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The View

EDITOR'S NOTE

A common question from readers about our home features is why we don't show more "before" photos. Honestly, it's because we have so many good "after" shots that we hate giving up the space, but we get the interest. Seeing the results of an intensive construction and design project is amplified by seeing images of sad homes in need of TLC.

Case in point is our March Renovation feature. A young couple purposely sought out a project home for multiple reasons. They found a dilapidated foursquare that only someone with an eye for design could appreciate; it was a match made in makeover heaven. See the results, starting on Page 20.

Since so many people have been focusing on their interior and exterior spaces this past year, this issue is full of ideas and inspirations. Home tours have gone virtual, and the Fort Worth chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) is working on details for its May event. Meanwhile, you can check out Austin's Modern Home Tour online (it's live March 6 and 7). Houses range from a stunning modern ranch retreat to a development featuring new homes, along with some thoughtful renovations. Learn more on Page 36.

In Marketplace on Page 38, check out the at-home studio/shop of potter Kendall Davis (who's also supplying the restaurant inside the Hotel Drover with tableware), along with some new products in stores now. We go "green" for spring — soft prints to bold stemware — in Finds on Page 40. And we extol the power of a patterned rug in this month's Objects of Desire on Page 42.

As people ease back into travel, especially drivable escapes, we offer a few new local getaways, including the luxe Thompson hotel in downtown Dallas and the Hotel Drover in Fort Worth's Stockyards. Learn more, starting on Page 8.

When the subject of pastrami came up in the office — yes, food is a frequent topic — there were so many questions. What exactly is pastrami? And why is one of our favorite barbecue spots offering a pastrami sandwich? We have answers, beginning on Page 60, in this month's Cravings feature.

Enjoy.

Meda Kessler
Editorial director



ON THE COVER

Go inside a 1911 house that had seen better days but is now the perfect family home for a Fort Worth interior designer. The story starts on Page 18.

Photo by Jeremy Enlow



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Neon signs and an open-air courtyard greet guests at Hotel Drover in Fort Worth's Mule Alley.



The Drover's lobby makes you feel like you've stepped into a luxe ranch with lots of leather, wood and metal. It also features its own bar and library.

Photos courtesy of Hotel Drover

>> Hotel Drover

WESTERN FLAIR WITH A MODERN SPIN

While new shops, restaurants and workspaces have popped up over the past year in Fort Worth's renovated Mule Alley, the most anticipated Stockyards opening has been Hotel Drover.

Part of the Marriott Autograph Collection of boutique properties, the Drover embraces Fort Worth's Western heritage with its name — drovers moved livestock to market — and myriad design details inside and out.

The low-slung building resembles a swanky hacienda with its clay tile roof and stone facade studded with metal sconces and copper longhorns. At night, it glows with large neon "Drover" signs and a rope-throwing neon cowboy standing tall in the front courtyard of 97 West Kitchen & Bar.





Art can be found throughout the hotel, including on the chef's table dining chairs inside 97 West Kitchen & Bar. Themed details found throughout include "tooled" wallpaper.

Photos by Ralph Lauer



With water features, trees and lanterns strung overhead, the space is an inviting one.

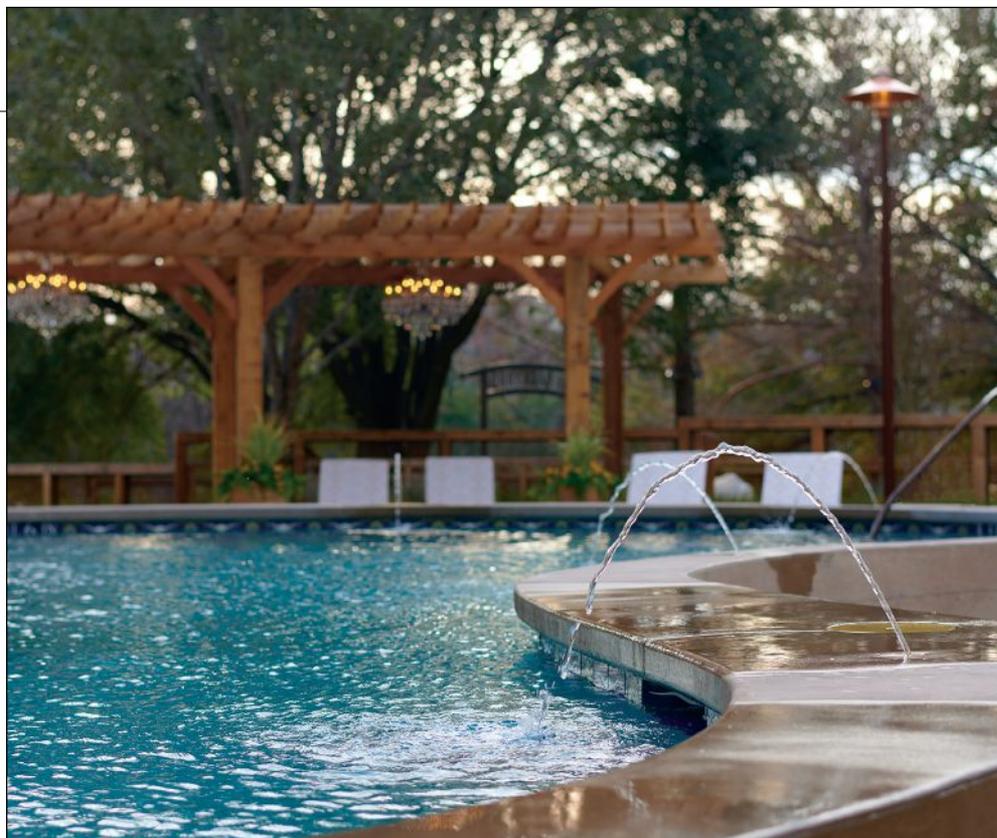
Inside, the lobby includes a two-story library filled with Texas-themed books and a bar with comfy lounge seating (there's also a bar with an open dining area in 97 West).

The restaurant — see more details on Page 64 — is accessible from the hotel or from the brick-lined street. While the chef's

table — there's also one located outdoors — has a prime view of the open kitchen, we also like the seating that offers views of The Backyard. The Drover has taken advantage of its acreage along the tree-lined Marine Creek by adding an inviting pool and lounge area with cabanas, fire pits, yard games and a live-entertainment stage.

Families will like the bunk rooms, which offer flexible sleeping options. Suites feature luxe touches such as custom artwork, fireplaces and private patios. Room details include wood beams, area rugs and custom textiles. Rooms start at \$189 a night.

And while there are plenty of shopping options in the Stockyards, you'll find two inside Hotel Drover's lobby. The Luchese Custom Collection offers accessories,



A large swimming pool with plenty of lounge-chair seating nearby is one of the attractions in The Backyard.

Photo courtesy of Hotel Drover



Steel fountains in the restaurant's front courtyard add to the ambiance.

Photo by Ralph Lauer



Order s'mores kits from the kitchen and enjoy an evening in front of the fire pits.

Photo courtesy of Hotel Drover

plus custom and made-to-fit boots exclusive to this store. Little White Lies is a boutique featuring apparel, gifts, jewelry and more, all in pale colors befitting the name.

Looking for an event space big or small? The Drover has several options, including private dining rooms in the restaurant. Do check out The Barn with its tin siding, massive vaulted ceilings featuring 150-year-old wood beams from Montana, crystal chandeliers and a private outdoor space. — **Meda Kessler**

200 Mule Alley Drive, Fort Worth, 817-420-6014, hoteldrover.com



SPACES

Kendall Davis Clay: New digs, more ceramics

Leaving her cozy retail spot on Fort Worth's Magnolia Avenue was bittersweet for potter Kendall Davis, but her new studio is now mere steps away from her home. Actually, it's downstairs, as Davis has turned part of her house into a showroom/work studio with space for an apprentice as well. She and her husband opened up the first-floor room's ceiling to its original shiplap and wood beams and painted them white. Two large windows allow for lots of natural light. "Growing up, we lived over my mother's boutique in Granbury, so it just feels right," says Davis, who's been making ceramics for about 18 years. Now, there's more display room for Davis' handcrafted tableware, serving pieces and decorative items such as vases and pots. (The custom-built shelves come from **David Brown of BWC Furniture**.) The showroom is open to the public noon to 4 p.m. the first Friday and Saturday of each month and by appointment. Davis also sells her wares once a month at **The Clearfork Farmers Market** in Fort Worth and is providing the new

Hotel Drover with tableware, serving pieces and vases for its in-house restaurant (learn more on Page 64).
1725 6th Ave., Fort Worth,
214-394-1653,
kendalldavisclay.com;
instagram.com/kendall_davis_clay



Artist Kendall Davis and Lucy in the new Fort Worth showroom. Custom-built display shelves hold extra inventory and Davis' hand-thrown ceramics, from tableware to decorative items such as vases and pots. Custom arrangement by Moss Floral Design.



Top, Davis has partnered with the new Hotel Drover in Fort Worth's Mule Alley/Stockyards development on a line of plates, serving pieces and vases. You'll see them in 97 West Kitchen & Bar, the hotel's restaurant. While Davis primarily works in subtle colors and patterns, she's always experimenting with design and color.

Photos by Meda Kessler

RADAR

Dining Out

BY MEDA KESSLER AND JUNE NAYLOR



Gino Rojas

IN THE WORKS

Revolver Taco Lounge returns to Fort Worth

Regino (Gino) Rojas looks to late spring for bringing **Revolver Taco Lounge** back to Fort Worth as he takes over the vacated Taco Diner spot in Sundance Square. Members of the Bass family, who oversee the downtown development, are big Revolver fans and featured RTL at a New Year's Eve pop-up in 2019. Rojas will introduce the two-part concept that makes his **Deep Ellum** location such a hit in Dallas. Revolver Taco Lounge, which made its 2011 debut in Fort Worth on West 7th Street before moving in 2016 to Forest Park Boulevard, occupies half of the restaurant. That's where you can enjoy carnitas and mole, along with delicate corn tortilla tacos stuffed with delicacies such as duck breast, lobster, trout, octopus, squash and chorizo made with wagyu beef and pork. In the other half, find **Purepecha**. This concept began with Revolver's relocation to Dallas in 2017 and won Rojas a James Beard Award semifinalist spot on the list of best chefs in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Rojas and up to 10 family members prepare a prix fixe tasting menu in a more upscale setting. Watch for a possible May opening. **Sundance Square, 156 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, revolvertacolounge.com**



A chef's table sits across from the open kitchen in the main dining room. Among the shareable dishes is a charcuterie board with everything from thin slices of prickly pear-cured pork tenderloin to housemade pimento cheese. Cocktails include clever concoctions such as The Hat King.



Udon noodles with a side of shrimp and vegetable tempura

OPENINGS

Stockyards kicks it up (another) notch with 97 West Kitchen & Bar

Grant Morgan has been busy. Along with the opening of 97 West Kitchen & Bar inside Fort Worth's **Hotel Drover**, the executive chef has been working on menus for the lobby bar, special events, future room service — including birthday party packages for families — and more. But the spacious restaurant, which has more than 200 seats, including an outdoor chef's table, is the culinary showcase for Morgan, his team and the bar staff, all led by food and beverage director **Brian Richards**. Expect a very



Beef tenderloin tartare topped with fried capers, pink peppercorns and a quail egg is served with Creole mustard sauce and slices of toasted bread.



Photos by Ralph Lauer

approachable menu along with select items for more adventurous eaters. With the Drover's emphasis on all things Western with a dash of contemporary flair, look for those themes to continue in the dining experience. In the hotel proper, that means the lobby bar with its living-room ambiance, a signature of many properties in Marriott's Autograph Collection. With the restaurant, it begins with a landscaped patio outside the front entrance to 97 West. Inside, reclaimed wood, leather furniture, rustic lighting and an open kitchen set the scene. Sparkling chandeliers add a bit of glam to the private dining rooms, which face the back porch of 97 West. From there, you get a great view of **The Backyard**, a tree-lined space where you'll find the pool, fire pits, a live entertainment stage and more.

Guests also can sit at the restaurant's spacious bar, which divides the dining room. Look for custom touches such as etched stemware, along with vases by Fort Worth potter **Kendall Davis**, whose serving pieces and plates also are used at the chef's tables. And yes, it's family-friendly. Don't miss the pint-sized hand-painted tables and chairs designed for the little ones.

200 Mule Alley Drive, Fort Worth, 817-420-6014, hoteldrover.com

Sushi Sakana: There's a lot to love

A welcome addition to the Southlake dining scene, there's a lot to recommend here, from the agedashi tofu to the chirashi don. Our bowl of udon noodles with seafood and tempura vegetables on the side was perfect on a cool day. We splurged on dessert — cheesecake topped with mango — and were rewarded with a pretty and not-too-sweet ending to a fine meal. The sushi menu is extensive, as is the appetizer list, which includes dumplings, crispy calamari and Japanese fried chicken. Takeout and in-house dining are available.

2175 Southlake Blvd., 817-329-1686, sushisakanatx.com/southlake



Agedashi tofu

Photos by Meda Kessler