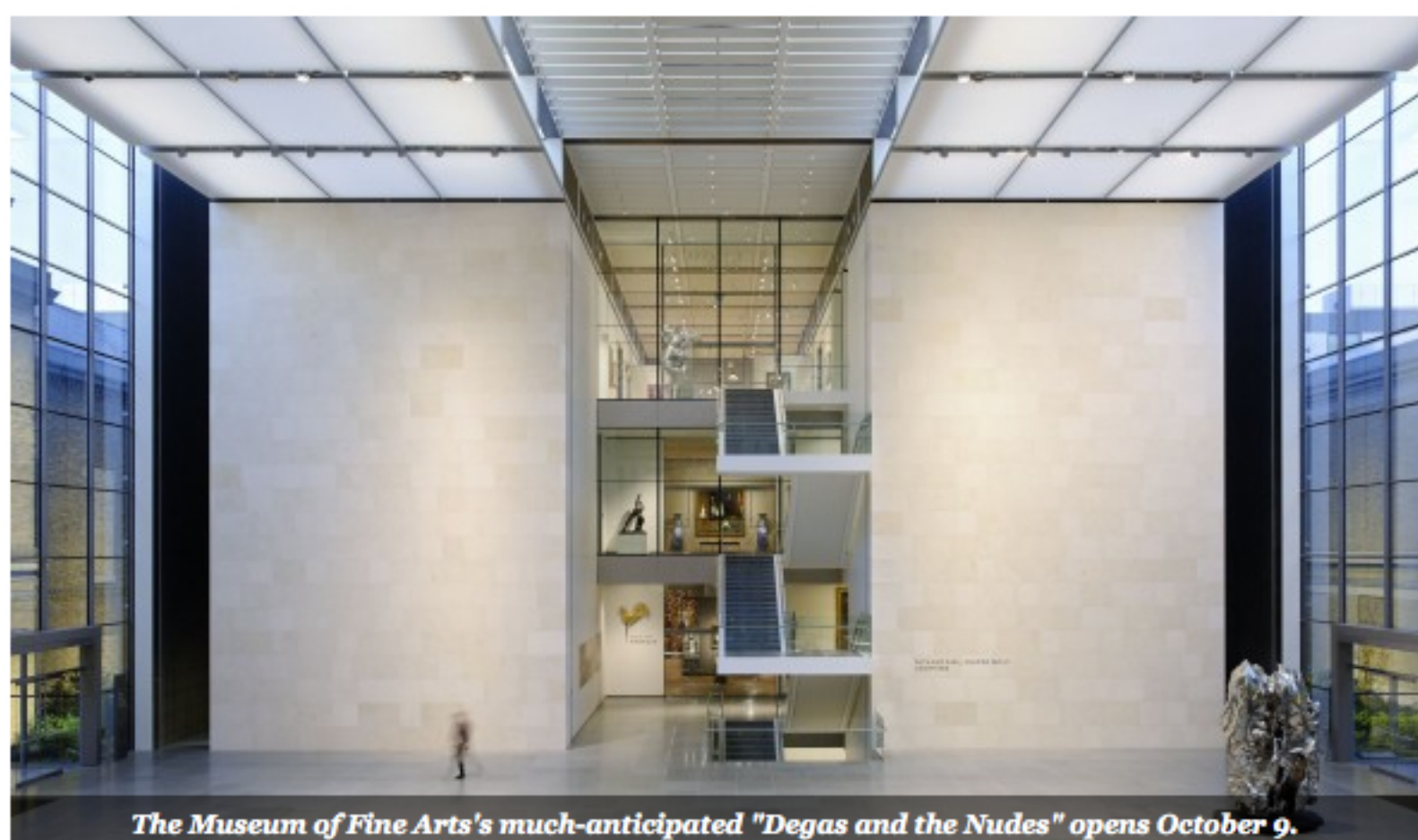


Weekender: Museum Hopping in Boston

October 8 2011 by [Soomin Shon](#) in [Jetsetter Update](#)

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The Museum of Fine Arts's much-anticipated "Degas and the Nudes" opens October 9.

George Shackelford is Chair of European Art at the Museum of Fine Arts and the co-curator of the upcoming [Degas and the Nudes](#) – opening on October 9. Here, he suggests a jam-packed weekend of museum-hopping that takes in the best of Boston's new exhibitions. Combine it with a stay at the [Langham Boston](#), on flash now.

SATURDAY

10AM: "Needless to say, the [Museum of Fine Arts](#) is a great start. The museum has great collections of Degas—both nude and non-nude—including one of my favorite acquisitions, the *Duchessa di Montejasi*. The show is the first to explore Degas's nudes from start to finish, that is, from the 1850s till 50 years later, after the turn of the century. What's special about them boils down to the simultaneous detachment and deep empathy that he feels for his subjects. He shows this brilliantly, through curious compositions and incredible application of pencil, ink, pastel, oil paint—as well as through sculpture. I want visitors to come away marveling at the variety and ingenuity of Degas, from his 20s to 70s."

12PM: "Next, hit [Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum](#), right next door to the MFA. It's Boston's answer to the Frick Collection in a wonderfully idiosyncratic house, where nothing has changed since Mrs. Gardner set it in place a hundred years ago. Don't miss Titian's *Europa* – some argue it's the greatest Titian in the world – and her portrait by John Singer Sargent."

1:30PM: "Bostonians are proud of their James Beard Award-winning chef Barbara Lynch, and I'm a fan of her flagship restaurant [No. 9 Park](#), near the State House. The famous prune-filled gnocchi is divine, as are the Atlantic swordfish with pine nuts and preserved lemon and the milk-fed porcelet with caramelized endive and housemade sauerkraut. And it attracts the crème de la crème of Boston society which makes it great for people-watching."



Barbara Lynch's No.9 Park attracts Boston's fashionable crowds.

3PM: "The [Institute of Contemporary Art](#), on the Boston waterfront, is our next stop. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the glassy museum is a vibrant center for special exhibitions of contemporary works – currently on view is its 75th anniversary show *Dance/Draw*. The nearby, blossoming Fort Point Channel district is a home to many artist studios, as well as up-and-coming places to eat and drink, such as Sportello, another Lynch restaurant."

5:30PM: "The [Boston Public Library](#) is a must-see for its distinguished McKim, Meade, and White buildings, and the three great murals by Pierre Puvis de Chavannes, Edwin Austin Abbey, and John Singer Sargent. After that, have some retail therapy on Newbury Street, which is lined with posh boutiques and interesting shops."

7:30PM: "End your artsy day at [Hamersley's Bistro](#), my favorite comfort food restaurant, the ambiance is warm and inviting and the staff are great. Try the grilled breast of duck with an Asian noodle pancake."

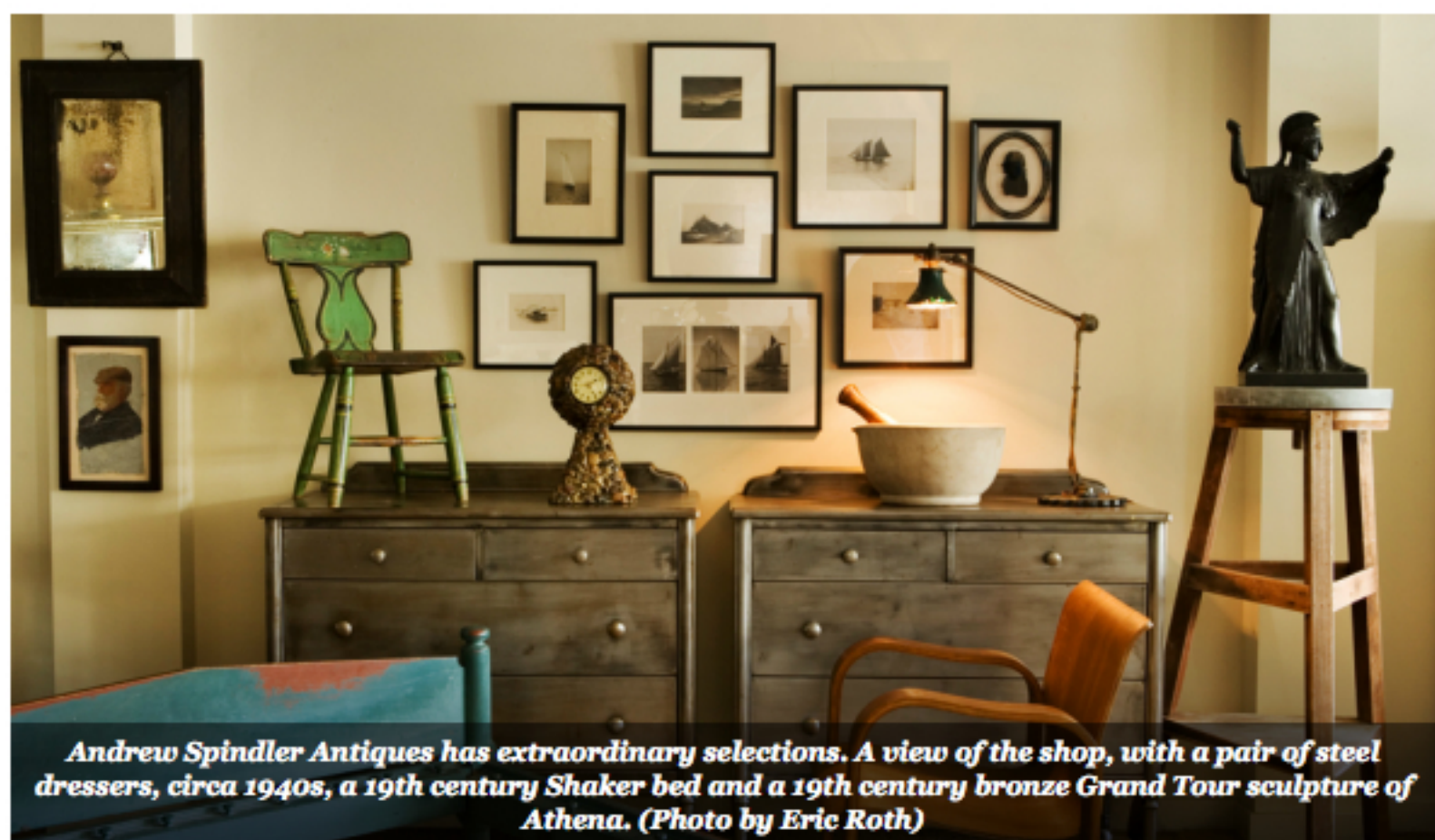
SUNDAY

11AM: "Kick off day two at the museums of Harvard University, one of the finest university museums in the world. After a glance at the magnificent glass flowers at the [Natural History](#) museum, head to the [Peabody Museum](#) – I particularly like the wonderfully evocative top floor, displaying the arts of the Pacific, with amazing Maori and Polynesian artifacts in a turn-of-the-century-style installation."

1PM: "For a casual yet gourmet brunch in Cambridge, try Chris Schlesinger's [East Coast Grill](#). The chef is famous for his great barbecue, and the restaurant has one of the best raw bars in town."

2:30PM: "After brunch, take a full advantage of the gorgeous fall foliage around Massachusetts by driving up the north shore, along route 1A, to the towns of Manchester, Marblehead, and Salem. On the way, don't miss [Andrew Spindler's](#) exquisite antique shop in Essex, MA. It's one of the few places in the world where you are likely to find a fine Russian neoclassical table with a stainless steel dental lamp on it. Spindler is a good friend of mine – he's a genius at inventive combinations and making you see what's really extraordinary about seemingly odd or ordinary things."

4PM "Your final art stop is the [Peabody Essex Museum](#) in Salem, MA, renowned for collections that reveal Massachusetts' historical past, including the China trade and its important relationship with Asia. Salem boasts a number of great house museums as well, including the Phillips House."



Andrew Spindler Antiques has extraordinary selections. A view of the shop, with a pair of steel dressers, circa 1940s, a 19th century Shaker bed and a 19th century bronze Grand Tour sculpture of Athena. (Photo by Eric Roth)