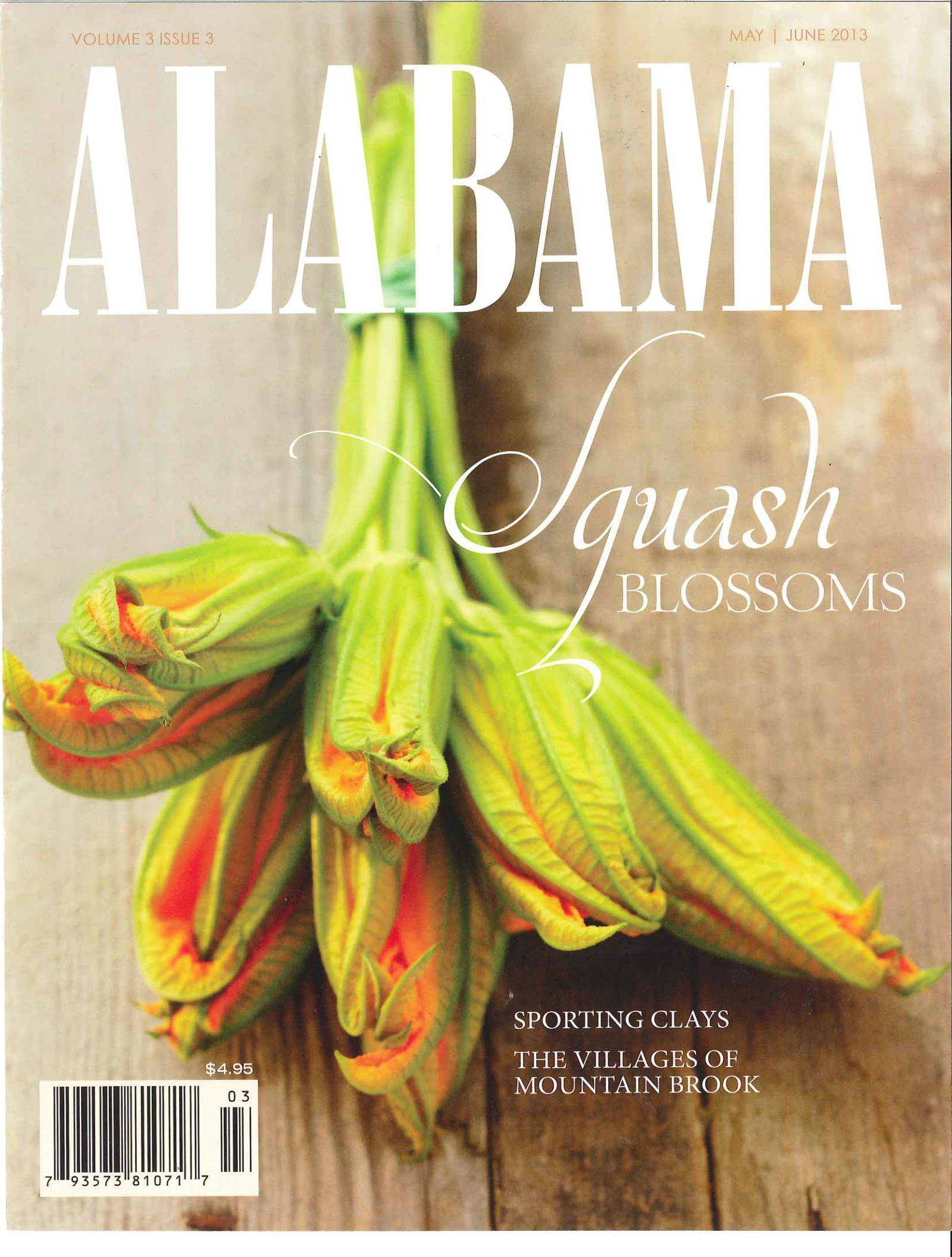


VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

MAY | JUNE 2013

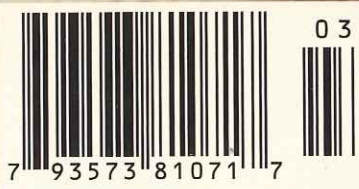
ALABAMA

Squash BLOSSOMS




SPORTING CLAYS
THE VILLAGES OF
MOUNTAIN BROOK

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A close-up portrait of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a white off-the-shoulder top and a multi-strand necklace. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a gentle smile. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with warm lighting.

TWO
OF HER

Favorite Things

Melanie Martin is owner of Melanie's and MII Interiors, two thriving lifestyle stores at The Wharf in Orange Beach. From clothing to jewelry, bedding, lamps, and anything else you want, you're sure to find a treasure that's a perfect for you or your home.



TEXT BY LINDSAY MOTT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT JENKE

THE ART OF LIVING WELL...



Sometimes the things we love are just for us, not to be shared or put on display. But, for interior designer Melanie Martin, her favorites are out there for all to see and enjoy in two thriving storefronts and a design business.

“It’s got to be something I love, that’s the most important thing,” says Martin, owner of Melanie’s and MII Interiors.

The two lifestyle stores are located three doors apart at The Wharf in Orange Beach, so whether you’re looking for “the art of living well” or “objects for a well-lived life”—Melanie’s and MII’s respective themes—you can find a unique item that suits your needs.

Across both stores, what Martin loves translates into clothing, jewelry, bedding, flowers, furniture of all sizes, art, accessories, and everything else needed to decorate and fill a home.

Martin is always adding new products and designs, attempting to change everything in her stores every three months so they stay looking fresh. Her goal is to offer beautiful things that can’t be found anywhere else. She is able to do this because she travels regularly to places like New York City and even Morocco to find new products, and she designs many of her own pieces—a key to staying unique, she says. Her signature pieces include furniture using durable outdoor fabric from Sunbrella, and a big, comfortable armless chair called “the Melanie.”

In MII, Martin sells candles and diffusers with scents she created that reflect the Gulf area. These include “A Day at the Beach,” “Orange





shop



OBJECTS FOR A WELL-LIVED LIFE....

Beach,” and “Ono Island.” There is also a children’s corner with sock dolls and books.

Art is a major focus for Martin. She uses as many local artists as she can and ones from other areas that she feels are just too good to pass up. She has a lot of pieces made from local driftwood, including large furniture, and will soon offer a new line of impressionistic shells from an artist out of Los Angeles.

Martin also runs an interior design business that she says goes hand in hand with what she’s doing in the shops. If she can, she likes to start at the beginning of a project, with the architect, but she can also step in at any point of a project to help with the look. She works to make sure her projects are timeless and not trendy so the look will last, and she never does the same thing twice.

“My goal as an interior designer is to never look like it’s furniture-store decorated,” Martin says.

She works to make houses look “collected with beautiful things,” and, to echo the coast atmosphere, she makes sure her rooms are casual, durable, and comfortable. She tries to make everything she does “a room that you walk in and want to spend time in,” she says. She uses her passion for the craft to take what her clients love and bring the best out of it, being sure to focus on what they want.

“I just love pretty things, pretty rooms,” she says. And her customers like them, too.

To browse some of Martin's favorite things, visit mtwointeriors.com.

