DESIGN DISPATCH

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

Book of the month

[illegible]

[illegible]

Tracy Ashton-Hayes

Book smart A spread on fabric designer Brunnen Shang's Dallas home

Burning love

Jack Collins doesn't remember when he first started, in his words, "playing with wax." But the transformative power of heat and flame is a long tradition in the back room at Grange Hall, dating from co-owner Jeffrey Lee's earliest fashion experiments using a cigarette lighter to burn patterns into silk chiffon.

"Jeffrey and I are both very into decay and renewal," says Collins, the floral department's lead designer, "so the burning goes hand in hand with that. Fire is amazing. It can create beautiful things."

To wit, the melted, twisted and contorted acrylic rods and amorphous beeswax sheltered in this 19th-century French wedding dome. Note that the wax on the jar's bottom edge drips up, forming spires that, to Collins, symbolize renewal.

The Oklahoma native has dipped orchids in wax, and dripped it over barnacles and shells. But lately his fascination has shifted to a new material. "I'm growing crystals on bones and skulls and rock formations. It's a science project elevated to an art form."

Tracy Ashton-Hayes

Jack Collins melted wax and acrylic sculpture $2,675, Grange Hall