

BEST IN DESIGN

OUT & ABOUT

READERS' CHOICE



SOAK UP THE SUN
An outdoor deck at the retro-inspired Lone Star Court is the perfect spot to sip on a Chill Cowboy cocktail.

BEST OUTDOOR SPACE // LONE STAR COURT

After a long drive across Texas, families in the good old days pulled into a motor inn and hung out around the kidney-shaped pool or stretched their legs on the spacious, home-style grounds. That nostalgic mood of togetherness and bonding is what designer Lauren Rottet and landscape architect Christine Ten Eyck achieved with Lone Star Court, a boutique hotel situated at Austin's The Domain. Though upscale amenities await in the spacious rooms, which start at \$179 per night, guests can't stop gathering on the retro motor lodge-like grounds to confabulate and muse over their days. Fire pits, live music and a dipping pool that references the Hill Country's ubiquitous lakes and swimming holes draw crowds to the lawn area. Also outside the hotel's inward-facing rooms, a food truck and a picnic pavilion-style eatery keep guests fed. 10901 Domain Drive, Austin, 512.814.2625, lonestarcourt.com

BEST RESTAURANT INTERIOR // LAV

With four rooms as harmonized with one another, yet as distinctive, as a tasting menu at a Michelin-starred bistro in Provence, laV dresses up gentrifying Seventh Street in East Austin. Born from the collaboration between McAlpine Tankersley Architecture and McAlpine, Booth & Ferrier Interiors, both listed in *Elle Decor's* A-List, laV evokes the soulful bistro spirit of a backstreet eatery in Avignon. Progressively formal rooms begin with a wine bar, its custom chartreuse banquettes, hair-on-hide stools and vineyard barrel-like tables inviting repose. A pewter bar and vintage-style painting define the next space, a lounge with see-and-be-seen windows facing the street. Intimacy and comfortable opulence mark the dining area, its high ceilings ensuring that whispered conversations can be shared. And a two-story wine cellar, replete with bottles and anchored by a 10-seat private table, completes the oeuvre, which has already received acclaim for its earthy French comfort food. 1501 E. Seventh St., Austin, 512.391.1888, lavaustin.com



HAPPY HOUR
Hair-on-hide stools and chartreuse banquettes bring style and sass to the wine bar at Austin's laV.



NICE WORK
This office, designed by MaRS, Mayfield and Ragni Studio, inspires the public relations pros at DPWPR.

BEST OFFICE // MARS, MAYFIELD AND RAGNI STUDIO

Designed by MaRS, Mayfield and Ragni Studio, the downtown Houston office of DPWPR is a crisp, sophisticated workplace where public relations gurus work with such luxury brands as Audi and Louis Vuitton. Bright white, light-filled and loaded with midcentury style, the 8,600-square-foot space conjures the look made famous by *Mad Men*—but with a decidedly 21st century bent. That's primarily a reflection of the firm's owner, Dancie Perugini Ware, says Kelie Mayfield, principal at MaRS. Mayfield, along with principal Erick Ragni, senior designer Becky Harrison and Basic Builders, put the finishing touches on the space in April 2014. She says that Ware's bold personality and tailored image informed every design decision, from the custom lighting and wallcoverings to the large-scale furnishings and rotating artwork. 3202 Mercer St., Houston, 713.750.9812, marsculture.com

RESTAURANT PHOTO BY BUFF STICGLAND; OFFICE AND HOTEL PHOTOS BY ERIC LACROIX