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Blooming Boutique

Text by James Roper Photography by Stephanie Stanton



Left: Najdek's bountiful display of French garden roses. **Right:** Shoppers at Kamilla's Floral Boutique can stroll along aisles filled with colorful, creative arrangements.

Step into Kamilla's Floral Boutique in the village of Millerton, New York, and you realize you've left the ordinary far behind. The exuberant floral designs, in a setting of verdant walls and salvaged teakwood with fanciful shapes, set it apart.

Kamilla Najdek—founder, owner, and floral designer—brings a distinctive approach to her subject. Originally from Kaliningrad, Russia, she attended the state university there, where her studies included a course on European floral design.

Najdek explains that European floral design focuses on the intricate application of colors and design elements to show nature's infinite variety of flowers and plants to its best advantage. "I like to bring the beauty of nature into someone's life and make them happy," she says earnestly. "Fresh-cut flowers that are still leafing after they have been cut from the plant are a beautiful addition to everyone's life." Najdek adds that "in some cultures, they are even a part of everyday life and the social environment."

The boutique offers floral arrangements and displays for weddings and special events, in both classic and contemporary designs customized to each client's taste.

Besides fresh flowers, shoppers can find floral containers (including biodegradable ones), Russian Baltic amber, orchid designs, works by local artists, handmade wreaths by Amy, Russian candy, and salvaged teakwood sculpted into furniture and accent pieces. It should be no surprise that even the names of Kamilla's color choices for her boutique have floral themes—"Hibiscus" and "Spring Moss."

Kamilla's Floral Boutique is located at 36 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546. For more information, call 518.789.3900, or visit the Web site at www.kamillas.com

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