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Weekend Guide: Los Angeles

BY CLEO GLYDE | SEPTEMBER 2ND 2011 | 04:42 PM

In a town where every image is iconic - manicured streets fringed with towering palm trees; klieg lights swivelling on red carpet openings; off-duty movie stars at brunch; film noir style corner buildings - the city's mythic showbiz aura fills every frame.

THE TREAT

Enter 10,000 square-foot concept store and exhibition space Royal/T and fall down the rabbit hole of owner Susan Hancock's imagination. Fantasists, design savvy shoppers, art lovers and those fascinated by contemporary Japanese culture flock to this space - where vast interiors, food, art objects and retail all coalesce. Waitresses in doll-like costumes set the tone in the cafe, their Tokyo style costume play all the more heightened by the surrounding, markedly underground limited edition prints and objects for sale by rarely available artists such as Yoshitomo Nara and Yayoi Kusama. Photography books, magazines, toys, watches and specialty items all share the space with curated exhibitions from Hancock's own art collection, under the exposed beams and industrial skylights of a giant warehouse. The conversion renders the space even more extraordinary - with transparent glass encasing the brick and concrete walls and knowingly artificial grass creeping up walls and around the front door.



[Visit the Royal/T website](#)



It is this self-referential thrill that makes Los Angeles unique amongst travel destinations. As the world's pop culture capital, the Los Angeles dream factory has a glittery surface, where Hollywood's globally recognisable inner sanctum frolic in an A-list lotus garden of clubs, restaurants and Malibu mansions. An industry town by nature, the real power brokers keep the cogs turning at the TV and movie studios of Culver City. Behind the glitz of marquee names, a vast creative collaborative of composers, filmmakers, costume designers, makeup artists and writers work, live and play, helping to create interesting neighbourhoods and revitalising the Downtown precinct.

Los Angeles will always be famous for luring its fair share of beautiful people in search of fame and fortune. If angels are privy to humankind's secret ambitions and dreams, then the City of Angels is their ultimate showcase. But situated in the produce haven of the California foodbowl and catering to the every whim of its rich and powerful inhabitants, it also offers plenty of substance for the luxury traveller to enjoy under its glossy surface.