

THE Hot CORNER 3RD & SPRING

L.A. Live is clearly the most pivotal downtown development, but the city's historic core still has plenty of excitement to spare. Case in point: the Douglas Building, a rounded structure that was conceived as office space in 1898, when downtown streets still teemed with horse-drawn carriages. The restored five-story building now contains 50 lofts and ground floor retail. Douglas' proximity to government offices, freeways and the Red Line has the building primed for discovery.

Ariel Graham opened **Lot 44 Coffee** in May, specializing in fair-trade organic coffee that's brewed to order. Graham considered Hollywood, Santa Monica and the Valley, but fell for the corner's "distinctive Tribeca viba." Graham's most popular extraction method is the "beehouse" ceramic cup filter but on request she can also brew coffee via espresso machine, French press, Chemex, siphon or Brazilian Sock. Her seasonal coffee menu is currently highlighted by Misty Valley from Ethiopia, which Graham describes as "fruity with berry overtones, vanilla and very lush."



Brian Lee originated **Origami Bistro & Bar** in Valencia and opened his fifth restaurant/lounge on The Hot Corner in July, specializing in Japanese cuisine with French and Latin flourishes. Brian's wife Stacey oversees Origami's menu, including baked black cod in miso-banana sauce, Japanese amberjack sashimi with ponzu, garlic oil and yuzu-

kosho sauce, plus more unusual offerings like jellyfish sushi. The Lees prefer a natural aesthetic, with black Indonesian bamboo and red glass tiles.

Chef Nary Kim, sister Mary and brother-in-law Dave are now opening **Ma Petit Bakery & Café** next to Lot 44. Nary graduated from Le Cordon Bleu in Pasadena and wanted to channel her passion into a French restaurant. The design succeeds in bringing the outdoors inside. The sprawling space has a stamped concrete floor and order-at-the-counter service, which helps keep prices down. Nary makes everything daily from scratch, down to the breads, jams and ice cream. High-value entrees include maple syrup & mustard pork, pan-seared ginger-soy halibut and fried macadamia-nut chicken.

The Douglas Building isn't just a place to live and consume. It's also a haven for contemporary art. Mary Sanburn opened **Coldsprings Fine Art** in September, with a mission to introduce innovative art and artists to the community. No medium is exempt, whether it's painting, photography, drawing, jewelry, even poetry or dance.

Coldsprings currently displays Ben Dewell's photographs of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and, beginning November 28, will show Philipp Jordan's "1000 Teddies Project," acrylic and oil paintings of teddy bears. "This really speaks to the child in all of us," says Sanburn. 3rd & Spring is part of the Downtown Art Walk, and on November 13, Lot 44 will join the tour, displaying photographic mosaics from Adam Lewis Smith.



Ma Petit Bakery & Cafe

The Douglas Building also houses a 2,500-square-foot atrium that acts as a public space, hosting live music, art openings and charity benefits. All this development gets Brian Lee excited: "We strongly feel this section of downtown was untapped and has huge potential for growth." **NA**

-Joshua Lurie

COLDSPRINGS FINE ART 215 W. 3rd St. • Downtown • (213) 617-8508
www.coldspringsfineart.com

LOT 44 COFFEE 257 S. Spring St. • Downtown • (213) 626-4646
www.lot44coffee.com

MA PETIT BAKERY & CAFÉ 257 S. Spring St. • Downtown • (213) 625-3328
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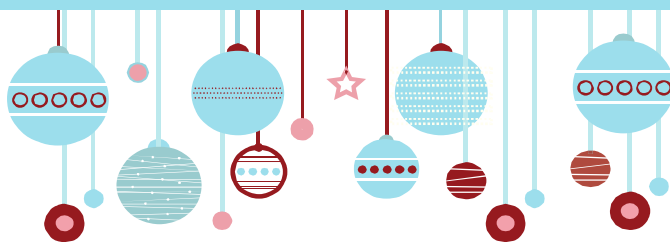
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