



GLAM SQUAD

One of H-Town's most luxurious salons finds a new home in River Oaks District, adding several top-of-the-line amenities.

By Michele Meyer // Photography by Shannon O'Hara

After 17 years of serving socialites at Uptown Park, Bella Rinova Salon has moved even more uptown—to River Oaks District. Doubling its size to 7,200 square feet, the primping parlor opens its doors this month, establishing itself as the sole salon in the luxe retail center.

Owned by Lynnette Davis, the two-story beauty wonderland is over-the-top, literally, including an 1,800-square-foot rooftop terrace that overlooks the District. "You're going to kiss me when you see the balcony," River Oaks District CEO Dene Oliver predicted when he courted Davis over a spinach egg white omelet at The St. Regis Houston more than a year ago. And kiss him she did when she saw the place finally come together.

Floating above the shopping action, Bella Rinova evokes a jewelry case befitting the top-tier gems sold in its shadow at Harry Winston, Van Cleef & Arpels and de Boulle Diamond & Jewelry. An all-glass exterior houses a minimalist yet airy space with 14-foot-high ceilings, alabaster walls and chocolate tile floors. Spectacularly sleek stations by industry experts Gigli & Massimo Italy avoid clutter, and local designer Debra Stevenson-Peganyee selected a sparkling Calcutta marble wall behind the reception desks, brass-legged midcentury-mod



HIGHBROW From left: Eyebrow expert Edward Sanchez joins salon owner Lynnette Davis on Bella Rinova's new 1,800-square-foot terrace overlooking River Oaks District; the salon is one of just a few to carry Rodin cosmetics, including Rodin lip balm (\$29) and facial cleansing powder (\$45).

seating, and a chocolate and white palette for furniture on the patio.

The haven caters to the preen-and-be-seen set, as well as celebs who can slip in undetected via a VIP entrance for highlights, cuts, blow dries and makeup done in an all-ivory private room for one. Visitors can have food delivered from Toulouse, Hopdoddy and The Tuck Room, or enjoy one of Bella Rinova's signature cucumber vodka martinis or Frangelico-laced lattes.

Along with manis, pedis and facials, guests can also make appointments with eyebrow expert Edward Sanchez, whose team joins Davis to apply makeup, give tutorials or shape, tame, tint and extend brows. Sanchez even introduces a cosmetics line this fall, with cases that let users interchange shadows and blushes. Art by Kevin Peterson embellishes the packages—the original painting that inspired the look hangs in philanthropist Carolyn Farb's home—and future designs will flaunt other art from the collections of Jessica Rossman, Anne Carl and Caroline Starry LeBlanc, all Sanchez's customers.

If it all seems artsy, that's intentional. "Good makeup is art," Davis says. "Even hair color is an art form now." *In River Oaks District*, 713.572.0022, bellarinova.com