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will enjoy ongoing selections from the museum's substantial permanent collection, as well as traveling shows, including *Street Level: Mark Bradford, William Cordova & Robin Rhode*, showcasing the works of these three international artists (through October 19, 2008). This fall, noted American sculptor **Tara Donovan** will be honored with her first major museum survey show (opening October 10, 2008).

After exploring the museum and environs, it is time for a respite and you need go no further than downstairs to the museum's **Water Café** by über chef **Wolfgang Puck** to enjoy a lovely lunch with a world-class view. Large glass doors slide open to expand the restaurant space for outdoor dining in good weather and the food will remind you why Puck's restaurants are always a sure bet. For the adventurer, make your way along the waterfront allée to **Rowe's Warf** and the **Boston Harbor Hotel**. **Intrigue Café** overlooks the waterfront and is a perfect spot to grab a gourmet sandwich or salad before setting off for the **South End** arts district. If you have children in tow, stop enroute at the **Boston Children's Museum** on **Fort Point Channel**, where the 95-year-old museum has recently "gone green" with its new building expansion by the noted **Cambridge Seven** architecture firm.

In recent years, the **South End** has flourished as a vibrant and newly sought-after neighborhood — especially among the arts crowd. Perfectly located adjacent to the Back Bay district, the South End boasts the greatest concentration of Victorian brownstones and row houses in the U.S., and has been featured in the **National Register of Historic Places**. Intricate wrought-iron railings and balconies grace building façades situated along the main thoroughfares on Columbus, Tremont, Washington and Harrison streets. The area is bustling with restaurants, galleries, artists' studios and boutiques. The **SoWa** (just South of Washington Street) district houses the bulk of the area's artists' studios, and seasonal art walks, plus the popular **First Fridays**, offer the opportunity to venture into the studios at the **SoWa Artists Guild** at 450 Harrison (check for special events at the website — www.sowaartwalk.com). Many interesting local galleries are clustered in this area, located both in the **450 Harrison Building** and further along the street. **ArtBlock**, at 725 Harrison, is a mixed-use development that includes artists' live/work studios and condominiums, alongside galleries and other spaces. **Mobius**, a collaborative dance, performance and visual arts group, has recently relocated to a gallery and performance art space in the building, where the **Joshua Bates Art Center** also makes its home.

Of particular interest in the SoWa area is the **Boston Center for the Arts**, a four-acre complex located at 539 Tremont Street. The BCA visual arts complex is housed in a series of buildings, including the renowned **Cyclorama** rotunda, which was originally

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HOTELS

XV Beacon, 15 Beacon Street, Tel. 617-670-2525; www.xvbeacon.com. The reviews are stellar — *Travel & Leisure* has named this hotel the #1 hotel in Boston, and the Robb Report touts it as the Best Boutique Hotel in the World! You will appreciate the pampered service and exquisite rooms — with Frette linens on queen-sized four poster beds — and the elegance and style here will comfort and wow you! The perfect Beacon Hill locale makes this a homerun choice for your Boston getaway. MOOO Restaurant gets our vote, as well.

Liberty Hotel, 215 Charles Street, Tel. 866-507-5245; libertyhotel.com. Located in a 19th-century building once known as the notorious Charles Street Jail, the Liberty Hotel has added an adjacent 16-story tower, which houses most of the guest rooms. Ultra-luxurious rooms with state-of-the-art amenities, feature views of the Charles River, and the Boston skyline in this wonderful Beacon Hill location. Liberty's two great restaurants, Clink and Scampo, and a hip night time spot at Alibi, the jail's old drunk tank, make this a top choice. But what really strikes our fancy is The Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame Bar in the stylish lobby. What a treat to enjoy a glass of Grande Dame while oggling the chic crowd! Santé!

Four Seasons Boston, 200 Boylston Street, Tel. 617-338-4400; www.fourseasons.com. Classic elegance and superb service in a wonderful location next to the Boston Public Garden. Great shopping on nearby Newbury and Boylston Streets; this is a central location from which you fan out to see all the city happenings.

The Taj Boston, 15 Arlington Street, Tel. 617-536-5700; www.tajhotels.com. If you have stayed in the Ritz-Carlton Boston in the past, and you enjoyed the location adjacent to the Public Garden and Boston Common, try the new Taj Boston. Opened in 2007, this is the new luxury hotel for the India-based company's second U.S. hotel (the first is The Taj Pierre Hotel in New York).

InterContinental Boston, 510 Atlantic Avenue, Tel. 617-747-1000; www.intercontinentalboston.com. This hotel is another great addition to the ever widening array of first rate hotels in Boston. Great downtown location bordering the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the Fort Point Channel; you can stroll along the waterfront on the Boston Harbor Walk right over to the ICA to see the cutting-edge contemporary exhibitions.

Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Boston Common, 10 Avery Street, Tel. 800-241-3333; www.ritzcarlton.com. Who doesn't like the Ritz? You cannot go wrong with the new and improved incarnation of the Boston Ritz-Carlton, set adjacent to the Boston Common with gorgeous views of the nation's oldest public city park.

BOSTON RESTAURANTS

Beehive, 541 Tremont Street, Tel. 617-423-0069; www.beehiveboston.com. This chic bistro is getting lots of attention for its hip, rustic setting and

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the earthy fare — try something different on their quirky menu, like a gourmet grilled cheese sandwich with short ribs, in the main-floor dining room, then venture downstairs for a late night jazz or cabaret show. Located in the BCA.

Myers and Chang, 1145 Washington Street, Tel. 617-542-5200. This newly opened restaurant in the trendy South End specializes in reasonably priced fare that is a mix of Asian, Thai and Vietnamese cuisine.

No. 9 Park, 9 Park Street, Tel. 617-742-9991. Star chef Barbara Lynch's Beacon Hill eatery has earned a reputation as one of Boston's finest. Perfect for a special dinner if you like the mix of French Country and Italian — the pasta is superb.

Clio, Eliot Hotel, 370 Commonwealth Avenue, Tel. 617-536-7200; www.cliorestaurant.com. This is a top choice of Bostonians and visitors alike who flock to Ken Oringer's elegant French-American restaurant to savor meals like sweet-butter-basted Maine lobster or roasted Muscovy duck and confit. The understatedly elegant dining room and opulent floral arrangements please the eye.

O Ya, 9 East Street, Tel. 617-654-9900; oyarestaurantboston.com. Veteran chef Tim Cushman (He has opened 60 restaurants world wide!) serves up superb Japanese fare at O Ya, where you might have to wait for a seat in his cozy restaurant. Named one of *Food & Wine* magazine's "Best New Chef's in America 2008," no wonder his restaurant is so popular!

Salts, 798 Main Street, Cambridge, Tel. 617-876-8444; www.saltsrestaurant.com. A Bostonian favorite for several years running, Salts is chef Gabriel Bremer and wife Analia Verolo's lovely and intimate Cambridge restaurant. Delicious French dishes with an American finish will tempt you and their personalized service is sure to charm you.

Bin 26 Enoteca, 26 Charles Street, Tel. 617-723-5939; www.bin26.com. This spot is perfection for oenophiles — Bin 26 boasts a 24-page wine book offering 100 wines by the glass. Pair your favorite glass with the deliciously simple Italian-inspired fare and you will love this trendy restaurant.

Stella, 1525 Washington Street, Tel. 617-247-7747; www.bostonstella.com. *The Boston Globe* claims "Stella is where it's at," and we agree! Great atmosphere, nice crowd, innovative takes on classic Italian cuisine at good prices.

Union Oyster House, 41 Union Street, Tel. 617-227-2750; www.unionoysterhouse.com. Classic New England seafood in a locale where history reigns — the oldest continuously operating restaurant in America — for good reason!

BOSTON MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Institute of Contemporary Art, 100 Northern Avenue, Tel. 617-478-3101; www.icaboston.org. Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and some

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constructed in 1884 to house a grand, giant, mural depicting the Battle of Gettysburg. Today the Cyclorama building — with its later 1922 façade — is the central building of the BCA, and houses the **Community Music Center of Boston**, the **Art Connection**, and several small theatres and studios. Also located in the complex are the **Boston Ballet Building**, designed by noted architect **Graham Gund** and completed in 1991, and the **Tremont Estates Building**, which houses the **Mills Gallery**, as well as over fifty artists' studios. Mills Gallery — a noted alternative space — is the BCA's main visual arts gallery and mounts rotating exhibitions of nationally and internationally known artists, recently featuring **Turner Prize**-winning British artist **Martin Creed**, who enjoyed a solo exhibition in 2007. Before your visit, be sure to check the BCA website for upcoming shows and concerts at www.bcaonline.org.

While visiting artists' studios or seeing a performance or an exhibition at the BCA, be sure to explore one or more of the notable restaurants and boutiques making news in this area. Rave reviews are streaming in for **Beehive** restaurant and night club, and **Vessel**, a unique design store, both on **Tremont Street**. On nearby **Washington Street** you will find Asian inspired fare at **Myers & Chang Restaurant**, or, if you desire great Italian eats, try **Stella**, a chic brasserie. Also of interest is the Indian inspired décor at **Devi Home**, across the street on Washington. Or, for a sweet treat, choose **Aroa Fine Chocolates** at 1651 Washington, where **Alejandro Luna's** luxury desserts are sure to entice and delight you.

If you have had your fill of trendy and hip, and want the classic Boston shopping experience, make your way over to the **Back Bay**, within walking distance of the South End. The city's finest art galleries and shops are located on **Newbury Street**, one of the most prestigious shopping addresses in New England. Enjoy some retail therapy and gallery hopping at Boston's finest art stops, including the venerable **Barbara Krakow Gallery** (10 Newbury), where you can glimpse works by renowned international artists including, **Richard Artschwager**, **John Baldessari**, **Agnes Martin**, **Robert Mangold** and **Kiki Smith**, among a wonderful stable of artists. Photography buffs should visit the **Robert Klein Gallery** (38 Newbury), featuring historical as well as contemporary photography, or, if you just want to peruse the New England classics, **Vose Galleries** (238 Newbury) is the oldest continuously operating gallery in the United States. A five-story brownstone showcases their first-rate selection of realist paintings (think Hudson River School and American Impressionism) in a home-like setting.

While you are in the area, stroll one block over to **Boylston Street** to admire the **Boston Public Library**, where **Philip Johnson** designed the 1972 annex to **Charles McKim's** exquisite Italian Renaissance-style building (1895). Venture inside for a view

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of the gorgeous murals by **John Singer Sargent** and **Pierre Puvis de Chevannes**, glimpse a changing exhibition in the lobby and stroll through the cloistered interior courtyard to get a feel for this landmark building. For a more extensive viewing, take one of the library's free, guided Art & Architecture Tours (www.bpl.org/guides/tours/htm). Exit onto **Copley Square** for a striking view of **Trinity Church** (1877), **Henry Hobson Richardson's** Romanesque masterpiece, reflected, in contrast, in **I.M. Pei's** blue-mirrored **John Hancock Tower** (1976). Considered one of the country's finest examples of religious architecture, Trinity features magnificent windows, murals and decoration by **John La Farge**, and sculpture by **Augustus St. Gaudens**.

A trip to Boston would be incomplete without a visit to its legendary museum/home, founded by the redoubtable **Isabella Stewart Gardner**. The **Gardner Museum** has been a Boston favorite for more than a century, and for good reason. The enduring allure of Mrs. Gardner's 15th-century-style Venetian palazzo and its incredible gardens — crowned by the stunning collection — makes it one of America's most desirable destinations, and it is one you'll want to revisit on every Boston trip. The fabulous array of masterpieces includes premiere works by **Michelangelo**, **Raphael**, **Botticelli**, **Sargent** (especially the 1888 portrait of Isabella), and **Chase**, plus, of course, **Titian's** incomparable *Europa*. What is exciting for contemporary art lovers is the Artist-in-Residence program, created by Gardner director **Anne Hawley** in 1992, which focuses on the historical significance of the collection and how it relates to and inspires contemporary thought. Since its inception, the museum has welcomed creative artists working in all media, including painters, photographers, writers, composers, installation artists and others who live at the museum and study the collection in depth. As the 2007 Artist-in-Residence, **Luisa Rabbia** integrated archival photos Isabella Gardner took on an 1883 trip to China with her own drawings and other images to create an imaginative contemporary video with historical references. Watch for the upcoming redesign of the extended Gardner campus and preservation of the original grounds and palazzo by **Renzo Piano**.

Next stop, Boston's star in the crown, the **Museum of Fine Arts**, where we enter the I.M. Pei designed **West Wing** (1981), now the museum's main entrance. Note Boston native **Jonathan Borofsky's** *Walking Man* sculpture suspended above the circular drive, and venture forth into the main lobby and the adjacent atrium, where six more enchanting Borofsky sculptures from the *I Dreamed I Could Fly* series are floating above. If you are lucky enough to be in Boston this July, head upstairs to see the beautifully curated show at the MFA — *El Greco to Velázquez: Art during the Reign of Philip the III* (through July 27). While you will be enthralled with the work of Spain's famed masters, you will be delighted by the lesser-known work of their compatriots (choose

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Monday holidays 10-5, Thursdays 10-9, free on Thursdays after 5pm.

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Tel. 617-267-9300; www.mfa.org. Saturday to Tuesday, 10-4:45, Wednesday 10-9:45, Thursday-Friday 10-5.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Tel. 617-566-1401; www.gardnermuseum.org. Tuesday-Sunday 11-5.

Boston Athenaeum, 10 1/2 Beacon Street, Tel. 617-227-0270; www.bostonathenaeum.org. Free admission. Monday 9-8, Tuesday-Friday 9-5:30, Sept.-May, Saturday 9-4, closed Saturday. June-Aug and closed on Sundays.

CAMBRIDGE MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Arthur M. Sackler Museum, 485 Broadway, Cambridge, Tel. 617-495-9400. Monday-Saturday. 10-5, Sunday 1-5. Special note: The Fogg and Busch-Reisinger Museums at Harvard will be closed for extensive renovations and remodeling (designed by Renzo Piano), for approximately five years beginning in July 2008. Collections from these museums will be on view at the Sackler Museum during the renovation period. During the month of July 2008, the Sackler will be closed for reinstallation. Some galleries will reopen in August and the remaining galleries will open on September 13, 2008.

List Visual Arts Center, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, Tel. 617-253-4680; <http://web.mit.edu/lvac>. Tuesday-Sunday 12-6, Friday 12-8.

MIT Museum, 265 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Tel. 617-253-4444; <http://web.mit.edu/museum>. Tuesday-Friday 10-5, Saturday-Sunday 12-5.

REGIONAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem, Tel. 866-745-1876; www.pem.org. Daily 10-5.

Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, 106 Central Street, Tel. 781-283-2051; www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum. Summer hours: Tuesday-Friday 12-4.

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, 51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln, Tel. 781-259-8355; www.decordova.org. Tuesday-Sunday, and some Monday holidays 10-5.

Smith College Museum of Art, Elm Street at Bedford Terrace, Northampton, Tel. 413-583-2760; www.smith.edu/artmuseum/general. Tuesday-Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-4.

Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Tel. 508-799-4406; www.worcesterart.org. Wednesday-Friday, Sunday 11-5, Saturday 10-5.

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Tel. 978-749-4015; www.addisongallery.org. Please note that the Addison Gallery is closing on July 13, 2008 for expansion and

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renovation and will reopen in spring 2010. If you are in Venice, see the wonderful exhibit *Coming of Age: American Art 1850s to 1950s*, which includes many treasures from the Addison, at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection through October 12, 2008.

ARCHITECTURE

By Charles Bulfinch (1763-1844): **Faneuil Hall**, 15 State Street; **State House**, Beacon and Park Streets; **Harrison Gray Otis House**, 141 Cambridge Street; **St. Stephens Church**, 24 Clark Street.

By Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886): **New Old South Church**, 645 Boylston Street; **Trinity Church**, 236 Clarendon Street; **First Baptist Church**, 110 Commonwealth Avenue; **Exeter Theater** (now a bookstore), 26 Exeter Street; **Flour and Grain Exchange**, off Quincy Markey; and **Robert Treat Paine House**, 577 Beaver Street in Waltham.

By I.M. Pei (b. 1917) **Government Center Complex/ City Hall Plaza**, 1968, **John F. Kennedy Library**, 1979 and addition, 1991, **John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse and Harborpark**, 1998, **John Hancock Tower**, 1976, **Museum of Fine Arts, West Wing and Renovation**, 1981, 1986, **Harbor Towers**, 1976. Also, in Cambridge, at Harvard, **Center for Government and International Studies**, 2005; at MIT, **Wiesner Building/Center for Arts & Media Technology**, 1984.

By Philip Johnson (1906-2005): **Boston Public Library addition**, 1972, with John Burgee Architects, 500 Boylston, 1989 and **International Place**, 1992.

SHOPPING

Matsu, 259 Newbury Street, Tel. 617-266-9707; www.matsuboston.com. Indulge your senses at this unique woman's apparel and home goods boutique.

Tesorino, 70 Charles Street, Tel. 617-742-0061 "Tesorino" means little treasure in Italian and this store is full of one-of-a-kind luxury goods, jewelry and art that are unique to the area.

Devi Home, 1134 Washington Street, Tel. 617-556-0099; www.devihome.com. Attractive design and home goods store with an Indian flair in the South End arts district.

Vessel, 125 Kingston Street, Tel. 617-292-0982 and 652 Tremont Street, Tel. 617-425-5292. International contemporary design at its best, Vessel selects the products they showcase in their stores for their beauty and utility, including furniture, home goods and children's accessories and toys.

Winston Flowers, 569 Boylston Street, Tel. 800-457-4901; www.winstonflowers.com. Peruse their artful flowers with an Asian flair, just for fun!

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the audio headset for insightful guidance, or if you are unlucky enough to miss the exhibit, view the slide show at www.mfa.org). Concurrently on view at the MFA is a companion show, **Antonio López-García**, with 60 works by the revered contemporary Spanish painter (through July 27). Spring 2009 brings another blockbuster show: *Titian, Tintoretto & Veronese: Rivals in Renaissance Italy*, opening March 15th and running through July 19, 2009.

After consuming so much remarkable art, you will want a break, and the perfect one is at **Bravo**, the MFA's upscale eatery designed by famed restaurant designer **Peter Niemitz**. A work of art in itself, Bravo delivers a welcome respite with delicious fresh dishes and a panorama of museum masterpieces hung throughout the space. (Reservations are recommended; 617-369-3474.) A special note about the MFA: Although most galleries will remain open, parts of the museum will be closing soon to begin construction of **Lord Norman Foster's** much-anticipated addition. The Pritzker prize-winning architect was commissioned in 1999 to create a comprehensive master plan for the museum, which includes a new west wing and a glazed "crystal spine" that will run the full length of the site, incorporating the old with the new.

Speaking of great architecture, don't end your Boston sojourn without heading across the idyllic **Charles River** to **Cambridge**, where stunning examples can be seen throughout the city. MIT in particular has a stellar array of buildings by modern masters, including **Alvar Aalto**, **Eero Saarinen**, **I.M. Pei**, **Steven Holl** and **Frank Gehry** (**The Stata Complex**, 2004). Self-guided walking-tour maps of the campus are available in the main building at 77 Massachusetts Avenue. In Cambridge you will find many buildings by Boston's favorite, I.M. Pei, (who graduated from MIT and Harvard), including Harvard's striking red brick and glass **Center for Government and International Studies** building at 1730 Cambridge Street, completed in 2005. At MIT, Pei designed the noted **Wiesner Building/Center for Arts & Technology Media**, where the **List Visual Arts Center** is located. Dedicated to exploring "challenging, intellectually inquisitive, contemporary art in all media," the List Center features rotating exhibitions as well as maintaining the public sculpture collection. Large-scale works by modern masters, including **Alexander Calder**, **Henry Moore**, **Louise Nevelson**, **Mark DiSuvero** and others, are sprinkled throughout the campus for all to enjoy.

The art and architecture treasure trove that is Boston (and its surrounding area) makes it hard to think about ending a visit to this home of myriad enchantments, so, returning across the Charles, focusing on the painterly quality of a picturesque sculling crew cutting through the sun-bleached water, book your next trip!

ART AROUND THE WORLD

News

Do we need another mega art gathering? Arguably, no! Should we think about the revitalization of one of our most artful cities? Absolutely. Consider **Prospect.1 New Orleans**, an intriguing new international art biennial directed and curated by **Dan Cameron**, lately senior curator at the **New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York**, now visual arts director at the **New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center**. This venture is Cameron's cause and, in this moment of too much, it sounds just right! Seventy-five thoughtfully selected artists from around the world — including **Cao Fei, William Kentridge, El Anatsui, Julie Mehretu, Shirin Neshat, Perejaume, Xu Bing, Janine Antoni, Gajin Fujita, Lee Bul, Amy Sillman...** and many more — will be featured in the Crescent City's diverse art venues from November 1 - January 18. While New Orleans still needs much help in neighborhoods now rebuilding, we're assured that the large majority of the outstanding restaurants, hotels, galleries, and museums are restored and ready to show the world New Orleans' indomitable spirit. Go now to www.prospectneworleans.org for the full scoop and plan to support this great adventure.

If you can only schedule one stop on your **Los Angeles** art itinerary this summer, don't even bother to think twice; just book San Marino. The new pleasures and treasures at the Huntington are rare examples of perfection we seldom see in an arts institution, public or private. As we go to press, the \$20-million restoration of the **Huntington Art Gallery** — one of America's finest Beaux-Arts mansions — has just been completed, and, while the renowned collections have been exquisitely reinstalled, the house has been given a starring role too. Visitors enter through the original *porte cochere* for the first time since the 1930s; once inside, French furniture, English portraits and Persian carpets are arranged in the Huntington's grand domestic style. Every surface is painstakingly restored; the Boucher tapestries are now reset in the library (the only remaining American interior designed to display 18th-century French tapestries). New galleries upstairs now display not only the familiar British works, but also **Arabella Huntington's** French and Renaissance collections previously housed in the library. The most stunning single new installation is the two-story-high presentation of **Edward Burne-Jones'** 15-foot stained-glass window from a chapel in Lancashire, England.

As if that were not enough, continue to the **Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Liu Fang Yuan)**, the newly opened (February) **Chinese Garden**, an inviting walk across the vast Huntington campus. Pavilions, pathways, bridges and intricately crafted lattice windows frame artful vistas of the lake and its surrounding, authentic Chinese plantings — all a feast for the summer solstice.

Finally, if you time your Huntington foray before September 15, you'll find a provocative bonus back in the world of nineteenth- and twentieth-century art: the exhibition in the **Boone Gallery**, *This*

Great Addresses

IN NEW ORLEANS

Lüke, 333 St. Charles, Tel. 504-378-3840. Chef John Besh of the magical Restaurant August was one of the first post-Katrina angels, serving up red beans to the relief workers. Now August is back (301 Tchoupitoulas Street, Tel. 504-299-9777), chic as ever, and Besh has opened another landmark, **Lüke** — a fresh brasserie featuring what has been called “shockingly delicious dishes.” We toast his remarkable accomplishment! Enjoy the Crabmeat Maison, Louisiana shrimp from the shellfish bar, or succulent *piéd de cochon*.

Stella, 1032 Chartres Street, Tel. 504-587-0091. Scott Boswell has been called the city's “most imaginative chef” and the evidence is all here in his refined, inviting respite. Try the sake-and-miso-glazed sea bass.

Windsor Court Hotel, 300 Gravier Street, Tel. 504-523-6000. This well-loved hotel survived Katrina with its English manor ambience intact. Afternoon tea is still served in Le Salon, and its English art collection still colors the public rooms. It remains on the *Condé-Nast 2008 Hot List*.

IN LOS ANGELES

During your visit to the Huntington, don't ignore the spate of notable restaurant/hotel debuts city-wide — and in Orange County, too.

Gordon Ramsay, 1020 North San Vicente Blvd. In the London West Hollywood — the super-elegant hotel once known as the Bel Age. The holy terror from *Hell's Kitchen* has finally made his West Coast bow and seems determined to bust even the most generous budget. The entire property has been completely redone by David Collins, with a roof-top spa and pool in addition to Ramsay's signature restaurant — sedate in brocades, creamy marble and a jaw-dropping view. www.thelondonwesthollywood.com.

Thompson Beverly Hills, 9360 Wilshire Blvd., Tel. 310-273-1400. The West Coast version of SoHo's 60 Thompson boutique hotel in New York has opened in L.A. in the building that previously housed the Beverly Pavilion. It's fresh, nicely designed and near the heart of Beverly Hills, but right on the Wilshire Boulevard and certainly not grand-style 90210! The restaurant on the premises is Bond Street (of New York and Miami) and the specialty is sushi.

Charlie Palmer, 695 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, Tel. 714-352-2525. The celeb chef from Chicago has joined the rush to the West Coast by dropping anchor in Bloomingdales at South Coast Plaza rather than on the Westside. The restaurant is in the charge of 26-year-old executive chef Amar Santana — whom Palmer calls “extremely talented.” Palmer wine service is legendary and the space has a terrific cellar — although you may bring your own as well. The menu focuses on “local and fresh” and by the time you receive this, lunch will have been added to nightly dinner.

Palate Food + Wine, 933 South Brand Avenue, Glendale, Tel. 818-662-9463. Octavio Becerra, who was so influential in defining French bistro cooking in L.A. — at Pinot Bistro — is now playing a fanciful role in presenting new American cooking in Glendale's Auto Row. The early word is Palate really hits the spot.

Boule, 420 North La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, Tel. 310-289-9977, www.boulela.com. Now that we know

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that those dark chocolate bonbons are health treats, there is no guilt in a stop at Boule, where the chocolates are like gems — almost too beautiful to eat — and are presented in an iconic little blue box as well.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, Tel. 626-405-2100, www.huntington.org. Summer hours: 10:30-4:30 daily except Tuesday; closed Tuesday. Admission free the first Thursday of each month with advance tickets. Tea in the Rose Garden Tea Room is by reservation (626-683-8131), and prix fixe — \$24.95 for adults, \$12.49 for children ages 4-8; choose from fresh fruits and cheeses, delicious, old-fashioned sandwiches, yummy salads, and, of course stellar deserts. Summer hours are 10:45-4:30. The outdoor Café is informal with a kids' menu and no reservations needed; noon-4 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11-4 Saturday-Sunday. Tea is really a trip to old-world Pasadena if you have a leisurely schedule.

IN AMSTERDAM

Droog, 7b Staalstraat, Tel. 31-20-523-5059. One hundred star designers are showcased in objects produced in collaboration with Droog Design; arguably Europe's top gallery for cutting-edge design/household objects.

Dylan, 384 Keizersgracht, Tel. 31-20-530-2010, www.dylanamsterdam.com. The former Blakes Hotel is now called Dylan. It's a cozy, Anoushka Hempel-designed townhouse on our favorite canal and it features the cuisine of chef Dennis Kuipers, whose French/North African fare is delicious.

Fifteen Amsterdam, 9 Jollemahof, Tel. 31-20-10-711-1567. London chef Jamie Oliver's Naked Chef outpost takes his teaching concept to an industrial space hung with Jurgen Bay chandeliers and decorated with bright graffiti; this is a great spot for a big Italian meal while you're touring the Eastern Docklands.

Beddington's, 141 Utrechts-edwardsstraat, Tel. 31-20-620-7393. Jean Beddington, the English chef, presided here for seventeen years — to much acclaim — before taking a hiatus. Reintroduced in 2003, it's now a top cuisine destination once again. The intimate black-and-white room accomodates only one sitting and each guest receives personal attention plus delectable dishes from the fusion menu.

Van Ravenstein, 359 Keizersgracht, Tel. 31-20-639-0067. Cult fashion favorites reside in Amsterdam, too. This is the place to go for women's-designer top names: Viktor & Rolf, Dries Van Noten, Veronique Branquinho, Ann Demeulemeester. You are where clothes are works of art.

Stedelijk Museum, 5 Oosterdokskade, Tel. 31-20-573-2911, www.stedelijk.nl. Remember that our favorite modern museum is still in temporary quarters in the Post CS Building near the Central Station. Acquisitions since 1968 are on display, so your Van Gogh pilgrimage will have to wait until the completion of the new and expanded museum in 2009. This summer, curator Okwui Enwezor's Snap Judgements - New Positions in Contemporary African Photography - will be on view through September 30th (the exhibit was organized at ICF in New York).

News...more

Side of Paradise: Body and Landscape in L.A. Photographs. The story of the dramatic relationship between the city and the art of photography over the past 150 years — glamour, catastrophe, sunshine and noir — is on display through the lenses of pioneers **Carleton Watkins** and **William Henry Jackson**; through those of the moderns, from **Edward Weston** to **Imogen Cunningham**; and through up-to-date views by **John Baldessari**, **Ed Ruscha**, **John Divola** and **Catherine Opie** — drawn largely from the Huntington's fabulous archive.

With the ascendancy of design in the world of the arts, it's impossible to banish "design central" from our destination of wishful thinking: **Amsterdam!** September is official Design Month in this delicious outpost of astonishing innovation. The beautifully preserved historic center is flourishing, as it has since the 17th century; the **Eastern Docklands**, once the center of Dutch shipping, later a scene of dilapidated warehouses, is now the centerpiece of the new — architecture, design, shops, restaurants, and canal houses, plus projects by the likes of **Michael Graves**, **Renzo Piano**, and **Rafael Viñoly**. Piano's **National Center for Science and Technology** anchors the harbor, while the eccentric **Muziekgebouw** concert hall by the Dutch firm **3xNielsen** ups the ante in the extreme — in a giant glass and steel wonder-work. Back in the city proper, the **Nine Streets Center**, crossing the fashionable canals, from **Singel** to **Prinsengracht**, is still the place to go to find the design landmarks — if you plan to bring home booty. **Droog** ("dry," as in the dry Dutch humor) is the most famous collective — and name — in design here, and perhaps worldwide. In its historic warehouse at 7b Staalsstraat, 100 of the greatest contemporary designers — from **Toord Boontjie** to **Marcel Wanders** — come home to roost. Or at least they are present in their iconic objects!

And for your calendar... In September, the **Museum of Arts and Design** opens in its new digs on **Columbus Circle**, **New York**, in **Edward Durrell Stone**'s historic tower redesigned by **Brad Cloepfil**; **Charles Saatchi**'s long-awaited new gallery opens in London's Chelsea, with a survey of new Chinese works; and **Zaha Hadid's Mobile Art Pavilion**, conceived by **Karl Lagerfeld** for Chanel, and looking greatly like a craft from Mars, makes a September touchdown in New York, while on a two-year tour. Featured works by twenty noted artists are inspired by Coco! Look for two big birthdays to be celebrated this year: Cy Twombly's 80th, with a retrospective titled *Cycles and Seasons*, which will debut at the Tate Modern this summer and travel to the **Guggenheim Bilbao** in the fall — before ever making it to these shores; and Robert Frank's *The Americans*' 50th anniversary — it's no doubt the 20th century's most influential photography publication — being toasted with a new edition now and an exhibition at the National Gallery of Art next year. Happy Birthday!

ART EXPRESS ART EXPRESS

Calendar

Through	July 18	List Visual Arts Center, MIT, Boston	<i>Chantal Ackerman</i>	
Through	July 27	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	<i>El Greco to Velázquez: Art During the Reign of Philip III</i>	
Through	July 27	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	<i>Antonio López García</i>	
Through	Aug. 18	Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin	<i>Man Ray: Unconcerned, But Not Indifferent</i>	
Through	Aug. 31	Museo d'Arte Contemporanea (MACRO), Rome	<i>Gregor Schneider: Double</i>	
Through	Aug. 31	Tate Liverpool	<i>Gustav Klimt: Painting, Design & Modern Life in Vienna 1900</i>	
Through	Sept. 1	LACMA, Los Angeles	<i>Phantom Sightings: Art after the Chicano Movement</i>	
Through	Sept. 1	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	<i>Master Photographers, 1840-1940</i>	
Through	Sept. 1	MASS MoCA, North Adams	<i>Devorah Sperber</i>	
Through	Sept. 1	National Gallery, Washington, DC	<i>Richard Leger: On the Beach</i>	
Through	Sept. 1	OCMA, Newport Beach	<i>Art Since the 1960s</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston	<i>Anish Kapoor: Past, Present, Future</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Serpentine Gallery, London	<i>Richard Prince: Continuation</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Prado, Madrid	<i>The Renaissance Portrait: From Pisanello to Rubens</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Fondation Beyeler, Basel	<i>Fernand Léger: Paris-New York</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Moderna Museet, Stockholm	<i>Time and Place: Milano-Torino 1958-68</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Art Institute of Chicago	<i>A Mind at Play</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris/ARC, Paris	<i>Peter Doig</i>	
Through	Sept. 7	Sixteenth Biennale of Sydney: Revolutions, Forms that Turn		
Through	Sept. 7	Quebec Triennial, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal		
Through	Sept. 14	LACMA, Los Angeles	<i>Philip-Lorca di Corcia</i>	
Through	Sept. 14	OCMA, Newport Beach	<i>California Scenarios</i>	
Through	Sept. 14	Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris/ARC	<i>Bridget Riley</i>	
Through	Sept. 14	Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek	<i>Museums in the 21st Century</i>	
Through	Sept. 14	Tate Modern, London	<i>Cy Twombly: Cycles and Season</i>	
Through	Sept. 21	Whitney Museum of American Art	<i>Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe</i>	
Through	Sept. 21	MCA, Chicago	<i>Jeff Koons</i>	
Through	Sept. 21	OCMA, Newport Beach	<i>Peter Saul</i>	
Through	Sept. 21	Jewish Museum, New York	<i>Action/Abstraction: Pollock, DeKooning, & American Art</i>	
Through	Sept. 21	New Orleans Museum of Art	<i>The Baroque World of Fernando Botero</i>	
Through	Sept. 22	Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam	<i>Titian Masterpiece Visits the Rijksmuseum</i>	
Through	Sept. 22	National Gallery, Washington, DC	<i>Martin Puryear</i>	
Through	Sept. 22	MOCA, Los Angeles	<i>Marlene Dumas: Measuring Your Own Grave</i>	
Through	Sept. 22	Centre Pompidou, Paris	<i>Dominique Perrault Architecture</i>	
Through	Sept. 23	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection</i>	
Through	Sept. 28	Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona	<i>Duchamp, Man Ray, Picabia</i>	
Through	Sept. 28	Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona	<i>Cy Twombly: Lepanto</i>	
Through	Sept. 28	Fundacio Joan Miró, Madrid	<i>Olafur Eliasson: the Nature of Things</i>	
Through	Sept. 28	Guggenheim Museum, New York	<i>Louise Bourgeois</i>	
Through	Sept. 28	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Frida Kahlo</i>	
Through	Sept. 28	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston	<i>Luisa Rabbia: Travels with Isabella</i>	
Through	Sept. 30	Judd Foundation, Marfa, Texas	<i>Donald Judd: Writing of Specific Objects, 1965</i>	
Through	Oct. 5	Courtauld Institute, London	<i>Courtauld Cézannes</i>	
Through	Oct. 5	High Museum of Art, Atlanta	<i>Houdon at the Louvre: Masterworks of the Enlightenment</i>	
Through	Oct. 12	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York	<i>Paul McCarthy</i>	
Through	Oct. 26	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Jeff Koons on the Roof</i>	
Through	Fall 2008	MASS MoCA, North Adams	<i>Jenny Holzer: Projections</i>	
Through	Dec. 4	Hammer Museum, Los Angeles	<i>Mungo Thomson</i>	
Through	Jan. 4	Site Santa Fe 2008 Biennial		
Through	Jan. 11	Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh		
Through	Feb. 28	Museo d'Arte Contemporanea (MACRO), Rome	<i>Ernesto Neto</i>	
Through	July 1 -	Sept. 21	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>J. M. W. Turner</i>
Through	July 1 -	Sept. 14	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Art of Lee Miller</i>
Through	July 10 -	13	Art Santa Fe (International Art Fair)	
Through	July 13 -	Oct. 12	Hammer Museum, Los Angeles	<i>Between Earth & Heaven: Architecture of John Lautner</i>
Through	July 23 -	Nov. 9	MFA, Boston	<i>Imperishable Beauty: Art Nouveau Jewelry</i>
Through	July 28 -	Mar. 1	MCA, Chicago	<i>Alexander Calder in Focus</i>
Through	July 30 -	Oct. 26	Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston	<i>Momentum II: Nicholas Hlobo</i>
Through	Aug. 24 -	Dec. 15	MOCA, Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles	<i>Index: Conceptualism in California</i>
Through	Sept. 20 -	Jan. 4	Art Institute of Chicago	<i>Henri Cartier-Bresson</i>
Through	Sept. 21 -	Jan. 5	MOCA, Los Angeles	<i>Martin Kippenberger: The Problem Perspective</i>
Through	Sept. 26 -	Feb. 1	Tate Modern, London	<i>Rothko: The Late Series</i>
Through	2009	Hallen für Neue Kunst, Schaffhausen	<i>Advancing the Experience: Robert Ryman</i>	

Travel Bookshelf: Boston

Guides

Michael and Susan Southworth. *AIA Guide to Boston, 3rd: Contemporary Landmarks, Urban Design, Parks, Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods*, 2008.

Phantom Gourmet Guide to Boston's Best Restaurants 2008.

Boston (Eyewitness Travel Guides).

NFT: Not For Tourists 2008 Guide to Boston.

Zagat Boston Restaurants 2008/9.

Mara Vorhees and John Spelman. *Boston (City Guide)*.

Art and Architecture

Guido Incerti, et al. *Diller+Scofidio (+Renfro): The Cillary Function*, 2007 (architects of the new Institute of Contemporary Art).

Norman Foster. *Foster 40: Projects/ Themes*, 2007 (Lord Foster, architect of the Museum of Fine Arts expansion).

Theodore E. Stebbins and Peter C. Sutton. *Masterpiece Paintings: From The Museum of Fine Arts Boston*.

Renzo Piano and Victoria Newhouse. *Renzo Piano Museums*, 2007 (architect of the Harvard Art Museums expansion).

Adam Weinberg. *Treasures of the Addison Gallery of American Art*, 2002.

Howard S. Andros. *Buildings and Landmarks of Old Boston: A Guide to Colonial, Provincial, Federal and Greek Revival Periods, 1630-1850*.

Alan Chong. *Eye of the Beholder: Masterpieces from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum*, 2003.

Biography

Louise Hall Tharp. *Mrs. Jack: A Biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner*.

Ernest Samuels. *Bernard Berenson: The Making of a Connoisseur*.

Frank Stella. *Working Space (The Charles Eliot Norton Lectures)*, Harvard.

Charles Kenney. *John F. Kennedy: The Presidential Portfolio: History as Told Through the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum*.

Literature

Susan Wilson. *The Literary Trail of Greater Boston: A Tour of Sites in Boston, Cambridge, and Concord*.

And...strictly for fun

Art Mysteries

Jane Langton. *Murder at the Gardner: A Novel of Suspense: A Homer Kelly Mystery* (an all-time favorite; eerily predicted the terrible theft which has never been solved).

Nicolas Kilmer. *Madonna of the Apes* (one of a series about a wealthy Boston collector).