



Nyla Simone Home

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER SEGARRA

The Regency Headboard, an Arthur L. Bailey exclusive, is shown here upholstered in a Duralee fabric and outlined with nailheads.

Owners: Maria Benson (left) and Katherine Alford

Opened: September 2007

Location: 1705 W. Ruby Drive, Suite 105, Tempe

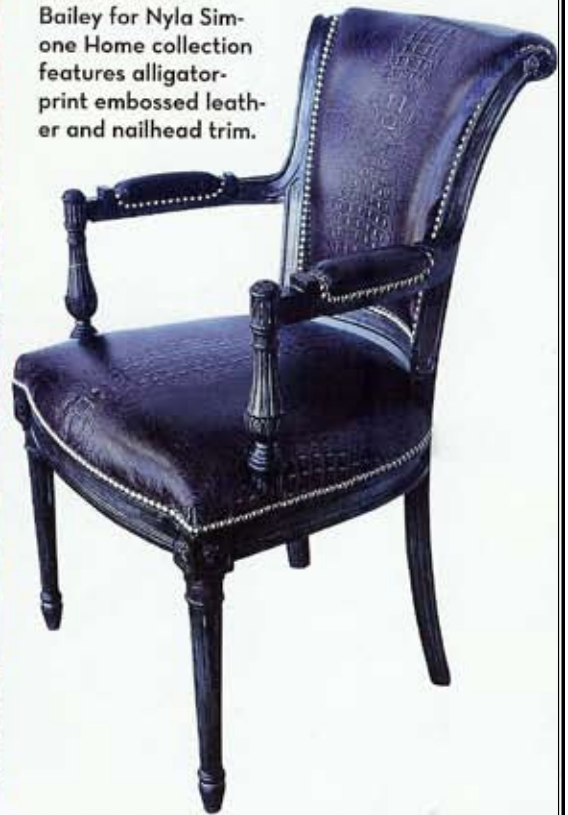
Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Web site: nylasimonehome.com

Phone: (480) 422-6178

History: For Katherine Alford and Maria Benson, their calling came in the form of a pair of white silk damask sofas. The friends, who grew up in the southeastern U.S. and were corporate businesswomen in Phoenix, discovered they had a similar passion for well-crafted tailored furniture when Alford saw the sofas in Benson's living room. After collaborating on redesign projects in their own homes, the women started helping friends with decor decisions and opened a retail store six years later. They joined forces with Benson's father, Arthur L. Bailey—an Italian-trained master furniture maker who created the aforementioned sofas—to showcase his custom designs in their new Tempe shop.

This custom-stained Italian birch chair from the Arthur L. Bailey for Nyla Simone Home collection features alligator-print embossed leather and nailhead trim.



Philosophy: "We want people to feel their home is their retreat. You shouldn't have to leave to get that feeling," explains Alford about the inspiration for the store, which was named after two family members. Benson agrees and emphasizes their belief that quality furnishings should become heirlooms. "We sell furniture that is made to last a lifetime," she says.

What's in store: The showroom is filled with examples of Bailey's creations, including a leather ottoman featuring nailhead trim and a ratchet-back sofa with a lined skirt. All sofa and chair cushions are foam and down-filled and fitted with springs for long-lasting comfort and shape. In addition, each piece can be customized. An array of casegoods is available from other national manufacturers, along with original artwork by mixed-media painter Dante Yarbrough. A fabric gallery rounds out the options with drapery and upholstery textiles and hardware from Kravet, Duralee, Robert Allen, Stroheim & Romann and others.

—SR