

BEST of THE CITY

As Houston celebrates 2017 and prepares for the Super Bowl, the foremost thing on the city's agenda is putting the best boot forward. We're talking arts and culture worthy of standing ovations, style that's always on point, world-class health and beauty, design and realty for bon vivants, and food. We really can't forget the food. It's all right here.

BY RAY DENNISON AND MELLANIE PEREZ

READERS' CHOICE

DESIGN & REALTY

When asked where to find the best modern furniture, our discerning readers had no trouble selecting three showrooms perfect for making a statement. Not only do they each offer some of the world's most innovative designs, but they also offer consultation services.



TAKE A SEAT
Bubble chair,
\$3,615, by
Roche Bobois

1 Cantoni
This Texas-owned company specializes in Italian modern design. They carry collections by Calligaris, Cattelan Italia and Minotti Italia. They also have a full design team on hand to help with design choices or customized projects.
cantoni.com

2 Ligne Roset
One of several high-end home decor stores in West Ave, Ligne Roset hails from France. Check out pieces like the colorful Slice chair by Pierre Charpin. Sectionals can be removed to completely change the piece at whim.
ligne-roset.com

3 Roche Bobois
Here's another Italian name globally known for cutting-edge design. The San Felipe showroom attracts major mod fans, and nothing is quite as timelessly boho-chic as their Mahjong sectional sofa, which comes in a variety of designs.
roche-bobois.com



WATER FALL
Market Square
Tower's pool is
the highest
in Texas.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

The sky's the limit for many of the luxury high-rises popping up across town, and three in the city's center are changing the main skyline. The Theater District's dramatic **Market Square Tower** (777 Preston St., marketsquaretower.com) has opened for residents. It's Downtown's tallest residential tower, coming in at 40 floors, and amenities include a movie theater, a grand ballroom and a 24-hour concierge service. Most impressive of all is the rooftop pool, which is the highest in Texas and features a glass-bottom section jutting out over the street below. Talk about a view! Also rising in the area is Hines' 32-story **Aris Market Square** (409 Travis St., hines.com) on the busy corner of Travis and Preston. It finishes this year, boasting approximately 9,000 square feet of street-level retail and restaurant space. And over by Minute Maid Park, the 28-story **Catalyst Houston** (1423 Texas Ave.), designed by Ziegler Cooper Architects, also finishes in 2017. It's slated to have 20,000 square feet of outdoor space including a resort-style pool; a rooftop terrace garden; a sundeck with fire pit; a yoga lawn; a volleyball court; and Ballpark Club, where residents can watch Astros home games.



HOUSE AND
GARDEN
A River Oak
estate by Curtis &
Windham Architects,
showcased in the
firm's new book

THE CRAFTSMEN

Houston architects **Bill Curtis** and **Russell Windham** started their practice, Curtis & Windham Architects, more than two decades ago. Since, they have developed a strong reputation among the upper crust for designing stunning, traditional homes that dot the tree-lined streets of River Oaks, Memorial and other stately hoods. They respect the aesthetic of these historic areas, but they bring fresh, new touches. And now, with the release of an oversize coffee-table book, *A Vision of Place*, it's possible to get a look at some of the duo's most glamorous estates without ever leaving home.

The two native Texans—Curtis is from Longview and Windham hails from the Panhandle—met through a mutual friend back in the early '90s after spending time working separately at major firms on the East Coast and abroad. "Once a Texan, always a Texan," Windham quips when asked why he moved back to the Lone Star State. Curtis adds about Houston, "It's warm and receptive to people who have ideas, talent and energy."

After knowing each other for a little while, they decided to branch out and start a firm. Today, they both live in River Oaks—"Russell kept showing me houses across the street, but I said, 'I'm with you all day long,'" Curtis says with a laugh—and their firm has started to pick up major civic projects that are transforming not just neighborhoods but entire towns and cities. They've done a sorority house at the University of Arkansas and helped with the expansion of a church in Abilene. And here at home, they most recently completed the St. John's School's new great hall. Next, they'll be working with the prestigious prep school on a new art building. curtisandwindham.com

