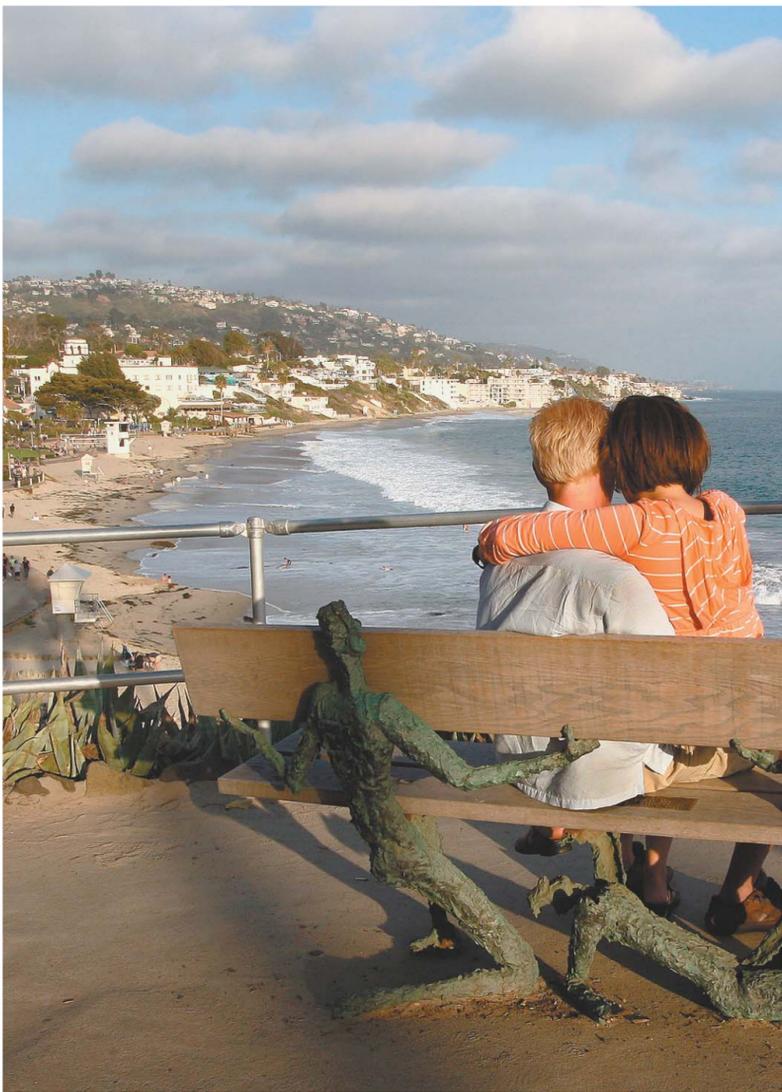


BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE JULY 13, 2008 | BOSTON.COM/TRAVEL

LAGUNA

NEW YORK

WEST COAST COOL VS. EAST COAST CACHET



PHOTOS BY JOHN BLANDING/GLOBE STAFF

Artful bench offers a Pacific view at the Inn at Laguna Beach.

Outside the city's sprawl stretches a beach awash in history, art, commerce, cuisine

By Necee Regis
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



ECHO PARK
Shoot, yes, this is where the first movie studios set up shop. **M7**

BUNKER HILL
Disney Hall and skyscrapers stand where Angelinos made their 20th-century city. **M6**

LAGUNA BEACH — Sapphire sky, car windows open, radio blasting top-10 hits from the '60s. Turning off the freeway from Los Angeles — where the road stretches endless and flat — the hills of Laguna Canyon rise up so green and vibrant I have to take off my sunglasses to see whether the color is real. It is.

Eventually, wildflowers and boulders give way to civilization as houses appear atop sandstone ridges. The air grows cooler and before I can sing another chorus of "California Dreamin'" there it is, the great Pacific, wide and muscular and dazzling in the mid-day sun.

I'm certainly not the first traveler to be seduced by Laguna Beach's charms. Since the late 1800s this 7-mile stretch of sandy coastline resting below rolling cliffs about 50 miles south of Los Angeles has attracted tourists and travelers, including many artists who made the town their home.

Today, besides the landscape's raw beauty, and the town's well-preserved architecture and independent shops, Laguna Beach hosts an arts community that imparts a funky, if upscale, authenticity that's getting harder to find in a homogenized world.

It's easy to navigate around this city of about 24,000. The Pacific Coast Highway, PCH in local jargon, runs north-south through residential and commercial neighborhoods. (It takes a while for an East Coast gal to get her sense of direction aligned; it always feels like the ocean is on the wrong side.) The center of town abuts the conveniently named Main Beach and North and South Laguna both offer areas to eat and shop as well as secluded beaches.

"The nicest thing about Laguna is there's out-of-the-way cove beaches. A lot of people

LAGUNA BEACH, Page M8



DAVE MENDELSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE; RON DRISCOLL/GLOBE STAFF (BELOW)

The New Museum of Contemporary Art rises over the Bowery.

New art museum in the Bowery attracts galleries — and gentrifiers

By Janet Mendelsohn
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

"When we heard about the teams of curators that would be involved with the New Museum, we got very excited," said Fabienne Stephan, director of Salon 94 Freemans. "We're here because of the New Museum."

Stephan's gallery at 1 Freeman Alley is in an unexpected place, on a dead end off Rivington Street around the corner from the Bowery, famous in film and real life as Skid Row. I wasn't sure what to make of it. There were icicles of candy wrappers reborn as light fixtures, beautiful orbs of Murano glass, and polished surfboards on the walls.

Stephan erased my confusion. Seated on one of "100 Chairs in 100 Days" by Martino Gamper, a Vienna-trained designer-artist, the young art director said the exhibit of mixed media and wearable art by international artists launched The Crown Jewels, a collaboration of three local galleries. The project is one of many underway as the center of New York's ever-moving art scene changes again. Salon 94 Freemans is one of a dozen galleries that opened on the Lower East Side last year.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art, at 235 Bowery, opened Dec. 1. For 30 years, the New Museum, as it's known, was a transient resident of adjacent SoHo, housed in one old building after another. Now in its first permanent home, it lives on the edge of fabled, intersecting neighborhoods: Little Italy, the East Village, Greenwich Village, Chinatown, NoHo, SoHo, and the Lower East Side, which already has a hot late-night bar and restaurant scene. It's all made for

ART, Page M4



SPORTS MUSEUM

A new facility celebrates games and players who have helped shape our culture. **M3**

WATERFALLS

A public art project on the East River offers a new view of nature — when the flow is right. **M5**

EXPLORE NEW ENGLAND MASSACHUSETTS

IPSWICH/ESSEX Leave the car, hit the beach. **M9** **AMHERST** Hungry caterpillars and such. **M9** **TRAIL MIX** Climb, amble, scout for birds. **M9** **SALEM** Sites and sweets, sans auto. **M13**