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SUCH A CARD

We occasionally long for the time when Valentine's Day was a low-pressure holiday. Remember those elementary-school days of sneaking kisses by the playground swing set, wooing your classmate crush with a Whitman's Sampler, and cut-and-pasting a construction-paper mailbox to collect your cards? (They probably confessed something truly romantic like, "Mr. T says, 'I pity the fool who won't be my valentine!'"). Well, in the adult world of high-end dinner dates and expensive jewelry gifts, we're glad not everything homemade has gone out of fashion. We love the elegant, contemporary **valentine cards** (\$2.95) at the new storefront for **Obsessive Compulsive Design** (460B Harrison Avenue, Boston, 617.669.2433), which opened in December with a full selection of distinctive greeting cards, stationery, gift bags, and wrapping paper from local design duo **Jeffrey Osborne and Cristina Moniz**. Their gorgeous, thoughtfully crafted, and youthful designs avoid Hallmark hamminess, and it warms our big pink hearts to be supporting cool local designers by buying them. Though they've been selling out of Neiman Marcus, LouisBoston, and even the MFA, we're happy to celebrate this new home of their own. Better yet, we know just where to find the housewarming card.



RAISING THE TEMP

If you passed the moving vans at the corner of Newbury and Berkeley Street last month, you may have been tempted to shed a tear at seeing **LouisBoston** disrobe from its classic Back Bay home and prepare to pull on a new address at the South Boston waterfront. While we suppose any look gets tired after 20-plus years, we also admit to having been slightly nervous: would there be a major interruption in our shopping service while Louis swapped storefronts? Turns out that fear was unfounded. Though the new LouisBoston location won't be finished until April, a temporary space at **ONE Marina Park Drive** (One Marina Park Drive, Boston, 617.262.6100) opens this month to tide us over. Housed within the 18-floor office building's 40,000 square feet of retail space, Louis's way station will accommodate all its precious cargo en route to the final Fan Pier destination: Marni mavens can still find their favorite frocks, design bugs can still find haute house wares, and aural-pleasure addicts can still saunter up to the famous music bar to throw back some house beats. But there will also be new additions, like young London-based label **Peter Pilotto**: its spring collection contains plenty of the painterly prints and dramatic draping for which the two-year-old design team is known. And with the final spot receiving its finishing touches, we think any tears shed for the move will dry nearly as soon as the paint does.



PETER PILOTTO SPRING COLLECTION

REFRESHENING UP

Not to sell American ingenuity short — we suppose that whole "moon landing" thing was an impressive little hat trick, after all — but some of the best beauty breakthroughs of late are coming by way of Europe. Take two new developments at **SalonCapri** (31 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands, 617.969.1970). First, there's the introduction of **INOA**, L'Oréal Professionnel's new ammonia-free hair colorant, which salons in Europe have been snatching up since it debuted there in September. SalonCapri is one of the few local carriers of INOA, which replaces ammonia with a new milder formula that avoids that harsh chemical's kitchen-floor odor and tendency to provoke scalp-scorching allergic reactions. And the salon's newly offered **oxygen facial** (\$110) sounds like an equally refreshing alternative to the status quo, as it employs skincare products from Swiss-based **Luzern**, an organic and preservative-free line that uses 80 percent bio-active ingredients. The facial incorporates Luzern cleansers — plus additional toners and exfoliants — capped by gentle mists of liquid oxygen, as well as dry bursts of the big O, to brighten complexion, firm skin, and draw the ingredients in deeper through a process as gentle as a soft breeze. Odorless coloring and oxygen facials? Sounds like a literal breath of fresh air.

