



Local's tempura green beans



Manuel and Melanie Ramon at Melanie Gayle

**BEST REASON TO EAT YOUR VEGGIES**

**Local**

Tracy Miller, chef at Local, was one of the first in town to show that tempura doesn't have to be Asian with her tempura green beans (with versions subsequently offered by Hibiscus; SushiSamba, Twisted Root, and more). This is the way to eat your green beans: sheathed in a crust to help you forget they are "healthy." Miller fries them just enough to soften their snap and adds a house-made dipping sauce. 2936 Elm St., 214-752-7500.

**BEST SHOP FOR PARTY FROCKS**

**Melanie Gayle**

This is our go-to shop for last-minute party dresses. Store owner Melanie Ramon is a former assistant buyer for Neiman Marcus and has an eye for quality, yet manages to keep the boutique stocked with frocks well below designer costs (\$150 is average; most pieces ring up at less than \$400). New merchandise arrives daily, meaning we can always find something unique. Browse dresses by Ali Ro, Soshanna, Nu Collective, Nikka, Sheri Bodell, Tricia Fix, Yoanna Baraschi, Jenny Han, and more. Look for a new location opening this fall at the Shops at Legacy in Plano. 6818 Snider Plaza, 214-369-1700, melaniegayle.com.



**Best Illumination LIGHTS FANTASTIC**

Discover life after incandescent. You'll find a huge array of compact fluorescent lamps, LED, dimmable fluorescent, and more. Volts: what? Watts: how many? If you're like us, you'll need help figuring all that out, and Jon Sayah is the one to ask. 4645 Greenville Ave., 214-369-1101, lightsfantastic.com.

**Best Reason to Stay Outdoors ANN AND DAVID SUTHERLAND**

Think you can't be both stylish and comfortable while lounging outside? The Sutherlands are here to prove you wrong. The very best names in international design have come together to create collections for David's Sutherland Teak: Philippe Starck, John Hutton, and Robert Kuo. Ann's fabric line, Perennials, has reinvented

the concept of outdoor fabrics. (Read: no more scratchy stripes.) Think subtle colors in beautiful patterns and weaves that you'll want everywhere in your home, not just the patio. 168 Regal Row, 214-638-4161, sutherlandteak.com, perennialsfabrics.com.

**Best One-Stop Remodel CHARLES POLLAN**

Charles Pollan formed Pollan Construction Services this year after 35 years at Quality Fence Co. He's a contractor, subcontractor, and go-to guy who oversees all aspects of your remodel, including your pool and landscaping. Translation: you deal with one person for your biggest headaches. The pickiest people in Dallas depend on him to handle their jobs, knowing that when it's done, it's perfect. 3419 Westminster, No. 273, 214-384-3690, pollanconstruction.com.

**Best Reason to Exit the Toll Road DALLAS DESIGN DISTRICT**

The new Oak Lawn exit opens up an area that had been all but closed off to the masses: the Design District. Along with the trendy art galleries on Dragon Street, which have always been open to the public, selected shops, antiques stores, and secret (until now) custom shops are welcoming clients that are not "in the trade."

**Best Trip Without Dropping Acid SCOTT + COONER**

This place is part museum, part avant-garde showroom. Interested in a lamp with feathers growing on light bulbs? What about a chandelier made of Campari bottles? Or a red campaign chair dressed up with fabric lilies to look like a cancan dancer on four legs? Score. 1617 Hi Line Dr., Ste. 100, 214-748-9838, scottcooner.com.