

Condé Nast Traveler

October 2015

Where+Wear

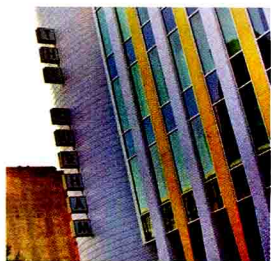
The things we can't leave without

Inspired by... The Durham

The season's colorful patchwork patterns, updated florals, and earth tones befit North Carolina's newest design star.



The Durham's lobby, seen from the mezzanine balcony.



THE DURHAM hotel, formerly the Mutual Community Savings Bank, in Durham, North Carolina, is a mid-century standout, its clean-lined columns lending space-age style to the city's otherwise architecturally staid downtown. For Roman Alonso, of the L.A.-based design collective Commune, the 1969 structure by architect Perry Langston suggested another

period-perfect reference point: "When I first saw the building, which is so unusual here, I immediately thought of the Alberses." Husband-and-wife artists Josef and Anni Albers taught at the now-shuttered experimental Black Mountain College in nearby Asheville. Their Bauhaus-influenced, craft-focused, and highly graphic aesthetic inspired Commune's redo here, from the color-blocked carpets based on one of Anni's textile patterns to the yellow-upholstered chairs that pay tribute to Josef's famed "Homage to the Square" series. And this being a Commune project, other thoughtful collaborations with local artisans make an appearance too, such as the abstract mural in the dining room by Chapel Hill artist Antoine Williams and, in the 53 rooms, soft patchwork bedspreads designed by Raleigh Denim Workshop and sourced at North Carolina's historic Cone Mills. Now, Southern hospitality's got a whole new look (thedurham.com; from \$209). **-MOLLY ELIZALDE**

Clockwise from top: Prada PR 27R IAM-6S1 sunglasses (sunglasshut.com; \$450); Verdura Tiara Feather earrings (verdura.com; \$15,500); Chloé Drew bag (neimanmarcus.com; \$3,990); Verdura No. 6 cuff (verdura.com; \$29,500); Mulberry Napa sandal (646-669-8380; \$550); Etro patchwork floral shorts (etro.com; \$918); Valentino Block Georgette blouse (valentino.com; \$2,790).