



Bookhou

What Husband-and-wife John Booth and Arouna Khounnoraj run this home décor and design boutique that was part of this year's Interior Design Show. Pieces range from ethereal handmade wall hangings to minimalist furniture. **Why** Their natural fabrics have images that salute the Great White North, like adorable onesies with hand-printed drawings of moose, bunnies and beavers.

798 Dundas St. West., 416-203-2549, bookhou.com

Gourmet Burger Co.

What If you're bored with burger and fries, GBC's creations may be just the thing to get that spark back. **Why** They do the Aussie burger right, topped with fried egg, bacon, braised beets and grilled pineapple. Nods go to the Works Burger & Mushroom Melt, not to mention the fries that combine just enough crisp with just enough squish.

482 Parliament St., 647-344-5103

Swipe Books

What The 8-year-old shop specializing in books on graphic design, advertising and architecture has moved. It now shares a restored factory space with other like-minded establishments. **Why** The dynamic space houses myriad items, like the handmade stool created from 500 balloons, or the set of buttons that commemorates Toronto's subway stations.

401 Richmond St. W., Suite 121, 1-800-56-SWIPE, swipe.com

Barbershop Gallery

What Formerly the Zippie Café, the Parishil team has transformed the spot into a bright gallery space, and the back into a small studio. **Why** The current exhibit pays tribute to President Barack Obama, marking his first presidential visit to Canada.

1718 Queen St. W., 416-535-2157, parishil.com

Zoots Café

What A cozy café in Dundas West with a wide range of loose-leaf teas, organic fair-trade coffee, and pastries from local bakeries, like Clafouti's chocolate almond croissant. **Why** Details like vintage vinyl stools, quirky out-of-print books and aged board games, make for a delicious time warp.

1438 Dundas St. W., 416-536-2233

Vdara

What This new Queen West restaurant strives to charm foodies and local hipsters alike with its "upper bohemian" style. **Why** The offbeat décor combines dark wood tables and black and white chairs with a faux-antler chandelier and a grey stone wall. Nurse a cocktail at the monthly gallery night, with local artist Andy Schmidt currently on display.

735 Queen Street W., 416-868-3272, vdararestaurant.com



Vin Room

What This Mission district bar is the latest in tasting and tapas gems. **Why** It's impossible not to please the palate with hot bites like lobster croquettes paired with any of the 64 wine selections available for sampling.

2310 4th St. S.W., 403-457-5522, vinroom.com