

STYLE

Chic Retreats

*The best
boutique hotels
in Austin now.*

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Capital Gains

Ambitious sky-scraping hotels are on the move in Austin, but boutique hotels still shine



Casey Dunn

A king patio room at the Heywood Hotel in East Austin features modern furniture, artfully elegant details as well as its own private patio nook. The hotel also offers free Wi-Fi and bicycles for guests to use.



Casey Dunn

Lodging at the Heywood Hotel boast Mid-century modern furniture and pops of color in wallpaper and décor.

Lone Star Court

The newest of this bunch, Lone Star Court is an upscale, modern spin on the old-school motor court concept. Owned by Valencia Group, whose portfolio includes Houston's Hotel Sorella and Hotel Valencia in San Antonio, and designed by Houston-based Lauren Rottet of Rottet Studio, it opened December 24 in the Domain shopping district in northwest Austin.

There are 123 rooms total, mostly crisply decorated standard kings. Retro touches include fully stocked Smeg refrigerators, vintage-inspired furniture and a sliding barnyard door separating the bathroom and bedroom. Outside, the rooms span several floors and wood-rich, lodge-like buildings, with orange rocking chairs in front of each. Most look out to the large, central courtyard, outfitted with firepits and a lagoon-style pool, as well as a covered area where you might catch a live band performing.

The hotel's full-service bar and restaurant, the Watering Trough, helmed by chef Paul Nelson, is a soaring, wood-wrapped space with a cozy fireplace, craft beer and cocktails and Texas-inspired dishes (think bean-free chili and spicy shoestring fries) plus communal bench seating that opens via garage doors to the pool area. It's open late. The Feed Store, an on-site food truck, dishes out quick plates such as breakfast tacos and Frito pie all day.

► **Vitals:** Rates from \$149 per night. 10901 Domain Drive, 512-836-3030, lonestarcourt.com.



Hotel Ella

The historic Greek Revival-style main structure of the newly renovated and reopened 47-room Hotel Ella strikes a stately pose.



Lone Star Court

Designed by Houston-based Lauren Rottet, motor-court-inspired Lone Star Court in the Domain has Hill Country touches.



Lone Star Court

Retro-feeling furnishings grace the rooms at Lone Star Court, which opened in December.