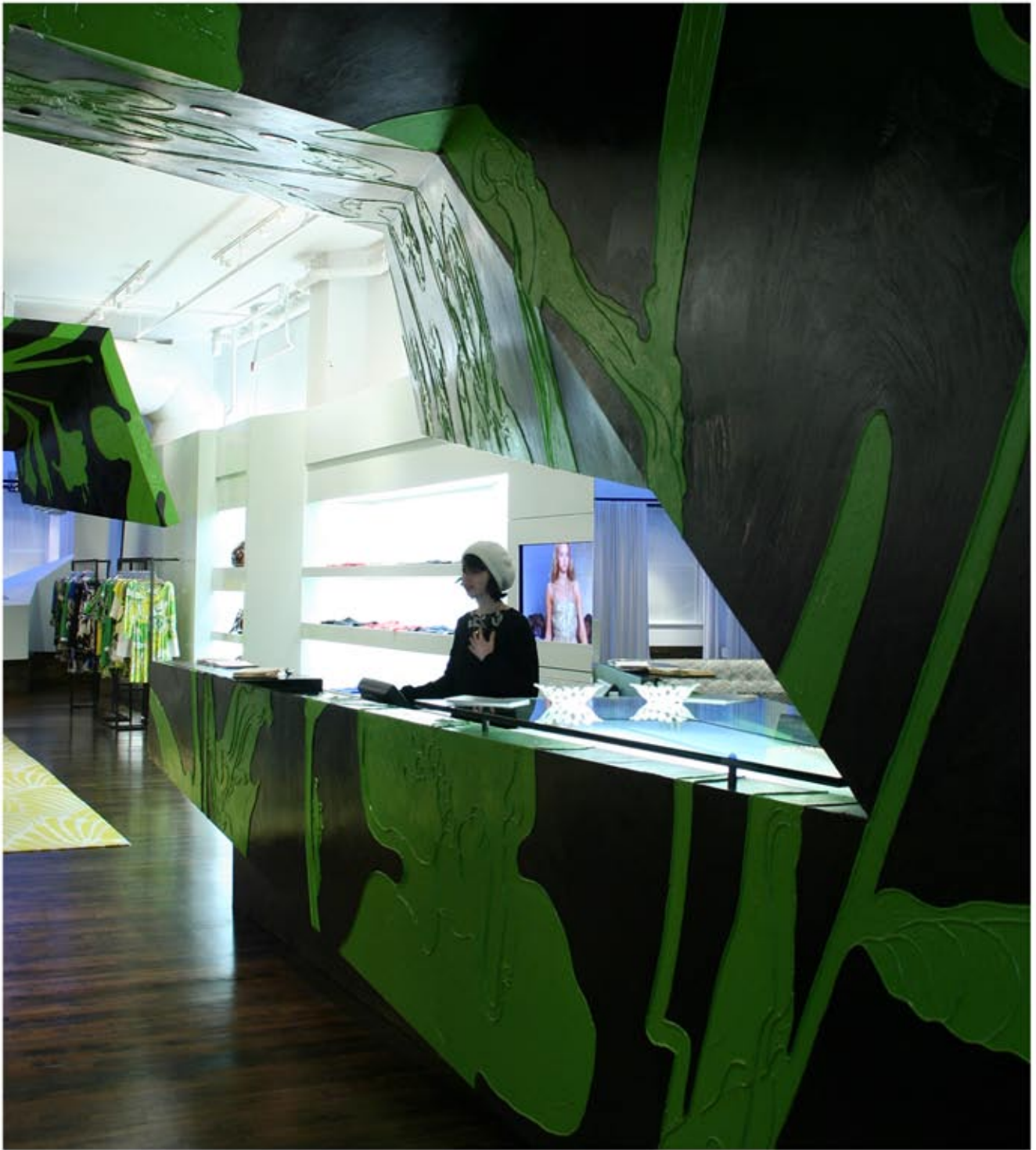


- 1 entrance
- 2 cash wrap
- 3 living room
- 4 stair
- 5 fitting room













In order to connect the shop with Soho's history as a home to artists and galleries an artist was selected to hand paint the pattern onto the canopies with a very thick texture in Tibi's signature colors.

