



## URBAN PROWL *Dallas' longtime antiques district wipes off the dust and reveals a perfectly polished modern edge*

### HOME FRONT DESIGN

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More than 50 years ago at the height of the mid-century movement, Dallas developer magnate Trammell Crow envisioned a “to-the-trade” mecca just west of downtown, a place where the best furniture and lighting could be showcased in a tight geographic area.

Ironically, as the Trinity Arts and Design District evolved, it was more haven to classic than contemporary. Antiques ruled the scene.

But much has changed since 1954. Vacant warehouses have become showrooms, empty spaces have been turned into galleries, and many designers and decorators have begun to focus on Eames and Arne as much as Louis and Chippendale.

A number of galleries and stores have picked up and moved to the district from Uptown or Deep Ellum locations, bringing with them a new energy and focus.

It's more than just the shops that are reflecting this change. The first mixed-use development in the area, Trinity Lofts on Slocum Street, has a contemporary, sleek facade that houses 109,000 square feet of residential and business space; four additional buildings are planned for the future. For mod lovers, it's easy and fun to make a day of browsing in the neighborhoods. Check out our faves.

**DALLAS CONTEMPORARY** Located just off Industrial Boulevard, this 1950s-era sheet metal plant will be transformed into a new home for Dallas Contemporary when it moves from its Wilson Historic District home in 2009. This centerpiece development on the Trinity Riverfront has some locals comparing the area's future to Manhattan's Soho and Chelsea gallery districts.



The 12,000-square-foot space will showcase indoor and outdoor modern exhibitions by emerging Texas talents, host educational programs, and an artist-in-residence studio. An additional 24,000 square feet will be leased to design-related businesses. [www.thecontemporary.net](http://www.thecontemporary.net) ■