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Rad City

The Smaht Man's Guide to Cambridge

For years it was Boston's sleepy, slightly snobby little brother, but while no one was watching, Cambridge had a restaurant revolution and grew into its Ivy League style. These days, you only need Beantown for the airport

→ This is New England, so let's talk about independence for a minute. Years ago, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was a hanger-on, the suburban understudy to the city across the river. You might cross the Charles River for a visit, but you'd stay—and eat and drink and hang—in Boston proper. Technically, it's been the City of Cambridge for almost two centuries, but it's finally owning its urbanity.

You'll notice as much at the elegant Charles Hotel, just off Harvard Square, where the staff is happy to run a firmer pillow up in the middle of the night. And the **Hotel Veritas** is a classic Victorian mansion that went to Art Deco finishing school.

Harvard may not have accepted you for undergrad, but this town can still enrich your life. The **Harvard Book Store** hosts the likes of Rachel Maddow, Jonathan Lethem, and, um, Shaquille O'Neal. And while the

world-class Fogg Museum gets a face-lift, you can see its Whistlers, Pollocks, and O'Keeffes at the **Arthur M. Sackler Museum**, which is also packed with ancient art. Think of it as a two-for-one.

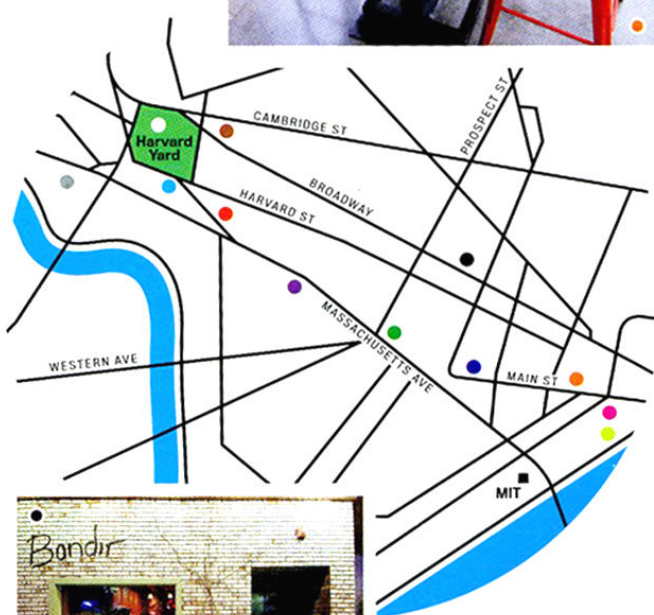
For dinner, book a table far in advance at **Craigie on Main**, the three-year-old case in point for the city's newly acquired haute cuisine cred. (Don't miss the flawless oysters topped with candied-lemon mignonette.) After dinner, kick back with cheap drafts at **People's Republik**, a watering hole for young leftists and a raucous party for the people.

The next morning, head to **Area Four** for the Hot Mess, a farm-fresh variation of the classic trucker scrambler, then take a short walk to MIT's campus to scope out Frank Gehry's angular **Stata Center** and the massive midcentury **Green Building**, a skyscraper on stilts that helped launch I. M. Pei's career. Afterward, just chill on the Charles and

watch the crew teams hauling ass.

Dinner on night two is at **Bondir**, where each dish on the wildly inventive menu (think: local scallops with apple, pickled garlic scapes, and coriander froth) is available in whole or half portions. Do a DIY tasting, and wash it down at **Brick & Mortar**, where the bartenders shake up rarefied cocktails for Harvard hipsters and in-the-know Bostonians. This newfound elevation should come as no surprise; in a city of overachievers, of course everything else would eventually follow suit.

—MARK BYRNE



WHERE TO GET THAT IVY LEAGUE LOOK IN CAMBRIDGE

• **THE MECCA: J.Press**
Staffed by old-school menswear stalwarts who guess your inseam when you walk in the door, this institution sells the same repp ties, oxfords, and blue blazers it did when JFK was studying nearby.

• **THE ARCHIVE: Oona's Experienced Clothing**
If you haven't had a lifetime to artfully fray your Brooks Brothers button-down, break in your boat shoes, or earn a varsity jacket, this vintage joint is here to help.

• **THE NEXT WAVE: Concepts**
It's part high-end skate shop, but you're here for staples of nouveau prep: A.P.C. waxed cotton jackets, Lacoste polos, and limited-run New Balance sneakers.

