



## IN-AGAIN INMAN

Aristocratic Inman Park is the kind of consummate country-meets-city neighborhood that makes people flee wintry Northern climes for the New South. A 19th-century spin on the '50s suburb, Atlanta's first planned community boasts mega Victorian mansions and green spaces like Springvale Park within walking distance to the happening hubs of Little Five Points and the booming Old Fourth Ward. "It's not cookie-cutter," says real estate agent Pat Westrick of the motley mix of lawyers and architects, but also young creatives who relish the neighborhood's convenience to city life. "You definitely realize how central it is to everything," says Brad Lewis, cofounder of creative agency The SuperGroup, whose Inman Alley neighbors are architects, ad agencies, film companies and a chef named Kevin who makes killer steaks. Modern design is scarce in Inman because of National Register of Historic Places restrictions. But there is a mini-modernist boom town

*"At the time that I moved into the area, there was not much to be had here. Now, some three years later, O4W is one of the city's hottest neighborhoods."*

*—Chad David Shearer, graphic designer, DJ, Caren West PR Creative Director*





Close up detail of The Florian-Hart House designed by bldgs.



Chad David Shearer at Adaptation.

rising up in Inman's shadow. The hipster new-kid-on-the-block is the Old Fourth Ward, sandwiched between the MLK Historic District and Inman. Like some European appraising the Americas, photographer Ruth Dusseault calls it "the new world," with its cool restaurants and retail. The modernist mecca has its own Sol LeWitt sculpture and a conceptual art gallery, Saltworks. Crack houses are being toppled for cutting-edge design like the mind-blowing Florian-Hart House. Designed by *New York Times* magazine-lauded architects Brian Bell and David Yocum of the firm bldgs, the house has a facade painted by DJ/artist John Otte and is flanked by a host of modernist starter homes, many by resident architect Scott West, who explains the mod madness in the O4W is "not like Inman Park where someone's going to be pissed off at you building a modern house next to a Victorian."



The Florian-Hart House and more traditional neighbors.

**WHO'S WHO:** IN THE 'HOOD: ROCK STAR CHEFS RICCARDO ULLIO AND SHAUN DOTY; PUBLICIST AND GIRL-ABOUT-TOWN LIZ LAPIDUS; HIGH MUSEUM-EXHIBITED PHOTOGRAPHER RUTH DUSSEULT; CULTURE-JAMMING ARTIST RONNIE LAND; CNN WORLD REPORT ANCHOR GUILLERMO ARDUINO; PR MAVEN CAREN WEST AND BUSINESS PARTNER CHAD DAVID SHEARER, WHO WORK AND PLAY IN THE OLD FOURTH WARD/INMAN PARK NEXUS. DOWN THE ROAD A PIECE IN PONCEY-HIGHLAND: JANE FONDA.

**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE:** A BLEND OF SOCIETY AND SUBCULTURE, INMAN HAS SHELTERED COCA-COLA MAGNATE ASA CANDLER AND A STILL KICKING COUNTERCULTURE. EACH YEAR SINCE 1974 THE ANNUAL INMAN PARK FESTIVAL HAS FEATURED BELOVED ECCENTRICS THE SEED AND FEED MARCHING ABOMINABLE BAND, MANY OF WHOM LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND IF IT'S WACKINESS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN IMPROV AT DAD'S GARAGE THEATRE COMPANY.

**BOTTOM LINE:** AFTER A DECLINE IN THE '70S (WHEN THE PIONEERING HIPPIES MOVED IN AND SNAGGED SOME GREAT DEALS), INMAN HAS RETURNED WITH A VENGEANCE: \$1.2 MILLION WAS THE TOP SALE IN 2007 FOR A SINGLE FAMILY HOME, WHILE AN UPPER-ECHELON CONDO COMMANDED \$799,900. SCOTT WEST'S MODERN HOUSES IN THE OLD FOURTH WARD, MEANWHILE, SELL IN THE \$400,000-700,000 RANGE. RESIDENCES AT THE MIXED USE STUDIOPLEX SPACE IN THE OLD FOURTH WARD, HOUSED IN A CONVERTED 1906 COTTON WAREHOUSE AND FUTURE HOME TO GLASS ARTIST MATT JANKES STUDIO AND CHEF SCOTT SERPA'S NEW VENTURE, START AT AN AFFORDABLE \$159,000.

## INMAN PARK AND THE OLD FOURTH WARD



Parish restaurant.

### GOOD EATS

Several restaurant dynasties call Inman Park home: Kevin Rathbun's upscale meat-opolis Rathbun's, Krog Bar and Kevin Rathbun Steak, named one of the best new steakhouses in America by the red meat-savvy menfolk at *Details*. Riccardo Ullio's pasta empire of Sotto Sotto and Fritti were pioneers, followed by Shaun Doty's fancy, comfort food-mecca, Shaun's, on Edgewood. And good luck finding a parking space any time of day at Parish. Bob Amick's paean to the Big Easy has helped turn Inman Park into a certifiable scene.



A vignette at City Issue.

### RETAIL A GO-GO

Inman's North Highland corridor is on *fire* and boasts that most unusual of Atlanta car culture sights: foot traffic! Even after 10PM! The city-within-a-city has experienced a retail tsunami, with folk art stalwart Barbara Archer Gallery in the house and hip florist Adaptation blooming next door to mid-century modern shrine, the 3,000 square foot City Issue, recently decamped from Buckhead. The area is hopping with big-city refugees like one-time New York doll Jaci Effron who's credited with opening the first real girlified boutique in Inman, Jac; New Orleans transplant Tracy Ewell, who has an eponymous, storybook make-up shop on Lake Avenue; and former Angeleno Laura Saunders, Inman Park Pet Works purveyor of doggie "couture" and organic kibbles.