

FASHION LIFESTYLE ART ENTERTAINMENT

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OCTOBER 2013

FREE



**Urban Luxe
is Essential**

**Take the AIA
Home Tour**

**Hennessy Gets Artsy
with Os Gemeos**

**Ultimate Luxury at
LVMH's Cheval Blanc**

***HER CRY: La Llorona
Investigation
Brings the Scary***

yellowmags.com



Photo by Debbie Porter

Is it not interesting that men's and women's fashion are separate and distinct, yet a person who is serious about fashion, be it a man or a woman, is called a "fashionista". Honestly, I had not thought much about it until a friend of mine called me a "fashionistO" and it sounded right. Somehow, being called a "fashionistA" does not roll easily off of my tongue when I am speaking about me and my love of fashion. Only the Urban Dictionary gives credence to the word "fashionisto" by calling it the "male version of a fashionista". I suppose it will be a matter of time before common usage will get the established dictionaries to include the word in their volumes. I think I should continue calling myself a fashionisto. It sounds better and ahead of its time. It might even be hip and trendy. Time will tell.

A cool thing to do this month is the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Home Tour. It is always fun to be able to see the inside of uniquely designed homes that you generally only get to see from the outside. Whether you are in the market for a new home or looking to spruce up your current one, these homes showcase many design possibilities.

And you thought that Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy was all about luxury fashion, spirits and Champagne. If you ever wondered what would happen if this company tried to apply its refined touch to the hospitality industry, you will have to read about the Cheval Blanc Randheli resort in the Maldives to find out. They have elevated the bar for luxury accommodations to a stratospheric level.

HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation is a film that will be premiering in Houston this month. The horror film is based on a widely known urban legend throughout Latin America and it was written and directed by adopted Houstonian, Damir Catic. What a treat for Houston to be represented in the film industry in this manner. And Damir has got a couple of other films in development.

Well, that is all I have for now. To all you fashionistas AND fashionistos, take heart. The cold weather is coming. Better get those sweaters and heavier wool and leather clothing ready to wear.

V. Hoang



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The color yellow has played a recurrent symbolic role throughout the history of Asian culture. It symbolizes the earth that sustains all life, yet has been embraced by Buddhist monks as an expression of unchallenged power. Such is the role of yellow: always revered but in different ways under different circumstances.

The mission of *Yellow Magazine* is to introduce our readers to the artistic, fashion, lifestyle and entertainment contributions made by Asian Americans. It is our hope that the depth and breadth of the topics and events we cover do justice to the pride that the color yellow has represented throughout the millennia. As the editor in chief of *Yellow Magazine*, my last name is Hoang, which also means yellow. Just as I am proud of my name, I am proud of my heritage, and proud of *Yellow Magazine*.

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Hugo Boss grey shirt \$165
Chavet bowtie \$195
Ralph Lauren boots \$895
Available at Saks Fifth Avenue
Brown pant \$176
Pocket square \$60
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Ben Panchasarp
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Home, Sweet
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AIA Home Tour

by VIET HOANG

This month, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Houston will hold its

2013 Annual Home Tour featuring seven area homes selected by a jury of industry experts to represent the finest in residential architecture.

The two-day, self-guided tour is open to the public and offers attendees a rare opportunity to walk through and view an impressive assortment of privately-owned residences designed by accomplished Houston architects.

“One of the goals of the Home Tour is to advocate for working with an architect on a residential scale and for smaller projects,” says Tour Chair Shawn Gottschalk. “It’s a very intimate process working with clients to design a home for the way they live their lives – or the way they want to live their lives. The architect really gets to know them.”

“It’s one thing to pass by and admire these stunning homes from the outside, but an entirely heightened experience to step inside and be captivated by the remarkable thought and talent that went into each design,” added AIA Houston Executive Director Rusty Bienvenue.

The Homes

Located in Historic Heights East, the age-in-place home at 1648 Columbia Street by 2scale Architects challenges the notion of how architecture created today should be contextually compatible in 100 year old neighborhoods. Like historic versus modern, the design celebrates many dualities within the homeowner’s personal life. The home boasts structure, but art is also allowed to flow uninhibited. Rigid forms of traditional architecture have been broken down into loose, shuffled forms and a wall left raw will be brought to life by graffiti artists.

Located in Houston’s Rice University area, the home at 2331 Dryden Road by Collaborative Design Works boasts a contemporary design with a focus on sustainability. The Binary House explores several simple dualities of modern living: flexible open spaces with user-defined areas, abundant natural lighting without excessive heat gain, and a strong relationship to the exterior without sacrificing privacy. The owners requested a modification to include a ground floor master suite, additional bedroom space upstairs, and a unique 3-story, steel and glass master closet. The house’s relationship to the neighborhood was of primary importance to the owners, who have lived on this street for many years. With a refreshing attitude toward community, the open carport/landscaped yard area is intended as a play area for all the kids on the block.

A common design language unifies the townhomes located at 4412 Mount Vernon Street designed by Collaborative Design Works. The three-unit site adheres to a unique site utilization strategy by providing garage access via a rare alleyway that liberates space for a landscaped communal-entry courtyard. This space further acts as a buffer to the neighboring buildings. Outside, two methods of stucco finish are utilized to create contrasting joint layouts and a natural-finished redwood rain-screen warms up the overall appearance of the exterior. The floor plan design boasts great views and natural lighting opportunities. Interior finishes are restrained and simple. Color and texture are introduced sparingly with natural materials.

The 5,500-square-foot house located at 1102 River Bend Drive was designed for a family by m+a architecture studio and reflects the contrasting personalities and visual languages of domesticity of the owners. The Leuders limestone exterior meets steel and glass windows and recalls the Hill Country structures of the owner’s childhood. Antique



1648 Columbia, 2scale Architects

pine floors throughout were salvaged from a hundred-year-old cotton warehouse. Divided into two wings, the open, modern interior space maintains discreet living spaces and protection from the west sun. A second floor covered balcony space provides tree-top outdoor living space.

The house at 1912 Bonner Street by studioMET explores dramatic volumes, an open floor plan, and a strong connection to outdoor space. The owner’s passion for the outdoors was a driving force for the overall building configuration on the site. The first level consists of a detached garage with a covered breezeway to the main house, which has a kitchen, living, and dining room that all open to an outdoor family room and backyard with a pool. A detached guest house helps define the outdoor living area. The second floor has a family room and a long bar that consists of all the bedrooms. The bar rest on the first floor guest house creates a private balcony with perfect views of downtown off the master.

One main design goal for the home at 918 West 43rd Street by studioMET was to portray modern architecture that is not only accessible to the elite. The home was designed for comfortable everyday living with a focus on low maintenance materials, natural day lighting, and a strong connection to the landscaping. This residence was designed to preserve a large Live Oak that covers the entire middle of the lot. The linear layout of the house is simple in form, respects the existing tree, responds to economy of scale, and requires only a modest construction budget. The outdoor living area is articulated by a cantilevered volume that creates an outdoor seating area next to the pool.

“It’s one thing to pass by and admire these stunning homes from the outside, but an entirely heightened experience to step inside and be captivated by the remarkable thought and talent that went into each design.”

The Braeswood “treehouse” at 4135 Tartan Lane by Tran Architects exhibits bold decisions executed with modest materials, with an emphasis on celebrating family gathering and indoor/outdoor connections. The public residential spaces are elevated to the second floor as a response to the program and its unique site. The design consists of three programmatic volumes: two brick bars at the base which contain the bedrooms and garage, and a transverse rainscreen bar that bridges over them on the second floor and contains the open living, kitchen, and dining spaces. Built in a flood plain, exterior decks negotiate the raised ground floor through terraced levels that create intimate spaces and casual integrated seating.

AIA Houston wishes to recognize and thank the following tour sponsors for their generosity: Decardi Development Group, LLC, Premier Technology Group, RAM Windows, Eggersmann Kitchens | Home Living, La Nova Tile, MKT BAR at Phoenicia Specialty Foods, Mason’s Mill & Lumber Co. Poggenpohl kitchen design studio, and media sponsors as of September 4th: 002 Houston Magazine, CultureMap Houston, Houston House & Home, Houston magazine, Modern Luxury Interiors Texas, Prime Living, Yellow Magazine and Yelp. Sponsorship opportunities are available through October 18, 2013. For more information, contact Tina Zulu at Zulu Creative, tinazulu@zulucreative.com.

AIA Houston 2013 Annual Home Tour

October 26-27, 2013

\$25 Full-Tour Tickets

\$20 Full-Tour Tickets

for Cyclists

\$10 Single House Ticket

(Single house tickets will not

be available for pre-sale.)

The Full-Tour Tickets and

Single House Tickets can

be purchased at any of the

participating houses during

tour hours and are good

both days of the tour.

Full-Tour Tickets may be

purchased in advance online

at aiahouston.org/hometour

or at the AIA Houston office,

315 Capitol Street, Suite 100,

Houston, TX 77002. Online

ticket sales end on October

25, 2013.

About the Home Tour

Open to the public, the

AIA Houston Home Tour

showcases the finest

residential architecture in the

Houston area, as designed by

licensed architects. Houses are

chosen to showcase a variety

of design styles demonstrating

that excellence in design is not

limited by size or dollars.

The home tour is a nonprofit

fundraiser and supports

various AIA Houston initiatives

throughout the year.

About AIA

The American Institute of

Architects Houston is the

professional organization

for more than 1,800

architects and other design

professionals in the greater

Houston area. Its mission

includes service to members

and to the public.

aiahouston.org



1912 Bonner, studioMET



1102 Riverbend, m+a architecture studio

Photos by Ben Hill

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Clean Diesel

Cheval Blanc Randheli Redefines the Exclusive Resort Lifestyle

LVMH Luxury

by LEO SIPRAS

Surrounded by the turquoise waters of the Noonu Atoll in the Maldives,

Cheval Blanc Randheli is an exclusive new property from the luxury fashion

group Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy. Only the second Cheval Blanc in the world,

the Randheli is just as luxurious as its sister hotel, the original Cheval Blanc

Courchevel, a ski resort that has become extremely popular among the elite.

Bathed by the turquoise waters of the preserved Noonu Atoll, Cheval Blanc Randheli opens its doors in a secluded lagoon located 40 minutes north of Malé, Republic of Maldives, by seaplane. Set in a lush exotic haven, Cheval Blanc offers a rare experience of exclusive privacy, and is definitely much warmer than its counterpart in the French Alps.

Cheval Blanc Randheli offers forty-five loft-style villas with an architectural sequence of 7-meter-high doors creating a spectacular sense of place. All Cheval Blanc Villas feature lavish interiors with beautifully appointed living rooms and adjoining powder rooms, spacious bedrooms opening onto the sea, double dressing rooms, light-filled bathrooms with bathtub and rain shower, elevating comfort to a new level. The Island Villas are set amidst luxurious gardens, and the 15 one or two-bedroom Island Villas, ranging from 2,580 – 3,230 sqft, are particularly suited for families. The main villa hosts a master bedroom and a relaxation area with daybed. The second bedroom, with its dedicated access, features an en-suite bathroom and rain shower. Inviting outdoor terraces allow for relaxation next to the 12.5-meter-long swimming pool or on the private white sand beach with its own direct access to the house reef. An outdoor dining pergola set in the villa's lush private garden is the ideal place to enjoy a convivial meal specially prepared and cooked live by chefs.

Perched on traditional stilts over Noonu Atoll's translucent waters, the 15 Water Villas offer an unforgettable seaside living experience. Generous overwater decks feature a dining pontoon and an outdoor lounge as well as a refreshing rain shower and a 12.5-meter-long private infinity pool. Undoubtedly, an idyllic option for romantic getaways. The 14 one or two-bedroom one-of-a-kind Garden Villas combine stilt architecture with a unique garden experience. Perched right over the lagoon whilst surrounded by a lush private garden, they bestow a high sense of privacy and all the pleasures of a seaside setting. Garden Villas feature ample overwater decks that include a pergola for alfresco dining, as well as an outdoor lounge, garden rain shower and a 12.5-meter-long private infinity pool.

Accessible through its own private berth and jetty, the four-bedroom Owner's Villa is Cheval Blanc Randheli's most exceptional residence, offering lavish private spaces and exclusive facilities, such as private spa and oversized outside pool, for an ultimate holiday or special occasion experience for families and friends.

Cheval Blanc's culinary art, designed with Yannick Alléno, instills a creative twist to the finest local flavors with an acute sense of detail and an array of venues to meet every possible wish. The White contemporary restaurant serves unique breakfast delicacies and a casual brasserie-style cuisine around the clock. Its delightful terrace with a splendid reef view



is the perfect place to relax at any time of the day. Playing on symmetry and duality, the Diptyque invites guests to savor the best of Japanese and Iberian gastronomy in a daily live-cooking show performed only once per evening. Named after a Maldivian breeze, the Deelani is a lively fish restaurant offering the freshest seafood on a relaxed outdoor terrace, which transforms into a festive venue in the evening.

Named after Château Cheval Blanc's most sought-after vintage, Le 1947 fine-dining restaurant revisits French culinary know-how with local inspirations. Set in a lush tropical garden and connecting to a wine cellar and a cigar lounge, Le 1947 is the expression of the resort's sparkling creativity in an understated island atmosphere. Connected to Le 1947 by a shaded walkway through the chef's garden, La Table de Partage is perfect for families and friends looking for a private dining experience. The menu, individually crafted by the chef to suit the party's wishes, is served with bespoke magnum-sized vintages.

At any time, guests may enjoy a vast choice of fine dining and more casual fare through the resort's Carte Blanche Menu. Chefs are available for live in-villa cooking in the dedicated dining pavilions or for barbecuing on the beach, and will cater to guests' fancy for one-of-a-kind dining experiences in remote locations of their choice.

The Cheval Blanc Spa invites guests to embark upon a sensorial journey, a full immersion in the pleasure of a rare beauty ritual. Cheval Blanc and Guerlain have created an idyllic spa retreat offering exclusive tailored treatments and a series of exceptional therapies such as the Sun Ritual or the After-Diving Experience. The Cheval Blanc spa features four single and two prestige treatment villas for two, the Orchidée Villas, where guests can discover Guerlain's renowned skincare range. Relaxation and yoga pavilions, a Hair Spa by Leonor Greyl with exclusive natural treatments, a beauty studio and a barber shop complete the Spa's beauty offerings. Health-conscious guests may enjoy an array of reinvented nutritional snacks and fresh juices while relaxing in the spa gardens and beaches.

The Maldives' unparalleled underwater beauty can be enjoyed through house reef snorkeling or private diving outings to select nearby dive spots. PADI certification is available for beginner and advanced divers. A genuine marina hosts Cheval Blanc's fleet of local dhoni boats and a yacht, ideal to explore the Maldivian sea. A state-of-the-art sport facility as well as personal training are available upon request. The striking 25-meter-long square infinity-edge pool and its beautifully landscaped surroundings provide an ideal getaway from the villa's privacy.

Cheval Blanc Randheli also offers a wealth of specially designed children amenities, linen, furniture and food and beverage menus for the enjoyment of its younger guests. In addition, a rich portfolio of nature, culture, adventure, artistic and sports experiences provides many memorable activities for kids and families to partake in. Parents can also entrust their children up to 12 years old to the Carrousel team, happy to entertain them in a setting conceived for fun activities and memorable discoveries. Teenagers can enjoy Le Paddock, our teenage lounge equipped with all their favorite entertainment, perfect for teenage socializing.

Cheval Blanc Randheli

Noonu Atoll
Republic of Maldives
Tel. +960 301 6000
info.randheli@chevalblanc.com
chevalblanc.com

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Hennessy's
Hip Hop Connection

Os Gemeos Creates Art

Os Gemeos (Portuguese for The Twins), the Brazilian-born stars of street art, source inspiration for their color-rich and multi-faceted work from their hometown. The brothers, identical twins Otavio and Gustavo Pandolfo, began their career as graffiti artists in the 1980s on the streets of São Paulo.



The Hennessy V.S. Limited Edition bottle by Os Gemeos retails for \$40 (750 ml) and is available at fine retailers nationwide.

For more information, visit neverstopneversettle.com.

Today, they boast an extensive contemporary body of work ranging from murals, frescoes, paintings and sculptures to mixed-media installations incorporating music and dance. Os Gemeos grew up in Brazil's break-dancing scene in the 80s and bathed in the hip-hop and DJ culture of the 90s during their formative teen years and music has had an important influence on their work since the brothers embarked on their creative voyage.

It is this broad appeal to the legions of youth and others growing up in today's globally cross-cultural world that made Os Gemeos the natural choice to create the new label for Hennessy's Very Limited Special Edition bottles. As the twins see it, "Hennessy is not just a drink to us, it's a history. The world has changed over time, but they work to preserve tradition. We take a similar approach in our work – we draw what we believe in and we aim to preserve those visions."

When it comes to a shared passion for craftsmanship, Hennessy's partnership with Os Gemeos is a natural alliance—both infuse a singular devotion and energy into every creation. Os Gemeos' intense pace of creative exploration is the artistic personification of the Hennessy motto: Never Stop. Never Settle. Even from a color perspective—the hues of the cognac, and the yellow, red, and brown shades found in Os Gemeos' work form a striking visual harmony.



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Asian American Family Services Golden Ball

Held at Hotel ZaZa

Photos by Mitchell Alexander

The Asian American Family Services (AAFS) held its 14th annual Golden Ball at the luxurious Hotel Zaza where more than 300 guests dressed to impress at the glamorous event. The evening included background singing by award winner Kristine Mills and models wearing one-of-a-kind masks by Marc Marc and beautiful luxurious leather clothes by Jose Sanchez. The evening celebrated the spirit of giving and honored Munir Ibrahim and Theodore and Niyana Vora for their generosity to AAFS. The evening also recognized Farida Abjani, Sonia Azad, John Bradshaw Jr., Reyne Hirsch, Neeta Sane, Munir Shivji, Sippi Singh, and Tabitha Smith for their commitment to raising awareness and funds for AAFS.



Mandy & William Kao



Peter Chang



Marc Nguyen, Duyen Huynh



Charles Vora, Kim Szeto



Reyne Hirsch, Viet Hoang



Models in masks



Sippi Singh, Ajay Khurana



Theresa Chang, Elaine Zhang



Seema Patel, Sonia Azad, Sapna Patel, Rekha Muddaraj



Tracy Ngoc Dang, Kristi Dang Nguyen, Thao Thai Lai



Thuan Nguyen, Jackie Le, Tammy & Wayne Nguyen



Anais Nguyen, Duyen Huynh



Deneice Leigh, Alice Truong Lam, Farida Abjani



Nick & Sneha Merchant



Munira Panjwani, Munir Shivji



Zara & Malik Merchant



Sohail Roopani, Anisa Shariff



Jennifer Honeycutt, Chau Nguyen



Todd, Corbett Daniel Parker



Michael Chabala, Hanh Tran



Catherine Le, Stephen Le Jr., Laura Le



Tabitha Smith, Jared Lang



Thi & Hac Nguyen



Aamir Munir, Mariam, Anver & Umar Ibrahim



into the dark


Ralph Lauren Polo plaid coat \$595
Available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Blue belt \$130
Brown pant \$176
Available at Rye51

Photographer: **Collin Kelly** Stylist: **Leslie Rivas-Kelly** Hair & Makeup: **Misty Rockwell** Stylist Assistant: **Ashton Adduci**
Model: **Ben Panchasarp** (*Neal Hamil Agency*)



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Sand plum shirt \$185
Hugo Boss pant \$155
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Ralph Lauren boots \$895
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Saks Fifth Avenue collection plum belt \$128
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Available at Saks Fifth Avenue

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Chavet bowtie \$195
Ralph Lauren boots \$895
Available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Brown pant \$176
Pocket square \$60
Available at Rye51



Sand grey and blue checkered blazer \$650
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Ralph Lauren boots \$895
Available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Blue checkered blazer \$348
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Navy cashmere beanie \$98
Leather gun case \$950
Ferragamo scarf \$240
Available at Rye51



Saks Fifth Avenue Collection beige coat \$898
7 For All Mankind denim jacket \$298
Versace turtleneck \$495
Stitché's beige pant \$199
Available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Tough Essentials
for the Luxe Urbanite

The Urban Warrior

A major trend for Fall 2013 is luxury streetwear, consisting of accessories printed in cool camouflage, shoes adorned with edgy studs, and sleek lifesaving gadgets. The bold, aggressive designs reflect the modern man's attitude and style. Sometimes you just have to be a man!



Hide in Plain Sight

This cold-weather essential vest offers a sophisticated, stylish way to wear camo with your everyday ensembles.
Emporio Armani Camo Puffer, \$625
saksfifthavenue.com



Pick a Fight with Wrinkles

Are you man enough? Givenchy Intensive Age-Fighting Force uses fragments of elastin to boost elasticity and collagen to fill wrinkles, so your face immediately looks younger and smoother.
Givenchy Intensive Age-Fighting Force, \$65
sephora.com



It's Time to Get Gritty

Check out this rugged timepiece from Michael Kors. The strap is rubber, the stainless steel is espresso, and you will be stylishly on time if you get one.
Michael Kors Espresso Stainless Steel Runway Chronograph Watch, \$195
michaelkors.com



Don't Tread Lightly

The road may be tough, but your shoes (look) even tougher. These slip-on sneakers get the Valentino Rockstud treatment in all-over black.
Valentino Rockstud Men's Slip-On Sneaker, \$995
neimanmarcus.com



Seeing Red

This exhilarating new fragrance from Ralph Lauren is a fiery mix of spicy red saffron, red grapefruit, and deep red wood that ignites the thrill-seeker in every man. You didn't know a cologne could do that, did you?
Ralph Lauren Polo Red Cologne, \$61 (2.5 oz)
sephora.com



Carry On

Luxe yet tough – just like you! This Valentino briefcase understands the meaning of hard work in textural camo leather with an organized, leather-lined interior.
Valentino Rockstud Camo Briefcase, \$3,750
neimanmarcus.com



The Best Keeps Getting Better

Other phones keep trying, but there's really only one iPhone. The new 5S has blazing speed, designed to be future-proof, and with the new iOS 7 operating system it blows away the still-clunky competition.
Apple iPhone 5S, starting at \$199
apple.com

The Road is Calling... for Help!

The new IS 350 F Sport from Lexus definitely gives you luxury, but it's wrapped up in some serious – and seriously aggressive – fun.
Lexus IS 350 F Sport, starting at approximately \$39,000
lexus.com



Asian American Bar Association Annual Gala

Held at Hilton Americas

Photos by Mitchell Alexander

Members of the AABA, judges, civic leaders and supporters attended the annual gala and silent auction benefiting the Asian American Bar Foundation. This year's keynote speaker was San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, and the 2013 Impact Award was awarded to Mark Lee. This year, The event raised close to \$105,000 in sponsorships and \$10,000 from the silent auction.

The Asian American Bar Association ("AABA") of Houston is a voluntary association of attorneys, judges, and law students of Asian-Pacific heritage or who have Asian-Pacific and Asian-Pacific American interests. Originally created to provide a support group for the handful of Asian-Pacific American lawyers practicing in Houston at the time, the AABA has continually evolved to meet the needs and objectives of its ever-growing membership. The organization is now the largest collective voice for the Asian-Pacific American legal community in the state of Texas, representing the interests of well over 500 attorneys in the Greater Houston area.



Mark & Alice Lee, Sheriff Adrian Garcia, Alan Guttman



Daniel Hu, Michael Chu, Emily Kuo



Alex & Lou Ann Chae, Sue Sim



Jeff Gee, Chau Le



Albert Liou, Rina Tzeng



Gene Wu, Miya Shay, Omar Ricardo Ruiz, John Nechman



Joseph Tung, Audrey Chang, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro

35th Houston Italian Festival

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ROSSELLA RAGO
Celebrity Chef



HoustonItalianFestival.com

Be Afraid.
Be Very Afraid.

HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation

by VIET HOANG

Get ready Houston! Dark Lightning Films has scheduled the World Premiere of *HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation* for October 22, 2013, in Houston. The general release date in Houston is October 25th, with opening dates in other markets to be announced. It may be seen at AMC Studio 30, AMC Willowbrook, AMC Gulf Pointe 30, Regal Edwards Marque 23, Regal Edwards Grand Palace, Regal Edwards West Oak, with other theaters to follow.

There are many very good reasons for us to support this horror film. First, the director, Damir Catic, is a former refugee from war torn Bosnia and Herzegovina who moved to Houston in 1994 with a dream that is being realized in the production of this film. Second, the story line should be appealing to all who relish the horror genre. The story of La Llorona is known throughout Latin America in various forms. Basically, it is an urban legend about a beautiful woman who drowned her children so she could be with the man she loved. Devastated when the man rejected her, she drowned herself in a lake in Mexico City. When she arrived at Heaven, she was denied passage until she could prove the whereabouts of her children. As a result, she was forced to wander the Earth eternally searching for the children she would never find.

Forever weeping, she was given the name "La Llorona" (The Crying Woman). In keeping with the urban legend nature of the story, parents will warn their children that if they misbehave, La Llorona will get them. It is also a warning to young women not to be lured by the promise of wealth, status and questionable declarations of love or promises that men may make.

The plot of this film is adapted from the legend. The father of a missing teen contacts the creators of a reality show called *Paranormal Legends* to inquire about one of their episodes from a past season, claiming that show had something to do with his daughter's disappearance. In order to help the father, the creator, producer and one of the new cast members of the series travelled to the place where it was said that La Llorona was seen. They decided to film the new season there to help shed some light on the disappearance of the man's daughter. Their trip turns into a horrifying nightmare; all there is to show for it is the 17 hours of tape for season 4 that the police retrieved.

Since it is not often that we have the opportunity to showcase and interview our very own up and coming movie director, we could not resist asking Damir a few questions about his film and other projects in the works.

How did *HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation* come about?

I was a film student while in Europe and have worked at a cinema in Houston; movies have always been an important part of my life. This was my first feature film in which I served as writer and director. I teamed up with my good friend, Ron Gelner, who also served as Second Unit Director and Executive Producer of the film. We developed what we thought was a good, scary, gripping script, and after a few revisions we decided to go forward with this venture. We were most fortunate to come across a talented group of up-and-coming-actors and actresses, as well. For all of them, this was their first feature film, and we are very proud of their achievements.



Possession scene from *HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation*

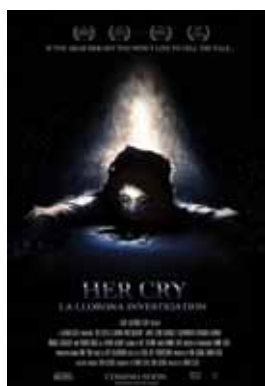
What inspired you to write about an urban legend from Latin America?

A few years back, around Halloween, I was talking with a group of teens about scary urban legends such as Bloody Mary and the Phantom Hitchhiker. Somebody mentioned the "Crying Woman" or La Llorona. I asked more about it and the story intrigued me. After a few months of research, we realized that it was the most popular ghost story in Latin America and the southwestern United States. Since I am a huge horror fan, I jumped on it right away.

After a few months of research, we realized that it was the most popular ghost story in Latin America and the southwestern United States.

What are you working on next?

We are currently developing a psychological thriller called *Dark Silence*. The production should take place sometime next year. We are negotiating with a very famous local horror movie legend, Marilyn Burns, for the starring role. She played Sally, the heroine in the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. We are also in the early stages of pre-production for another horror film called *The Other Side*.



HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation

Directed by Damir Catic
Starring Nichole Ceballos,
James Ezrin, Everardo
Guzman



Séance scene from *HER CRY: La Llorona Investigation*



Executive Producer Ron Gelner and writer/director Damir Catic

Simon Fashion Now, Presented by Cadillac

Held at ICE at The Galleria

Photos by Dave Rossman, Allison McPhail, Michelle Watson

The annual Simon Fashion Now event, presented by Cadillac, was held September 5-7. Simon Fashion Now is a dynamic and dramatic three-day celebration of beauty and style at The Galleria.

As part of Trends & Friends Night on Friday, a private cocktail reception and trunk show featuring Same Sky jewelry was held. Same Sky is a fair-trade initiative that offers employment to women living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. The trunk show was hosted by special guest and Same Sky founder Francine LeFrak. More than 800 fashion forward Houstonians were in attendance.



Allison Sadler, Josephine Nguyen, Janel Kestler



Amy & Galen Dunk



Ebony Halstell, Kristen Cook



Gabe Canales, Carolyn Farb



Jeanne Polocheck, Debbie Bronson, Karli Gillum, Chita Johnson



Carmina Zamorano, Nancy Arreguin



Dr. Parissa Mohajer, Jacquie Baly



Lauren Baughman, Katherine Easterling

www.facebook.com/KASHouston
www.KoreanFestivalHouston.com

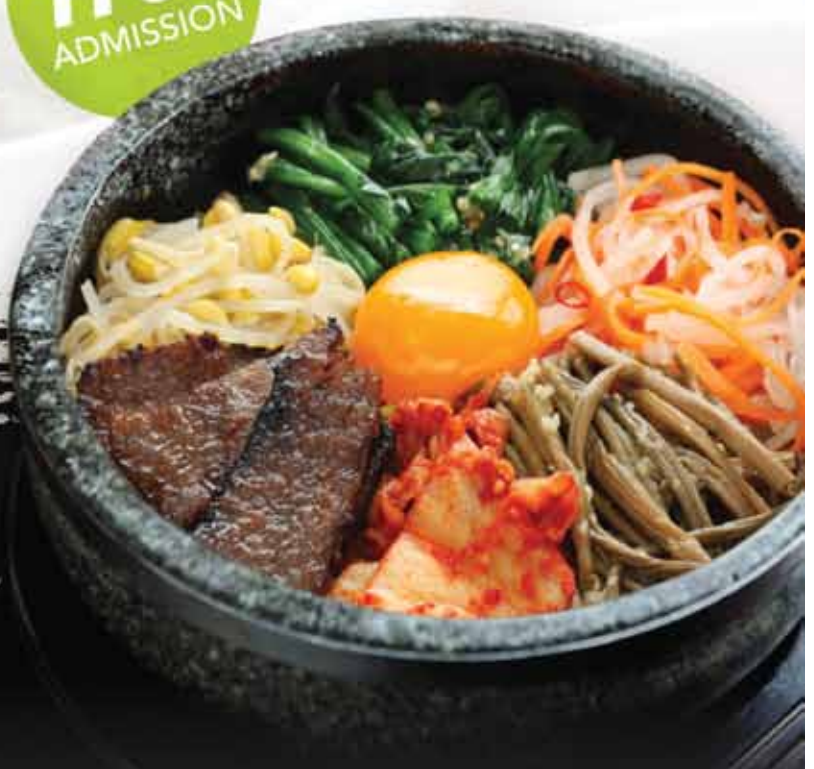
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Korean festival

HOUSTON

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Flamboyant and Mysterious
Maharani of Jewels

Arefa Vivrani Jewels

It seems that everywhere you turn, India is making headlines. Whether it relates to beauty, Bollywood or designs, Houston is a melting pot of culturally rich and diverse ethnicities, making it a wonderful place for fine cuisine and upcoming designers. India was the theme of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's annual ball and many in attendance flaunted their Indian jewelry, including yours truly. I was complimented on the elegant pieces I wore from a local gem (pun intended), A.R. Designers by Arefa Merchant.

Reminiscent of the Mughal period, Arefa's jewelry has the grandeur and richness of the maharani, yet they are simple and feminine. Her line is very unique and is a balanced mix of intricate and sophistication. Born and raised in the glamorous city of Mumbai, India, she has a Masters Degree in Economics. Having worked with many large financial institutions, Arefa has always appreciated the value of education, business and entrepreneurship.



Ruchi Mukherjee

Ruchi Mukherjee is the Editor/ Founder of the Houston Society News: Lights Camera Action, which is Houston's South Asian lifestyle society digital magazine. Ruchi started her career in journalism and reporting at a very young age, and her stories have journeyed from India's notorious red light districts, to NASA breaking news and the most happening parties. She has interviewed personalities such as George Clooney, renowned Beverly Hills plastic surgeons, Hot Yoga Guru Bikram Choudhury, Lynn Wyatt, Becca Cason Thrash, Joanne King Herring and more.

Ruchi also volunteers for various nonprofit organizations that involve women and children. She is on the Nominating Committee for the Leukemia/ Lymphoma Society, is the media coordinator for Pratham Houston, active participant with the Indo American Chamber of Commerce, Alliance For Multicultural Community Service and many others. Ms. Mukherjee was awarded the Citizenship Award for Media/Community Involvement by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in 2011.

For more stories and society happenings visit LCAhouston.com



"Jewelry is something I always loved and possessed in abundance. My grandfather was a collector of precious jewels and my family is very passionate about finer and intricate jewelry and, of course, now being married to a diamond merchant, it all runs in the family," chuckles Arefa.

Bollywood Dance Enthralls All

Texas is crazy for Bollywood. This was evident as almost 900 people gathered to enjoy Bollywood Dance School NAACH's first independent production, *The Show Must Go On* held at the Stafford Civic Center in Sugarland, Texas.

"The show is a celebration of life with a strong Bollywood influence. In the past 100 years, Bollywood has come a long way, with different genres of dance and music permeating in Indian movies. Similarly, *The Show Must Go On* reflects a parallel growth that encompasses diverse dance styles, grounded in the genre of Bollywood Musical Theater," says Mahesh Mahubani, founder of the Bollywood Dance School NAACH.

Every attempt was made to keep the audience absolutely glued to their seats for more than two hours. From Madhubala to Madhuri Dixit, the organizers succeeded in keeping the audience tapping their feet with outrageous dance numbers, brightly colored costumes and catchy music. Additionally, the audience was overjoyed to watch some of Houston's well known Indian American couples play Bollywood stars as they danced on stage. These couples included: Vijay and Vinod Bhuchar, Sunil and Sandhya Thakkar, Sonal and Subodh Bhuchar, and Chetan and Shefali Jhaveri. Each did their best dancing to classic Bollywood tunes from the 50s to Shammi Kapoor's classic *Badan Pe Sitare* (a popular Bollywood song) performed by Sunil and Sandhya. However, Vijay and Vinod stole the show with their elegance and poise, leaving the audience applauding for more.



In today's fashion trends, we notice the strong influence of Indian fashion. Bright colors, ornate designs and big chandelier earrings have been incorporated into mainstream American style. Every piece of jewelry at A.R. Designers is as flamboyant and mysterious as a princess of India. Each piece, small or large, stands out and is suitable for both casual and very formal events.

Talking about the latest South Asian fashion and trends, Arefa informs that the style is favoring simplicity but ornate designs. "We are now opting for lighter shades like grey and brown with a punch of bright colors".

Keeping her clients' needs in mind, with an uncompromising eye for quality and inspiration from the Mughal era, Arefa Merchant of A.R. Designers envisions having a store in Paris on the Champs Élysée in the future.

Show curator Mahesh Mahubani was overjoyed to see the support and the attendance at the show. "A lady called me and said that she was mesmerized by the show," says Mahesh. "My attempt was to bring the community closer, where love and unity can exist despite all differences."



Photos by Jayanth Rahul Photography





*Make any time a great time
with the just-right taste of Bud Light.*

IT'S THE SURE SIGN OF A GOOD TIME

HERE WE GO

A Reverence for
Expressive Art

Japanese Calligraphy

by LEO SIPRAS

Handwriting was thought to reflect one's personality in the East Asian tradition, but not in the sense of Western graphology or "handwriting analysis." Rather, through copying of revered models and through creative innovation, handwriting style conveyed one's literary education, cultural refinement, and carefully nurtured aesthetic sensibilities. Showcasing more than 80 masterworks of brush-inscribed Japanese characters – some serving as independent works of art and others enhanced by decorated papers or by paintings – the exhibition *Brush Writing in the Arts of Japan* at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art takes a close look at the original gestural movement marked in each work, by analyzing the applied pressure, speed, and rhythm that are said to be the reflection of the artist's state of mind.



Kitagawa Utamaro, Japanese, 1754–1806
"High-ranking Courtesan," from the Series
Five Shades of Ink in the Northern Quarter
(Hokkoku goshiki Zumi)
Japan, Edo period (1615–1868), 1794–95
Polychrome woodblock print; ink and color
on paper
Oban 14 3/4 x 9 3/4 in. (37.5 x 24.8 cm)
Rogers Fund, 1922
*On view Rotation 1, 8-17 to 11-3-2013.

Brush Writing in the Arts of Japan

August 17, 2013 –
January 12, 2014
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
The Sackler Wing Galleries for
the Arts of Japan,
second floor Galleries
1000 Fifth Avenue,
New York, NY 10028
metmuseum.org



Gukyoku Reisai, ca. 1369–1452
Buddhist Maxim
Japan, Muromachi period (1392–1573),
15th century
Pair of hanging scrolls; ink on paper
Promised Gift of Sylvan Barnett and William
Burto
Photo: Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum
of Art

The works on view, dating from the 11th century to the present, demonstrate that beauty was often the supreme motive in the rendering of Japanese religious or literary texts, even at the expense of legibility. These works are complemented by some 100 ceramics, textiles, lacquers, woodblock prints, and illustrated books that are closely related to the art of brush writing. The exhibition is made possible by The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Foundation.

The art of brush writing in the East Asian tradition both encompasses and transcends the Western aesthetic concept of "calligraphy," a word derived from Greek that literally means "beautiful handwriting." Japan inherited from China a fascination with the artistic potential of inscribing characters with flexible animal-hair brushes, while developing a distinctive system of inscription for rendering poetry and prose written in the vernacular. In the case of East Asian brush writing, the original gestural movement – the speed, rhythm, and pressure – of the inked brush across paper or silk can be transmitted across centuries to the contemporary viewer.

Integrated with the permanent installation of ancient Buddhist and Shinto sculpture in the Arts of Japan galleries, the opening section of the exhibition introduces a splendid array of religious narrative paintings and mandalas that juxtapose text and image to convey sacred messages. It was believed that copying such narratives, or sutras, or having them copied would bestow religious merit; therefore, no expense was spared in creating editions of sutras. The magical efficacy ascribed to the transcription of Buddhist teachings in ancient Japan laid the foundation for the reverence of the written word. Works on view in this section includes essential Buddhist scriptures – transcribed in glittering gold and silver pigments on indigo dyed papers and accompanied by shimmering frontispieces – that attest to the importance placed on the brush-written word.

Reflecting a radically different attitude toward spiritual practice, the inscriptions of Chinese poems and religious sayings by Zen monks are rendered in an idiosyncratic manner compared to sacred texts transmitted by other sects of Buddhism. The calligraphy of Zen monks of medieval Japan is characterized by boldly brushed characters that break the rules of conventional handwriting conspicuously. What they lose in legibility they gain in sheer visual potency that transcends the meaning of the phrases inscribed.



Kitagawa Utamaro, Japanese, 1754–1806
The Four Elegant Accomplishments (Kin ki sho ga)
Japan, Edo period (1615–1868), ca. 1788
Triptych of polychrome woodblock prints; ink and color on paper

15 x 30 in. (38.1 x 76.2 cm)
Gift of Estate of Samuel Isham, 1914
*On view Rotation 1, 8-17 to 11-3-2013/3/2013



Unidentified Artist
Robe with Willow Tree and
Chinese Characters
Japan, Edo period (1615–1868),
18th century
Silk; couched gold threads,
silk embroidery, paste-resist
yuzen dyeing
Overall: 59 13/16 x 46
1/16 in. (152 x 117 cm)
Lent by John C. Weber
Collection
*On view Rotation 1,
8-17 to 11-3-2013.
Photo by John Bigelow
Taylor

Chinese poetry informed Japanese court culture from the earliest times and served as an inspiration for painters and calligraphers through the ages. Ink paintings of Chinese-style landscapes were cherished by court and warrior elites in premodern times and often were accompanied by poetic inscriptions.

Drawing inspiration from the ancient court culture that flourished during the Heian period (794–1185), the central section of the exhibition highlights the flowering of women's literary salon culture that produced such masterpieces of waka (31-syllable court poetry) and prose as the Tale of Genji by Lady Murasaki and the Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon by Sei Shonagon, both authored in the early 11th century. This section presents a calligraphy masterpiece by the high-ranking courtier Fujiwara no Yukinari, one of the few brush writing examples in the West by this master calligrapher, who was a close friend of Sei Shonagon. Brilliantly colored 17th-century screen paintings – nostalgically representing an idyllic vision of ancient court culture – boldly complement the elegant 11th-century calligraphy, which was executed on subtly decorated papers.

The calligraphy of Zen monks of medieval Japan is characterized by boldly brushed characters that break the rules of conventional handwriting conspicuously.

Other highlights of the exhibition include deluxe lacquerware and textiles inspired by traditional Japanese literature. An exquisite kimono with a poem brilliantly embroidered in silk and a warrior's campaign jacket with brushed ink characters demonstrate how the arts of textiles could be used to present some calligraphy as decorative art. The Metropolitan Museum's recently acquired Life's Symphony by Maio Motoko (b. 1948) plays on the idea of the expressiveness of calligraphy by creating a composition consisting of nothing but ink-soaked washi (Japanese paper) arranged in the form of an undulating line across the wide expanse of a pair of gold-leaf screens.

A room of prints features rare privately published prints (surimono) from the Havemeyer Collection, as well as masterworks of ukiyo-e prints and illustrated books on poetic themes. The exhibition concludes with a selection of contemporary prints and calligraphy; among them is a work by Shinoda Toko (b. 1913), who is celebrating her 100th birthday this year.

Brush Writing in the Arts of Japan is organized by John Carpenter, Curator in the Department of Asian Art at the Metropolitan Museum.

Vino Bianco
and Vino Rosso

The Dolcetto is Delizioso

by PHILIP CUISIMANO

Columbus Day is October 12th and many communities take note of this time to celebrate Italian-American culture. One such event in Houston is the 35th Annual Italian Festival, which will take place October 10-13 on the grounds of the University of St. Thomas.

Continuing along the same line of focusing on all things "Italiano", we turn our attention to America's ongoing love affair with Italian wine. *Decanter Magazine* noted that in 2010 Italy provided almost a quarter of the world's imported wine. This is an amazing accomplishment given the highly competitive wine market. Americans are especially enamored with the wines of Italy as observed by the rapid rates of growth in consumption of products such as Prosecco (sparkling wine), Moscato d' Asti, Pinot Grigio and many other Italian offerings. How do we account for this love affair? There are a number of reasons.

Italy is a paradise for viticulture with grapes growing everywhere.

First, Italy is a paradise for viticulture with grapes growing everywhere. The peninsula is surrounded by water on three sides, providing for rich fertile soils and a temperate Mediterranean micro-climate that is optimal for wine production. Indeed, the "boot" typically produces more wine than any other country and is also home to the world's greatest variety of grape types.

Adding to their allure, Italian wines are particularly food friendly. The wine and food mutually enhance and

highlight their respective flavors. This food friendliness of Italian wine is manifest in both whites and reds. The whites are renowned for their well structured bodies composed of firm levels of acidity. Acidity allows the wine to be crisp, brisk and lean, all attributes enabling "vino bianco" to pair well with the widest selection of cuisine and enabling maximum levels of consumption. Italian red wines also have a certain signature, as they are infused with notes of pepper and spice. When you match the peppers and spices within "vino rosso" to the appropriate dishes, you have something really special.

Finally, the popularity of Italian wine is furthered by an often overlooked but critical variable; the large number of Italian restaurants conducting business in the United States. We have an addiction for Italian food and the restaurants that serve it can be found virtually everywhere. The most important component in establishing a wine is restaurant distribution. It is in dining establishments where wines are first introduced to consumers; a wine offered by a prestigious eatery is both a validation and a recommendation. The abundance of Italian restaurants serves as a launching pad that ensures the continuing popularity of Italian wine.

Be sure to take in the Houston Italian Festival (houstonitalianfestival.com) and enjoy the celebration of Italian culture. In addition to all of the fun activities, the festival will also offer wine classes and tastings, designed to improve your knowledge of "Vino Italiano". If you would like to continue to learn more about these special wines, contact the Italian Cultural & Community Center of Houston, located at 1101 Milford St., 713.524.4222 to inquire about their ongoing Italian wine classes.

Salute!



Wine of the Month

Pelissero Dolcetto d'Alba 2010

Dolcetto is one of Italy's traditional red wines and Giorgio Pelissero is one of the country's finest producers. This Dolcetto is an enticing wine of elegance, delivering flavors of red and black berries to the palate, in a medium body accentuated with notes of tasty spices and pepper. Serve with aged cheese, red meats and game. This wine will go well with a variety of food. \$22.73

Wines are available at Spec's Wines, Spirits, & Finer Foods, various locations. Visit specsonline.com for the store nearest you.

Dining Guide

Yellow Magazine's featured restaurants

JAPANESE

Tokyo One

7465 W. Greens Rd., 281.955.8898
2938 W. Sam Houston S., 713.785.8899
Tokyo One is a sushi buffet restaurant, situated in a fancy boat house with an outside deck. The food is fresh and is constantly replenished. Selections include: salads such as sea weed, beef, squid, salmon and watercress. Sushi includes a variety of rolls and sashimi.

Zushi Japanese Cuisine

5900 Memorial Dr., 713.861.5588
Zushi serves extremely fresh and high quality sushi. Stand out items are the sashimi appetizers served with perfectly paired sauces or any one of the many house specialty rolls.

Uptown Sushi

1131 Uptown Park Blvd. #14 713.871.1200
Uptown Sushi personifies an upscale sushi restaurant located near the Galleria in the swanky Uptown Park Plaza. The menu offers Japanese fusion dishes and a great selection of high-end sashimi and sushi. Side note: Uptown Sushi has "off-the-menu" specialty rolls served daily!

CHINESE

Auntie Chang's

2621 South Shepherd #290, 713.524.8410
Auntie Chang's offers the most flavorful home-style Chinese cuisine around. Although known for their dumplings, any of your favorite classic Chinese dishes are done extremely well.

Hong Kong Food Street

9750 Bellaire Blvd., 713.981.9888
Peking duck and roasted pork hang from cleavers in a front window display giving a Hong Kong street market feel. In addition, the menu is divided into sections including Seafood, Hot Pot, Special Stir Fry, Sizzling and Chef Specials.

San Dong Noodle House

9938-F Bellaire Blvd., 713.271.3945
Authentic hand pulled Chinese noodle dishes are served at a reasonable price. A few favorites include the Roast Beef Noodle soup served in a beef broth accented by ginger and soy, or the oh so addicting pan fried dumplings.

Sinh Sinh

9788 Bellaire Blvd., 713.541.0888
The seafood at Sinh Sinh is quite exciting because everything served comes from live tanks. Prawns, Australian king lobster, King crabs, Coral Leopard trout, Surf clams, Geoduck clams, Trunk clams, Elephant clams, etc...are all featured as live seafood.

THAI

Thai Spice

8282 Bellaire Blvd. 713.777.4888
Thai Spice on Bellaire is a foodies dream. It's a casual place that serves Thai dishes you won't find anywhere else in Houston, with a huge selection of interesting, rare, tasty dishes at excellent prices. A must have is the whole fried tilapia with hot and sour dipping sauce and papaya salad and Tom Yum soup.

Nit Noi

6700 Woodway Pkwy, Suite 580 281.597.8200
Nit Noi means "a little bit" and Thai food lovers pack Nit Noi restaurants and cafes all around Houston. Nit Noi will always be known for their Pad Thai, but other must try dishes include Pad Thai Korat (flat noodles stir-fried with chicken, pork or shrimp with vegetables) and Tom Yum Goong (spicy and sour shrimp soup).

Tony Thai

10613 Bellaire Blvd., 281.495.1711
A sophisticated approach to traditional Thai cuisine, Tony's executes with perfect balance and pizzazz. Tony's Wings, wet or dry, and the Steamed Mussels are popular appetizers. For the main course try the Basil Lamb, Garlic Salmon or the Steamed Fish with Chili.

INDIAN

Kiran's Restaurant

4100 Westheimer Rd. #151, 713.960.8472
This northern Indian style restaurant embodies a fusion approach to its cuisine. With a focus on well balanced flavors rather than spice, the Flaky Halibut Swimming in Watermelon Curry sauce and the Tandoori Platter typify this perfectly.

VIETNAMESE

Kim Son Restaurants

2001 Jefferson (and other locations), 713.222.2461
The menu is the most imposing part of this casual, highly regarded landmark Vietnamese restaurant. There are no poor choices among the 100 or so options. Enjoy finely prepared delicacies as well as the expected fare, such as the pork vermicelli and fried eggroll. Must try is their black pepper softshell crab. Special event facilities available.

Vietopia

5176 Buffalo Speedway, 713.664.7303
Trendy yet elegant, Vietopia delivers top notch Vietnamese cuisine at reasonable lunch prices and a stellar dinner menu. The lounge works perfectly for those who want a less formal dining experience but still want to enjoy quality food.

Mo Mong

1201 Westheimer Rd. #B, 713.524.5664
This Trendy Montrose establishment has a great lunch crowd as well as a packed martini night on Wednesdays. But the real draw is the food- traditional family recipes mixed in with some tasty modern dishes. Must try items include the Mango Spring Rolls, Shrimp and Avocado Spring Roll, Volcano Chicken, and the Bo Luc Lac.

CONTINENTAL

Colombe d'Or Restaurant and Hotel

3410 Montrose Blvd. 713.524.7999
Built in 1923 and originally the mansion of Walter Fondren, one of the founders of Humble Oil, Colombe d'Or Hotel is considered a Texas historical landmark. Featuring French and Continental fare, we recommend the Carre d'Agneau, individual rack of baby lamb grilled with natural herbs and red wine sauce.

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MAGAZINE



PAOLA
LENTI

ALA SHADING

Design by Bestetti Associati

The trapezoid structure covering sail is made of polyester fabric treated to resist UV rays and provided with radial sewing lines and corner stiffeners. The structure is made of steel treated against corrosion and powder varnished. The base is available both with plates for the installation on hard surfaces and ready for soft grounds positioning.

SABI MODULAR SEATING

Design Francesco Rota

The seating series is composed of sun bed, sofas and modular elements. The structure is made of stainless steel provided with elastic belts, base in sassafras wood, plastic spacers. The fixed backrest upholstery is available in Thuia, a Paola Lenti signature fabric suitable for outdoor, or hand woven with a Rope or Aquatech cord. Seat cushions are available with both outdoor and indoor finishes, removable cover in Luz or Rope T fabrics, suitable for outdoor. A back cushion and a loose cushion per person are necessary to complete the seat. The modules are joined together by a stainless steel coupling system. Protection Winter Set covers available.

SHELL POUF

Design: CRS Paola Lenti

Structure in cold injected stress resistant polyurethane foam treated to be water repellent. The weave is fixed and is made of a one or two colors cord in Rope yarn. The cord is directly hand woven onto the structure. Protection Winter Set covers available.

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