



◀ **BEST
INTERNATIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Dining at **Tei An** is like taking a trip to Japan—without the outrageous airfare and jet lag. Hatsumi Kuzuu of Kuzuu Design succeeded in bringing the best of Tokyo to One Arts Plaza. The atmosphere is decidedly chic yet natural—a sake cup installation mixes with the beautiful stonework arranged in the middle of the restaurant. The utilitarian—and somewhat sobering—uniforms come straight from the Japanese soba bars.



THE 2009
RESTAURANT
DESIGN
AWARDS

The *D Home* editors took on the task of finding the prettiest particulars in restaurants all around town. For our purposes, forget the food. This is all about the most delightful dining details.

> **BEST TAPESTRY**

We've always coveted the tapestry on the east wall of **Hattie's** in Oak Cliff. No more coveting: turns out it is a digital photo printed on a micro-fiber canvas, and anyone can use the technique to replicate the image of their choice. "The Legend of the Blue Willow" plate was created by Meisel in Dallas.

> **BEST PRESENTATION**

We have a love/hate relationship with the desserts at **Tillman's Roadhouse**. We love the desserts, and we hate ourselves for not being able to resist them. Maybe that's why we love the "cookie paddle" so much. The R.W. Smith & Company-designed piece is perfect for meting out the appropriate punishment after we once again inhale one cookie too many.

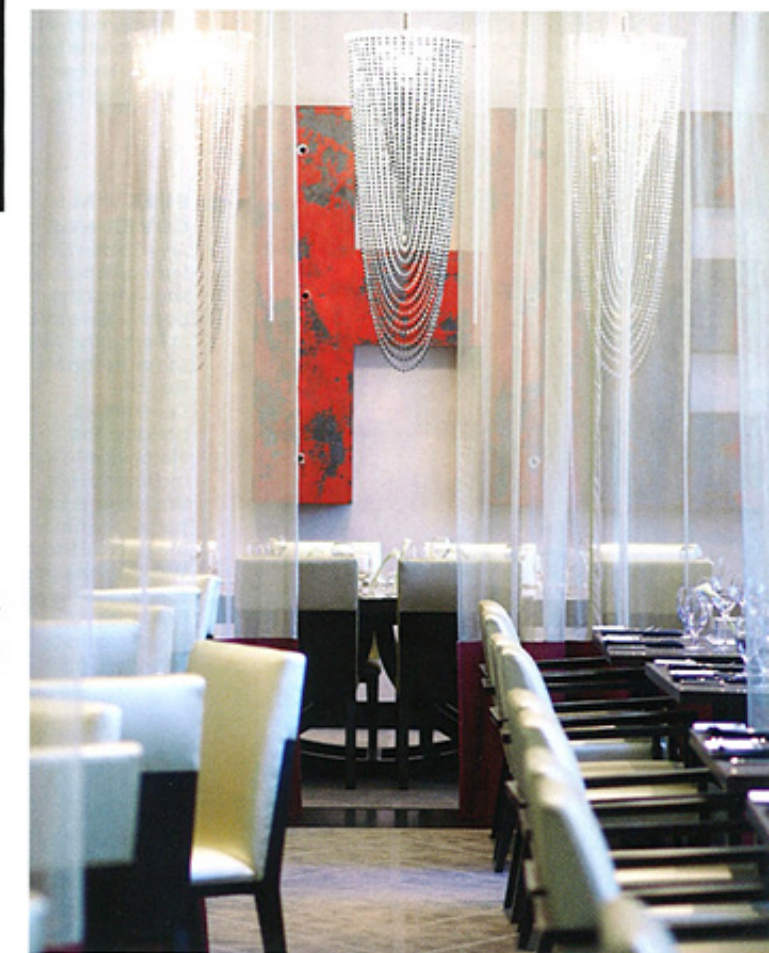


BEST ACOUSTICS ▲

Whether you're having the "It's not you, it's me" talk or proposing marriage, you won't risk being misheard at **Salum**. Not that it was planned that way. "We had no idea what it would sound like in there," owner and chef Abraham Salum says. So much for best-laid plans. In the end, though, designer Julio Quiñones created a sleek, sophisticated space that's ideal for those with a need to be heard.

> **BEST PLACE TO HAVE AN AFFAIR**

Designed by local firm Plan B Group, The Stoneleigh Hotel's restaurant **Bolla** showcases rich colors and textures with a modern and glamorous appeal. The flattering lighting, chic chandeliers, and privacy panels make it the perfect place to sample forbidden fruit. The hotel rooms upstairs don't hurt either.





< BEST ENTRANCE
 When Liz and Jim Baron opened the **Blue Mesa Grill** on Northwest Highway, they faced a couple of challenges: how to create a dramatic entryway in a strip mall and how to avoid the second-floor "kiss of death." Architect Rick Carrell saved the day with this gorgeous oversize door that creates a canyon effect in the restaurant's entry. Once inside, you completely forget that you passed a Container Store on your way in.



< BEST PRIVATE DINING ROOM
 Todd Fiscus and Rob Dailey created something out of a fairy tale in the back room at **Tillman's Roadhouse**. The dreamy, tree- and feather-filled private parlor can seat up to 24, and it's ideal for an elegant lunch, dinner, or cocktail reception. Choose from three set menus. Looking to bring some of this whimsy to your own backhouse? Hire party planner extraordinaire Fiscus for your next big bash.



^ BEST PLACE TO REST YOUR BUM
 At most restaurants, you don't spend much time admiring the spot where you put your tush. Not so at **Screen Door**. George Cameron Nash designed the "One Arts" chair for the restaurant, and the style has become a top seller. With their generous seating proportions, the chairs provide the ideal place to settle in for a leisurely brunch, lunch, dinner, or afternoon tea. Both pretty *and* comfy, these seats are just as stylish and genteel as you'd expect in a "modern Southern kitchen."

v BEST SIDE SERVICE
 At **Rathbun's Blue Plate Kitchen**, the side dishes are a main attraction—and not only because of the food. The serving dishes aren't bad either. While you're munching on veggies, grits, and other sides, the lovely pots from Le Creuset add a splash of color to your table decor. Lucky for you, the cookware company just opened a new signature space in Allen (see p. 24), so getting this look at home just became a whole lot easier.



BLUE MESA: SCREEN DOOR: ELIZABETH LAVIN; TILLMAN'S: CHRIS PLAVDAL; BLUE PLATE: KEVIN HUNTER MARPLE; GLASSES: MAXINE HELFMAN