

# EL DECOR

## L.A.'S NEXT WAVE



Los Angeles has a hip new neighborhood. Once described by Joan Didion as “the underside of Hollywood,” the area around the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Highland Avenue is quickly evolving into an epicenter for art and design. Last spring, Joel Chen augmented his trade-only JF Chen Loft by launching the nearby C Project, an enormous, antiques-filled space that’s open to the public ([jfchen.com](http://jfchen.com)). In the fall, the esteemed L.A. gallery Regen Projects, whose roster includes such artists as Catherine Opie and Dan Graham, relocated to a sweeping 1947 film warehouse ([regenprojects.com](http://regenprojects.com)). But the most storied piece of real estate, and the most exciting, might be a few blocks away at 7000 Romaine Street—an Art Deco structure that once housed Howard Hughes’s headquarters. Fort Street Studio, purveyors of sumptuous silk rugs, now occupies some of the space ([fortstreetstudio.com](http://fortstreetstudio.com)). Fellow tenants include Just One Eye, Paolo Russo’s arty, eclectic boutique that carries avant-garde designers, vintage jewelry, and pieces that straddle the boundary between art and fashion, such as a Damien Hirst leather backpack speckled with pharmaceuticals ([justoneeye.com](http://justoneeye.com)). Around the corner, in a strip mall on Melrose, chefs Jon Shook, Vinny Dotolo, and Ludo Lefebvre are opening Trois Mec, perhaps the city’s most anticipated restaurant of the year ([troismec.com](http://troismec.com)).