

Design District?

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When The Contemporary opened on Means St. in 1991, I called the West Side the backside of Atlanta. No longer.

The area is hopping — housing going up, one-off shops, restaurants funky and fine, not to mention the promise of big new park. The Beltline running through promises to engender more.

Early signs suggest that the West Side just might become a design district.

Even in the old days, antique and fabric concerns flocked to the warehouse space. Now Knoll, the venerable furnishings purveyor, is moving to White Provisions, and Retromodern, which specializes in classic modern and cutting-edge contemporary furniture and accessories, is leaving Midtown for Brady Avenue in January. (See picture above.)

That's not all. Owner Scott Reilly has invited The Contemporary's curator Stuart Horodner and gallerists Nancy Solomon and Marcia Wood to curate video art screenings at his place.

Add this to the proximity of two well-known Atlanta galleries, Kiang and Sandler Hudson, and The Contemporary and you have some synergy going.

Rumor has it that the smaller design firms already in residence will be joined by a major architectural firm.

Critical mass?