Spanish Zeitgeist

or the Petroleum Club, was slavish projects, The River Oaks high-rise historical threads. Neither of these challenged, two stories in this about how this city is historically themselves. That’s it, folks. Two.

Blossom Street, and the overgrown landscaping, the strong simplicity of the previous “skin” of the building, with its floor-to-ceiling windows and heavily landscaped motor court, overlooking River Oaks rooftops. The 1960s Miesian-style building, designed by Cameron Fairchild, could have easily been imploded — better buildings have been. But new owner Richard Liebelt kept the footprint and the idea of the previous “skin” of the building, and the design team, EI International and Rottet Studio, preserved what we remember: the Miesian precepts, the lush landscaping, the strong simplicity and floor-to-ceiling windows (page 34). Meanwhile, the mighty 63-year-old Petroleum Club has moved for at least the fourth time in its history, from one downtown skyscraper to another, so there is certainly nothing to be saved in this instance — except its wildcat history, which Kirksey Architecture does in spades (page 34).

Holly Moore, feature writer in Chief at hollypapercitymag.com

**Letter from the Editor**

I’ve been watching the transformation of Hermann Park and going at the面粉silently turned Thomas Wolfs plans for Memorial Park, and wonder where we’ll be in 10 to 30 years. Why have I never realized how fascinating interesting green spaces is to the texture of a city? I mean Houston’s lack of charm and history, and jump on a plane to see 189th-century gardens in England and covered bridges in Vermont. But here in Houston, we might have the beginning of something historically important. I’ve just begun gazing but will report back on my findings. I’m trying to think if I’ve seen many charmingly beautiful natural settings, folks, or gardens in Houston, and I can of course think of only two. First, Memorial Park. Horse trails in the winter, leading from the polo club past Memorial Park Racetrack. Then there are Salle Werner-Vaughn’s saved cottages. There are four on Blossom Street and the overgrown surroundings are as much a part of the poetry of the invention themselves. That’s it, folks. Two. Relating to my other oft-heard rant about how this city is historically challenged, these two stories in this month’s issue have intersecting historical threads. Neither of these projects, The River Oak’s high-rise called The River Oaks Apartments, was slave to its history but, in fact, took what was translatable and memorable and wove that into the renovation. The River Oaks luxury high-rise, on Westheimer between Buffalo Speedway and Edloe, was once called The River Oaks Apartments. We all know the building, with its floor-to-ceiling windows and heavily landscaped motor court, overlooking River Oaks rooftops. The 1960s Miesian-style building, designed by Cameron Fairchild, could have easily been imploded — better buildings have been. But new owner Richard Liebelt kept the footprint and the idea of the previous “skin” of the building, and the design team, EI International and Rottet Studio, preserved what we remember: the Miesian precepts, the lush landscaping, the strong simplicity and floor-to-ceiling windows (page 34). Meanwhile, the mighty 63-year-old Petroleum Club has moved for at least the fourth time in its history, from one downtown skyscraper to another, so there is certainly nothing to be saved in this instance — except its wildcat history, which Kirksey Architecture does in spades (page 34).

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4, 6, 8 POP. CULTURE. GOSSIP.

Party: Contemporary Arts Museum Houston Gala
12 Party: Bayou Bend Garden Party
20 Design: Dace Perugini Voice Public Relations’ modern offices
22 Party: Houston Symphony Wine Dinner and Collector’s Auction Party: Asia Society’s Tiger Ball
23 Parties: Mooses Society’s America in Paris Dinner Concert Gala, Society for the Performing Arts Gala, Houston Grand Opera’s 60th-Anniversary Celebration
29 Fashion: Spring via la vida
34 Design: The River Oaks reaches new heights — The Petroleum Club’s new digs
36 Design: Five minutes with Holly Hunt
38 Design: Bailey McCarthy’s River Oaks abode
42 PC House + Art
48 House: John Alexander book signing at M.Colin Gallery
50 Art: Scardi Gallery toasts 20 years.
57 Special Section: Beauty
60 Beauty: Where to get summer-ready.

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This JUST IN

Newness Around Town … Aria Stone Gallery opens a showroom this month in Decorative Center Houston on Woodway, main-level,

with 10,000 square feet of book-match displays and collections of marble and granite from some of the most exclusive quarries around the world. There’s a reason they call it a gallery … Salt Air Seafood Kitchen, another great outlyer from Clark Cooper Concepts, the opening party at 3339 Kitt in the west Houston neighborhood of West University, led by chef Brandi Key (Copa Ristorante) … Cane Rosso, serving up wood-fired, Napoletano-style pizza, opens in the Heights in 1385 North Shepherd with full bar, patio, house-made pastas and pies, with San Marzano tomatoes, the fireplace by chef Cameron Cozens in Dallas’ Diner El Salto … El Tiempo Cantina Annex has opened at 322 Westheimer at Taft (in the Old La Strada space). Chef Dominic Laursen reveals the menu after the opening at the new restaurant is “We share a parking lot with Numbers, a real Houston institution. There are two palapas near the front door. And, three, the amazing eight-table patio facing Westheimer.” And, oh yes, the dumbwaiter can lift 900 pounds of fajitas and margaritas in 18 seconds to the second floor.

10,000 square feet of book-match displays and collections of marble and granite from some of the most exclusive quarries around the world. There’s a reason they call it a gallery … Salt Air Seafood Kitchen, another great outlyer from Clark Cooper Concepts, the opening party at 3339 Kitt in the west Houston neighborhood of West University, led by chef Brandi Key (Copa Ristorante) … Cane Rosso, serving up wood-fired, Napoletano-style pizza, opens in the Heights in 1385 North Shepherd with full bar, patio, house-made pastas and pies, with San Marzano tomatoes, the fireplace by chef Cameron Cozens in Dallas’ Diner El Salto … El Tiempo Cantina Annex has opened at 322 Westheimer at Taft (in the Old La Strada space). Chef Dominic Laursen reveals the menu after the opening at the new restaurant is “We share a parking lot with Numbers, a real Houston institution. There are two palapas near the front door. And, three, the amazing eight-table patio facing Westheimer.” And, oh yes, the dumbwaiter can lift 900 pounds of fajitas and margaritas in 18 seconds to the second floor.


Residential Sustainable Design by an Interior or Architectural Designer Winner: Intexture Architects. Lead architects Russell Huiskka and Ramee Huiskka.


AND THE 2015 WINNERS ARE …
