

# CITY

INSPIRATION FOR STYLE

## SPRING LOADED

FEELING PALE?  
STEP OUT OF WINTER  
AND INTO THE FASHION

*Plus*

**STYLISH EATS**  
sopho for toots

**SHOPPING  
GETAWAYS**  
madrid  
karlsruhe  
brooklyn

**STRIKE!**  
w/ wear

**UK INVASION**  
post worth speaks

**NEW DESIGNERS**  
shop into the game



## Six Boutiques in Six 'Hoods on the Rise

by Andi Teran

### AUSTIN: KICK PLEAT

Austin's South First Street District is the epitome of quirky charm, and Kick Pleat is undoubtedly its clubhouse (middle). Housed in a 1940s bungalow in what was once a sleepy residential neighborhood, this relaxed, wood-floored space exudes homey elegance and laid-back chic while offering a stand-out selection of the best in women's independent designer labels. Choose frocks from Karen Walker, Ilana Moses, and Mociun under lazy chandeliers while chatting with the delightful locals **910 South First St., 512-445-4500, www.kickpleat.com**

### SAN DIEGO: I.AM

The formerly crime-ridden and drug-infested downtown area of San Diego known as the East Village is now the city's most rapidly developing neighborhood, and the i.am boutique reflects the change. With urban-friendly labels like Young Fabulous & Broke, the hip-hop-inspired Nicacelly, and Brooklyn-based indie line redtoenails, this bright, concrete-floored space welcomes both the flip-flop and the serious style crowd. **633 Ninth Ave., 619-231-1221**

### ATLANTA: WISH

Little Five Points was once a magnet for illicit urban behavior, but when merchants banded together in the early '80s to take back their neighborhood, peaceful cultural diversity triumphed. Wish, a recently re-launched store, now commands the district with impressive interiors by New York architect Raphael Berkowitz and designer Sam O'Donahue (top right). Limited-edition shoe lines from Nike QS and Madfoot, as well as edgy sportswear from Artful Dodger and Martin Margiela, keep those in the know coming back for more.

**447 Moreland Ave., 404-880-0402, www.wishatl.com**

### WASHINGTON, D.C.: NANA

Birthplace of Duke Ellington and once the center of Washington's jazz nightlife scene, the U Street Corridor survived decades of deterioration to be revived with new cafés, nightclubs, and shops that have kept true to the history of the neighborhood. Located on the 2nd floor of a row house, Nana is one of D.C.'s must-stop shops with an airy, feminine interior and hard-to-find labels (bottom). Browse through lines like Toronto's Dagg & Stacey and House of Spy, LA's Kasil Jeans, or the Wrangler 47 denim line, and don't bypass the carefully curated selection of vintage pieces in the back nook of the store. **1528 U St., 202-667-9655, www.nanadc.com**

### SAN FRANCISCO: MAC (MODERN APPEALING CLOTHING)

The Central Freeway, a noisy thoroughfare that had kept businesses away, was destroyed in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, transforming the area of Hayes Valley into a haven for stores like Modern Appealing Clothing. The popular North and South Beach MAC stores have merged into one in what was once a sizeable art gallery, increasing foot traffic tenfold. Carrying local as well as international avant-garde designers, they've kept the spirit of the neighborhood intact with an outdoor rock garden and indoor sculptures. **387 Grove St., 415-863-3011**

### PHILADELPHIA: DENIM SOCIETY

The best in premium-label denim has found a home in the quickly evolving Northern Liberties neighborhood. Once home to vacant lots and row houses, this former red-light district (just north of the center of Philly) is now a depot for cozy cafés and edgy boutiques. Denim Society leads the pack with its warm antique interior and impressive selection of jeans from the likes of J & Company, Joe's, Antik Denim, and People's Liberation. Stop by on Saturdays for complimentary beverages and appetizers. **627 A North 2nd St., 215-923-0536, www.denim-society.com**

