

A Heritage Hunt
in North Carolina

Fried Quail
With Serious Kick

Nashville's Most
Rocking Home

GARDEN & GUN

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

SOUL of the SOUTH

Hidden Caribbean

**FIVE PERFECT
ISLAND
ESCAPES**
Plus: The Ultimate
**SAILING
ADVENTURE**

The Best
Barbecue
You've Never
Tasted

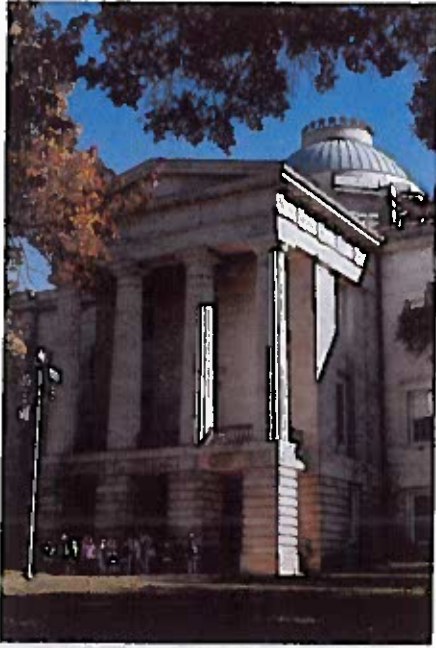
Roy Blount
Defends the
Lowly Mullet

*Hanging
out on Grenada's
Grand Anse
Beach*

FEBRUARY-
MARCH
2015

Due South

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE FOR THE SOUTHERN SOUL



Creative Capital

A dedicated young
arts community is
bringing new growth
to Raleigh

by

KAITLYN GOALEN



TALENT SHOW

Clockwise from top left: The Greek Revival facade of the North Carolina capitol building; Bida Manda's sister-and-brother team, Vanvisa and Vansana Nolintha; cocktails at the Stanbury bar; Raleigh Denim Workshop owners Victor Lytvinenko and Sarah Yarborough; women's clothing designer Catherine Fain.

★ CITY PORTRAIT: RALEIGH, NC / FORK in the ROAD p. 113 / OUR KIND of PLACE p. 117 / THE SOUTHERN AGENDA p. 121



...LOTTE HAS ITS BANKS; ASHEVILLE, ITS BEER, DURHAM, ITS BULLS. Raleigh's *thing*, its calling card, has been tougher to pinpoint. At first glance, it's a legislative city. The Greek Revival capitol building and various state and federal government offices occupy ample chunks of the concentrated downtown—and the state is still the city's largest employer. ¶ But half a mile southwest, off U.S. Highway 70, you'll find a less buttoned-up identity emerging. Situated around the Warehouse District, a rising creative class is dominating local

conversation. The up-and-coming neighborhood butts up to the railroad tracks, a proximity that historically made it prime real estate for icehouses, steel manufacturers, and freight depots. Today the area still celebrates those who make things; but in lieu of ice cream, more and more it's art and textiles. Among the first in this contemporary wave of creatives to set up shop were the denim makers Victor Lytvinenko and Sarah Yarosh. The husband-and-wife team now occupies a 16,000-square-foot space in the heart

of the Warehouse District that houses the factory where they produce their jeans line, Raleigh Denim Workshop, and their retail space, the Curatory. The enterprising duo isn't the only company in town resurrecting the state's storied textile history. Barton Strawn and Paul Connor started Lumina Clothing as a hobby in late 2009, making neckties mostly for friends.



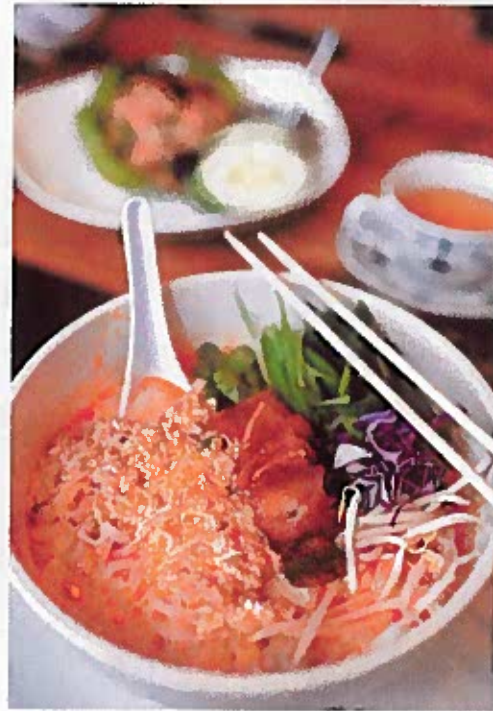
Now the company produces a full line of menswear, made in the United States, with a flagship store in Person Street Plaza—a stretch of small businesses located a few blocks northeast of the district. Nearby, international clothier Peter Millar staffs a large studio and design center at the restored Pilot Cotton Mill. "It's a domino effect," says Catherine Fain, who launched her women's clothing line, Ramey Rhodes, in 2013. "I've lived here all my life, but it's only been in the last few years that I've seen the growth and change to support this kind of field."

Proof that one type of artistic energy feeds another, CAM Raleigh, the buzzed-about contemporary art museum, opened in 2011 around the corner from Raleigh Denim Workshop and has quickly become a North Star for the aesthetically inclined. The

STYLE POINTS

Opposite: The sleek exterior of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; the Big Acorn sculpture in Moore Square. This page, clockwise from right: Pork belly soup at Bida Manda; designer Catherine Fain's little black dress; Vider Chocolate Factory is housed in a former train depot.

museum brought renewed life to the neighborhood art scene—home to an expanding network of galleries and artist collaboratives such as Antfarm Studios, where, for example, blacksmith Lucas House forges large-scale sculptural metalworks such as a set of floating stairs for the recently revamped Nehi Bottling Company. CAM itself devotes all of its real estate to visiting exhibitions that bring in the best of what's next—artists pushing established boundaries even in the famously freethinking realm of contemporary art. What's more, it serves as a venue for some of the city's most dynamic events—everything from Creative Mornings discussions moderated by local artists and entrepreneurs, to Wander Box, a pop-up beer garden built around a shipping container, to the newly minted Hopscotch Design festival. In its inaugural year, the festival pulled in such big names as Doug Powell, the former president of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, and Brian Singer, the design manager at the social media giant Pinterest.



HOT SPOTS

Oak City Innovators

FROM JEWELRY AND JEANS TO ABSTRACT ART AND GLOBAL CUISINE, A SAMPLING OF RALEIGH'S INVENTIVE SIDE

Eat + Drink

BIDA MANDA

Laotian cuisine has a proper temple in downtown Raleigh with this serene restaurant and bar. Within the bamboo-covered walls, the menu channels the flavors that the owners, siblings Vansana and Vanvisa Nolintha, remember from their childhood: pork belly swimming in a creamy curried coconut broth, crispy rice salad tucked into lettuce wraps, and a beef tripe larb that'll really make you sweat. bidamanda.com

BOULTED BREAD

Three men and a mill: That's the foundation for Raleigh's newest artisan bakeshop, where Tar Heel State natives Fulton Forde, Sam Kirkpatrick, and Joshua Bellamy employ house-milled flours to produce the crusty baguettes, tangy French country breads, and seasonal pastries that have locals lining up. boultebread.com

FOUNDATION BAR

Hardly more than a crawl space before architect Vincent Whitehurst and contractor Will Alphin went to work on it, this subterranean bar

had to be excavated by hand. Since it opened, bartenders have set about transforming the city's cocktail culture one hand-mixed drink at a time. There's a solid whiskey list, too, and a recently added kitchen that turns out a rotation of seasonal themed menus. foundationnc.com

JOULE COFFEE

By day, Ashley Christensen's fourth project serves the best pour-over coffee in town, along with breakfast items like twice-baked grits and fresh croissants. Come nightfall, the casual café morphs

into a lively dinner spot. Dishes such as pork boudin cakes with trotter gravy and smoked chicken dirty fried rice meld flavors of the bayou with downtown Raleigh moxie. ac-restaurants.com/joule

STANBURY

The playful, genre-bending cuisine of chef Drew Maykuth, formerly of the Admiral in Asheville, keeps this neighborhood place perennially packed. A fixture on the menu, the pig's head (don't worry; it's mostly jowl) croquette topped with a

★ CITY PORTRAIT: Raleigh, NC

"In Raleigh, design is viewed in broad terms," says Hopscotch's organizer, Matthew Muñoz, "giving people space to experiment, to try things out."

People like Luke Buchanan. A painter by day, bartender by night, Buchanan has no trouble finding local outlets for his talents. He has painted murals such as the one for chef Ashley Christensen's upcoming restaurant, Death & Taxes, as part of the Raleigh Murals Project, a grassroots effort to give the blank walls of the city's industrial buildings a needed face-lift. He is also one of the organizers behind the recently launched Peregrine Projects, a collective of artists who set up roving events across the city. "We operate like a gallery without a brick-and-mortar," Buchanan says. "Instead of moving somewhere with a bigger art scene, we're building the community here."

Raleigh's young creatives aren't starting with a blank canvas. It's a reinvigoration of a tradition with deep roots in the city, planted by North Carolina State University's School of Architecture and Landscape Design. The School of Design, as it became known, was founded in 1948; its first dean, Henry Kamp-hoefner, famously lured such architects as Frank Lloyd Wright and Buckminster Fuller to town, establishing new ideas about a modern Southern aesthetic. The school continues to attract talented art, design, and architecture students. The difference is, where they would once have departed for San Francisco or Chicago, more and more are staying put.

Joshua Gajownik, a graphic designer and NCSU design school graduate, is one of those who stayed. Last year, he participated in Re-brand Raleigh, a social-media-based project hosted by a local advertising agency to come up with a new city logo. Every two weeks, a different Raleigh artist took the helm of a dedicated Instagram account, documenting his or her creative process before unveiling a final design. Gajownik's logo, built around sketches of oaks and pines, is a crescendo of green shapes that form the city skyline. Eleven local artists participated. Although the city hasn't commissioned one for official use (yet), Gajownik, for one, is excited to see the arts community engaged in Raleigh's future.

"There are still needs here," he says. "In a town of Raleigh's size, you have the ability to influence." 📍



HOT SPOTS Continued

rich poached duck egg is a must-try. stanburyraleigh.com

STANDARD FOODS

Tuck into bowls of rabbit stew with mustard and tarragon at chef Scott Crawford's just-opened restaurant-cum-grocery at Person Street Plaza, which includes a whole-animal butchery program, a sustainable seafood counter, and an experimental garden with an outdoor fireplace. standardfoods.com

VIDERI CHOCOLATE FACTORY

This real-life chocolate factory is open to the public; visitors can watch the bean-to-bar confections produced by hand before enjoying a cup of Stumptown coffee and a bar of Videri's distinctive dark-milk chocolate combo at the airy on-site café. Or grab a seat on the back patio—it's BYOB—with a bottle of cabernet and a box of truffles. viderichocolatefactory.com

See + Do

ANTFARM STUDIOS

Leave it to a bunch of artists to see the potential in a network of crumbling warehouses long before anyone else. Founded by a group of NCSU design school grads in 1993, the artists' collective is home to a rotating cast of painters, woodworkers, metal-smiths, and potters. Stop by the studios on the first Friday of the month during open hours or call ahead to arrange a visit. antfarmstudios.wordpress.com

CAM RALEIGH

Google Maps as a medium, performance art that requires your participation, and a collective look at America's most famous minor-league ball club, the Durham Bulls, by ten internationally acclaimed artists and photographers. With no permanent collection, the young museum is free to use its full space to experiment, which means a revolving door of cutting-edge exhibitions with topics that boomerang from cartography to curveballs. camraleigh.org



ART AND SOUL
From far left: The modern gallery space at CAM Raleigh; jewelry designer Gabe Bratton wearing one of her wax-cast lace designs; patrons squeeze in at the bar at Bida Manda; stylist Jamie Meares is red hot; metalsmith Lucas House stokes the fires at Antfarm Studios in the Warehouse District.

days to take home a share of the bounty.

VERMILION

Whether you're after a date-night dress or just want to step up your street style, this North Hills boutique has become Raleigh's go-to source for high-end fashion. Owner Ashley Harris carries an edited collection of such classic labels as Balenciaga and Proenza Schouler, plus Southern designers such as Wes Gordon and Lela Rose. *vermillion style.com*

Stay

THE UMSTEAD HOTEL AND SPA

Nine miles from downtown in the Raleigh suburb of Cary, this romantic property is the area's most luxurious retreat. When you're not exploring the city, indulge in a treatment at the 16,000-square-foot spa or relax poolside. Most hotel lobbies are predictably uniform, but this one doubles as a gallery, displaying a rotating number of the hotel's collection, including works from such regional artists as potter Ben Owen III and Asheville painter Scott Upton. *the umstead.com*—K.G.

THE CURATORY

Raleigh Denim Workshop's locally crafted jeans are sold in high-end boutiques all over the world, but it's worth visiting the flagship to see where raw North Carolina-sourced denim becomes the best-fitting pair of blue jeans you'll ever own. Stocked with every make and fit of the brand's offerings as well as goods from other like-minded makers such as Raleigh jeweler Kaitlin Ryan, the carefully curated store overlooks the workshop, where a sea of sewing machines whir

with activity. *raleighworkshop.com*

FURBISH STUDIO

Jamie Meares isn't afraid to break the rules. Steered by her impeccable taste, she has made a name for herself as a stylist and an interior designer, pairing unlikely patterns, bold colors, and mismatched genres. Meares's signature color-drenched aesthetic is on full display in her Warehouse District home-goods store, where, among many other items, vintage kilim rugs mingle with abstract Southern art

and bamboo butler-tray tables. *furbishstudio.com*

GABRIELLE JEWELRY

Using bits of old lace—often heirlooms supplied by customers—jeweler Gabe Bratton designs one-of-a-kind wearable art. Bratton coats the antique lace remnants in wax before casting them in metals such as bronze or gold. The delicate yet edgy results, formed into bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and cuff links, come with a beautiful patina of history. *gabriellejewelry.com*

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART

In 2010, this Raleigh institution received an elaborate makeover, with the construction of a new 127,000-square-foot light-filled gallery space to house the museum's permanent collection, plus a hundred new works, including twenty-nine Rodin sculptures. It also added a sleek fine-dining restaurant, Iris, which spills out onto the 164-acre outdoor campus—the largest museum park in the country. *ncartmuseum.org*

PERSON STREET PLAZA

This corner stretch about a mile from the center of downtown has renewed an entire neighborhood, thanks to a windfall of exciting new tenants such as Lumina Clothing, a Raleigh-designed, American-made menswear line, and Yellow Dog Bread Company, which sells fresh boules, baguettes, and still-warm-from-the-oven pastries. Also visit Raleigh City Farm, a nonprofit where growers tend small urban plots. Home cooks can stop by on Satur-