

WINNER

WOMEN'S CHOICE AWARDS

FAVORITE BOUTIQUE: THE ULTIMATE CLOSET

closet confessions

"It's been a lot of fun. It's my passion."

Patti Hopewell-Schisel

When people follow their heart, really good things tend to happen. One such "good thing," the Ultimate Closet, opened its doors in Bellevue just over a month ago.

Owner Patti Hopewell-Schisel worked for the Limited Corp. for more than 10 years, eventually earning a position as a special project manager. The position required her to fly to stores nationwide five days a week. While maintaining the hectic travel schedule, she noticed one common denominator among women no matter where she was — high-end clothing resale businesses were hot and in demand.

"I visited a lot of boutiques when I traveled," Hopewell-Schisel says. "In my heart, I knew I wanted to open a boutique, but it had to be different. I had a lot of clothes, and I didn't like

taking them to consignment stores. I didn't like wondering what happened to them once I dropped them off."

Hopewell-Schisel wanted to open a high-fashion resale shop with gently used name brand and designer clothes. "Women love beautiful clothes and variety, but we don't always want to spend a ton of money. You may want a \$250 jacket, but when you spend \$50 on it, you don't feel guilty if you don't wear it more than a couple times," she explains.

Yet Hopewell-Schisel wanted to open more than a clothing store; she wanted to provide a fun and unique shopping experience for women. To accomplish this, Hopewell-Schisel designed the store herself,



Patti Hopewell-Schisel
Owns The Ultimate Closet

using her retail knowledge and personal taste to create a boutique ambience versus a hodgepodge discount store.

"Women don't have to rummage through the clothes. I'm very picky about what people bring in. Once it's in my store, everything is sized and organized," Hopewell-Schisel says. All the clothing is steamed and then placed on identical hangers.

Even the tiniest details have her personal touch —

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