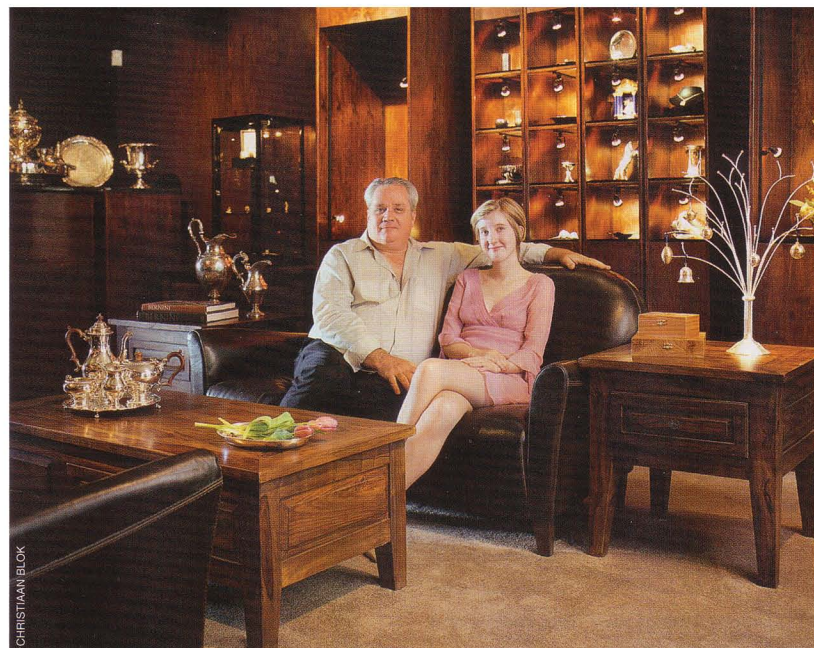


**shop talk**

Top to bottom:  
Stroganoff Coupe  
Presentation Box  
Origins Bowl  
Cameo Shell  
Spider Conch



## Silver Lining

**Business:** O'Meara Sterling

**Owners:** Stephen and Amy O'Meara (pictured)

**Opened:** Fall 2003

**Location:** 4151 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale

**Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; during Thursday night ArtWalk, and by appointment.

**Contact:** (480) 970-1944, [www.omearasterling.com](http://www.omearasterling.com)

**The artist:** Stephen Van O'Meara's passion for silver began while taking a class at a Colorado summer camp when he was 11 years old. Throughout his life he has worked alongside talented artisans, honing his craft and learning age-old techniques. From jewelry to holloware, miniatures to sculpture, he has created them all out of silver. Ten years ago, his work transitioned from being a part-time passion to being his livelihood.

"I'm fortunate to have met artisans who are very open about their trade and methods," he remarks. Hand-raising silver was one of the last techniques that the artist learned, though it is one of the oldest. With overlapping hammer blows he slowly raises and bends a flat sheet of silver to create bowls, goblets, serving trays and more. "The metal speaks to me," he says. "It develops its own life."

**The business:** While newly finished pieces make the Scottsdale showroom sparkle, the artist's 3,000-square-foot studio is filled with machines dating back a century. Amy handles the retail end of Stephen's work, and gladly offers tips on caring for silver. "Just a bit of dish soap will clean a piece if you use it on a regular basis," she explains. More helpful information from Amy can be found on the Web site.

**Showroom finds:** Tea services, hand-raised vessels, miniature reproductions, holiday ornaments, goblets, baby porridgers, jewelry, sculpture and more make the store feel almost museumlike. Most pieces are one-of-a-kind, and all are limited-editions and made by hand.

**Unusual custom works:** Rubber band ball, bowl of loose pistachios, hourglass, .44 magnum silver bullet. —CH

