

ON THE MAP

MADE IN STOCKHOLM

On the outskirts of Sweden's capital, the once-overlooked neighborhood of Birkastan is now bustling with stylish boutiques and casual cafés that cater to the city's new creative class.

1 Ulrika Sandström Romantic ruffles and feminine frills get a rock-and-roll twist in the homegrown designer's current collection, but don't miss her line of neutral shifts at the pocket-size shop. 36 Norrbackagatan; 46-8/5456-4410; ulrikasandstrom.se.

2 Carin Wester The current darling of the Stockholm fashion scene, Wester stands out with sharp silhouettes and playful prints for men and women, all on display in her white-walled boutique. 24 Rörstrandsgatan; 46-8/305-415; carinwester.com.

3 Paus Bar & Kök The tiled dining room walls hint at the bistro's previous incarnation as a charcuterie. These days, menu favorites include grilled steak and scampi risotto, while the bar is a popular haunt for post-work aperitifs. 18 Rörstrandsgatan; 46-8/344-405; dinner for two \$80.

4 Xoko At this modern café, traditional treats get an artistic twist, like princess cake draped with pale green marzipan and crowned with red raspberries. 15 Rörstrandsgatan; 46-8/318-0487; dessert for two \$10.

5 Mellqvist Need a lift? The city's finest espresso is served in this hole-in-the-wall coffee shop, where local devotees pop in for daily caffeine fixes and leisurely weekend brunches. 4 Rörstrandsgatan; 46-8/302-380; coffee and pastries for two \$13.

6 Acne Archive You'll find past best sellers—suede bodysuits, asymmetrical jackets—by edgy Swedish label Acne on the racks, along with a trove of shoes, accessories, and one-off designs. 53 Torsgatan; 46-8/302-723; acnestudios.com. —INGRID K. WILLIAMS



SHOP

HERMÈS MAKES A SPLASH

Everyone's favorite saddle-maker turned wait-list-handbag purveyor, Hermès, is now setting up shop on Paris's Left Bank. That's right: after 174 years, the brand has finally ventured over to the other, artsier side of the Seine to open a store in a building formerly occupied by a public swimming pool. Inside you'll find mosaic tiled floors that recall the space's aquatic beginnings, as well as three ash-wood "huts" that serve as mini boutiques. On offer? A range of leather bags and accessories, *bien sûr*, but also wooden furniture and cashmere blankets at La Maison—the house's first foray into home goods—plus a florist, a café, and (yes) even a saddle or two. 17 Rue de Sevres, TK Arr.; 33-1/4222-8083. —MIMI LOMBARDO

STOCKHOLM, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF ULRIKA SANDSTRÖM; PIA ULIN (4); BIANCA BRANDON-COX (2); HERMÈS; FRANÇOIS BOUCHON/FIGAROPHOTO