KAVERI

gold coast & river north

Punctuated with high-rises and thronged with crowds, these upmarket-boutique-filled neighborhoods buzz with a cool, cosmopolitan energy.

Blake Two years ago, this Chicago icon quietly moved from its Lincoln Park home to a stark new space—a renovated former post office—in River North's gallery district. Things are as understated as ever: There's no sign outside, and the pieces on the racks are equally dramatic and somber—Dries Van Noten gray patent wedges, Marni gunmetal taffeta tunics, Balenciaga schoolboy jackets. **212 W. Chicago Ave., 312-202-0047**

Ikram With its artfully elegant interior—curved archways, filigree screens, mushroom-like Murano discs suspended from the ceiling—this upscale standard has long been known as the place to zero in on high-end-but-experimental talents like Viktor & Rolf and Rick Owens. Our favorite reason to visit Ikram is its wait-list-worthy selection of shoes (particularly styles by Lanvin, Martin Margiela, and Azzedine Alaïa). **873 N. Rush St., 312-587-1000**

Jake With three outposts now in the Chicago area, this rapidly expanding boutique empire has made it easy to secure formerly hard-to-find labels like Willow and Riser Goodwin. The Rush Street location is our go-to: It's ambitious in scope, healthily stocked, and has an infinitely inspiring environment (vintage Knoll chairs, brushed-steel fixtures, and an enormous ballroom brass chandelier). **939 N. Rush St., 312-664-5553, shopjake.com;** Lakeview: **3740 N. Southport Ave., 773-929-5253;** Winnetka: **see luckymag.com**

ESKELL

P.O.S.H.

P.O.S.H. When he was working as a flight attendant, Karl Sorensen regularly got marooned on European layovers; to pass the time, he poked around flea markets. Eventually he fell in with the antique trade, and with the help of partner Steve Weigel, P.O.S.H. was born. The initial focus was on hotel silver and restaurant china; today the store brims with unusual, surprisingly affordable finds like coronation dishware, colorful seltzer bottles, and elaborate brass candelabras—all procured in spots ranging from Prague to Buenos Aires. **613 N. State St., 312-280-1602, poshchicago.com**

herringbone, Bauhaus-esque geometrics, extra-chunky knits, or anything in a violet or mustard hue. This season, a batch of new names, including American Retro and Subtle Luxury, supplement perennial bestsellers Corey Lynn Calter, Lily McNeal, Alice & Trixie, and Yumi Kim. **3450 N. Southport Ave., 773-325-9898**

Tula Its name is derived from the Greek word for "balance," and that's exactly what mother-daughter team Susan and Laura Westgate seek to achieve with their inviting white-brick and limestone-accented shop. The pair offer clothing that's often imbued with a sense of everyday luxury and is equal parts timeless and of-the-moment—a gold-sequined Alice + Olivia racerback top, a crimson silk Eurythmic dropwaist dress, a versatile Inhabit cashmere sweater coat, or a pair of deftly tailored Crispin & Basilio gabardine trousers. **3738 N. Southport Ave., 773-549-2876**

Samantha Chicago Done up with chiffon pink shag carpets, milk-glass lamps, and a circular faux-ostrich couch, this boudoir-influenced spot presents clothing as unabashedly feminine as the decor. Missouri native Samantha Mittelman has long been a fan of traditional glamour, and over the past three years she has put a modern-day stamp on the aesthetic through her classically flattering picks, which currently include Catherine Malandrino high-waisted wool pants and Smythe portrait-collared swing jackets. **64 E. Walton St., 312-951-5383, samanthachicago.com**

Sugar Magnolia Years before highbrow boutiques started colonizing the posh Oak Street retail strip, this low-profile shop was already a respected local presence. This season, husband-and-wife owners Jeffrey and Leslie Gersten are sticking to what they do best: offering the kind of clothes that you can spend all weekend in yet still wear straight to work on Monday, like

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