



out on a limb

TRAVEL FALL 2008 Olympic National Park, Washington

Second in Command

As first-tier American cities like New York, Los Angeles and Miami have become euro-fueled luxury romper rooms, creative types with more ideas than cash are fleeing to second cities, where it's possible to paint, play, cook, build — and still eat. So much easy experimentation has now made the "provinces" the country's true cultural hotbeds. Here's what's happening in Baltimore and beyond. **CHARLES RUNNETTE**

PORTLAND, ORE.	HOUSTON	BALTIMORE	DENVER	MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL
<p>It's the new ... San Francisco, drawing priced-out Californians who don't mind four months with no sunlight.</p>	<p>It's the new ... Miami, full of petro-wives itching to become someone's patron.</p>	<p>It's the new ... Philadelphia, with enough grittiness to feed any starving-artist fantasy.</p>	<p>It's the new ... Chicago, cheffy and musical with serious eco-cred and zero attitude.</p>	<p>It's the new ... New York, a mini-apple that's sprouting starchitecture while retaining some seediness (Diablo Cody danced here).</p>
<p>Who's there ... Studiously scruffy hipsters who have a way with organic pig's trotters or harbor hopes of being in the next great band.</p>	<p>Who's there ... Designers and artists of every stripe, who come together at David Brown's Spacetaker, an arts resource center in the Winter Street Studios.</p>	<p>Who's there ... Multihyphenates fond of cross-pollination. Case study: Duff Goldman, bassist of Solihado, the force behind Charm City Cakes and star of his own Food Network reality show.</p>	<p>Who's there ... Environmental capitalists dropping dollars in the dining rooms of LoDo (Lower Downtown), along with bands like Flotbots and the Fray.</p>	<p>Who's there ... A thriving intelligentsia that includes the Native American author David Treuer and the FlatPak house architect Charles Lazor, not to mention Prince acolytes filling the clubs.</p>
<p>They hang at ... The music hub Doug Fir Lounge; the sustainable-food guru Marco Shaw's Fife; La Pigeon for truffled brioche on chipped china; and Voodoo Doughnuts for late-night delicacies.</p>	<p>They hang at ... Scott Tyner's new Textile, a restaurant in a renovated mill; the latest opening at the New World Museum; the back-in-vogue Café Annie; and the Continental Club for acts like Molly and the Ringwalds.</p>	<p>They hang at ... Station North's gallery district, the studios in the Bromo-Seltzer Arts Tower and Michael Benevento's Current Gallery — when they're not lo-cavoring at the hot spot Woodberry Kitchen.</p>	<p>They hang at ... Jennifer Jasinski's Bistro Vendome and Rioja; Alex Seidel's Fruition, where the cheese plate earns raves; and, after hours, the divey jazz club El Chepultepec or Billy's Inn for 75 types of tequila.</p>	<p>They hang at ... The Jean Nouvel'd Guthrie Theater and the Herzog & de Meuronized Walker Art Center (where Wolfgang Puck opened 20.21), as well as gastro-temples like Isaac Becker's 112 Eatery.</p>
<p>Mascot ... Naomi Pomeroy, the co-owner of Beast, whose meat-laden multicourse dinners are the apotheosis of the farm-to-table movement.</p>	<p>Mascots ... Magda Sayeg and Dan Fergus, the "It" couple behind Domy books, Café Brasil, Raye boutique and the Knittas, a guerrilla gang that leaves knitted cozies on stop signs.</p>	<p>Mascots ... Victoria Legrand and Alex Scally, the A-city asylum seekers behind the electronica group Beach House, which composes and records mostly on a four-track.</p>	<p>Mascot ... The night-life impresario and World Poker champ Francois Safieddine, who owns 5 Degrees, 24k, Monark and the new Suite 200 in Larimer Square.</p>	<p>Mascot ... James Dayton, the young hotshot who designed one of the city's most talked-about buildings, the Gehry-esque (he worked for Frank) MacPhail Center for Music.</p>