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# COUNTRY LIVING

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**“In a city where so much has been torn down, it’s a testament to our neighborhood that its bungalows are still here almost 100 years later,”** says resident Maura Cannon.

**C**onsider this a tale of two cities—the one, a collection of Victorian homes and Craftsman bungalows lovingly restored and well shaded under century-old oaks; the other, quirky vintage boutiques and antiques shops in brick storefronts easily mistaken for a rural Main Street. Throw in artists and attorneys, lifelong residents, and well-heeled newcomers, and you’ve got the Heights, a vibrant neighborhood that’s just minutes from downtown Houston. You’ll find great deals—and surprises—at mostly locally owned shops, whether it’s high-end furniture at Heights Antiques on Yale; objets at Installations; or boa-trimmed lamps at Retropolis. “You never know what you’ll find around the corner,” says local author David Welling. “The Heights has a wonderful charm to it.”



Gilbert Perez, founder Bungalow Revival

## PRESERVATIONIST

When interior designer Gilbert Perez purchased a 1912 Arts and Crafts bungalow in 1996, he intended only to remodel and rent it. Instead, he fell in love with the house and decided to move in. In 2003, he launched Bungalow Revival to find, restore, and update fading neighborhood glories. “These houses have souls and stories to tell,” says Perez. “We’re doing a disservice by tearing them down to build huge Hummer homes.” Another group working to preserve the area’s oldest homes is Save the Bungalows, a non-profit advocacy group started by Sheila Sorvari in 2006. To find out more, visit [savethebungalows.org](http://savethebungalows.org).



MAP ILLUSTRATION BY MELISSA SWEET



**THE HEIGHTS'S** shopping district—the 300 block of West 19th street—falls in the shadow of the neon marquee of the 81-year-old Heights cinema. People-watch from the patio of Cricket’s Creamery & Caffé, then stop by Retropolis for 1950s handbags, ’70s beads, and ’40s-inspired dresses. Travel back at 57-year-old Harolds in the Heights, where the owners still cater to clients craving bespoke suits and bench-made shoes.

### GETTING THERE: HOUSTON HEIGHTS



The Heights—named for its rare elevation in Houston—was its own city until annexed in 1920. Just three miles from the center of downtown, Houston Heights is bordered by I-610 to the north, North Main/Studewood to the east, I-10 to the south, and North Shepherd Drive to the west.