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ISSN 15274-0424



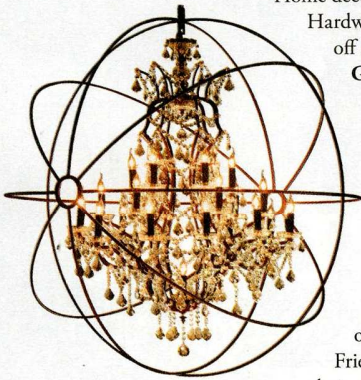


TOP SHOP Houston's new Gallery will have a look similar to its L.A. sister site, with items like the Scissor Lift table, above.



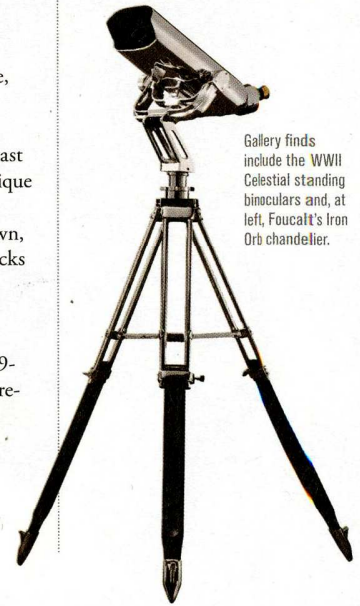
EXCLUSIVE!

## Décor Score!



Home décor haven Restoration Hardware's new high-end spin-off showplace/mega-shop **The Gallery** (4030 Westheimer Rd., 713.328.3145) bows in Highland Village this month. The company chose Houston for its first ground-up venture; an existing building was retrofitted in Los Angeles, and another is in the works for Boston. "We wanted to create a new canvas for our collection," explains Gary Friedman, Restoration Hardware's chairman, who designed the H-Town store with *Architectural Digest*-lauded architect Howard Backen. After Nov. 11, guests will wander through The Gallery's majestic 14-foot gates and a courtyard of crushed granite into a 25,000-square-

foot space—more than four times the size of Restoration Hardware's existing Highland store, which is closing. Inside, there'll be wood-trimmed arches, two dozen pairs of glass French doors and a 40-foot skylight. The space will also boast an organic tea salon, a fresh floral boutique specializing in chic monochromatic arrangements by Houston's David Brown, and a library with vintage periodical racks housing design books and magazines from around the world. A digital rug gallery, by New York star designer Ben Soleimani, will be displayed on a 6-by-9-foot touch screen. Plus, the 7,000-square-foot rooftop garden will have trickling fountains and, in the distance, skyline views. "It doesn't feel like a store," notes Friedman. "It feels like a great estate. You'll feel like you're completely somewhere else." —*Evan Wetmore*



Gallery finds include the WWII Celestial standing binoculars and, at left, Foucault's Iron Orb chandelier.

### NUMBER CRUNCH

# 20,000

Approximate square feet of stone surfaces at 27 W. Rivercrest Drive in the Memorial area. Newly on the market, the über-modern 5,800-square-foot home designed by local architect Allen Bianchi includes a limestone exterior, marble floors, and countertops, sinks, and fireplaces made of other stone materials like onyx. Completed in 2009, the house is listed with John Daugherty Realtors for \$3.8 million.