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Fashion House

From jade to junk, imports from the East.

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Fashion House

2315 S Wentworth Ave
Chicago, IL 60616
312-326-1228

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The Scoop: Like Chinatown itself, this small gift shop crams a lot of goods into a little space. Think back to those carved marble animals that grabbed your attention as a child. As a delightful surprise, many of the decorative accents filling this one-room shop are tempting to children and adults alike. You'll find tiny, stone Buddhas, huge crystal-lined geodes, hand-painted vases and rare fossils crowding the shelves. Head to the back to peruse a display of tiny bonsai trees attractively priced under \$40, and potted, sprouting bamboo for even less. If you're looking for something smaller and more manageable, check out the therapeutic iron ball sets. Originally associated with the Ming Dynasty, these hollow, enameled orbs produce relaxing, bell-like tones when handled.

The Scene: Tourists and day-trippers looking for a bit of Chicago kitsch browse the aisles, though you'll see locals stop in as well. The clerks are polite and unobtrusive, but communication can be a little challenging due to the language barrier.

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Insider Tip: To Fashion House owners, the word 'import' covers a wide array of merchandise, from seemingly original works of art to mass-produced knock-offs. This store carries both, so expect to do some sorting. -- Kay Peterson

Gifts & Novelties

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