

BEST NEW EYESORE

An obnoxious design fad is rearing its head in Eugene: structures that look like boxy Nike gear. No new building epitomizes that more than the Hilton Home2 Suites going up at 11th and Olive downtown. The hotel looms ominously close over The Kiva grocery like a “Just Do It” storm cloud (sidenote: Do Eugene city planners understand what a decent setback from the street looks like? The sidewalk along 11th feels like a tightrope except instead of a net, there’s lots of traffic to break your fall).

Take the front exterior’s slate gray stonework (actually, the Hilton gets points for using a material other than stucco — Eugene’s go-to) dashed with a lemon-lime green strip of — you guessed it — stucco. Of course, in line with the

cost-cutting ways of contemporary construction, the Hilton only used stone on the front façade, opting for army-green ridged tin and white stucco for the rest of the exterior. We imagine it this way: The front is a slick but quickly out of fashion Nike shoe, while the back is an old gym sock, waiting to yellow. And we dare you to go knock on that green tin siding — it’s hollow as fuck. There is, however, a silver lining here: The Home2 Suites have been plunked down next to Crapstone’s sickly cardboard excuse for student housing, which means: We’re developing an eyesore hub! Let’s put all the crummy, cheap, soulless buildings in one spot and soon we can charge for tours of the mecca where design went to die.



BEST GALLERY CAT

Have you seen that bronze, no, Creamsicle Adonis, strutting down Broadway, making all the passersby swoon? Some even pat his head or ruffle his belly. His name is Tonto, and he’s the king of downtown. Three humans — Jason Pancoast, Elizabeth Fraser-Paul and Taylor Jones — ostensibly own and run the fantastic Shadowfox art gallery and newly relocated Perk coffeehouse, but it’s pretty clear that Tonto is in charge. Unlike many galleries that feel cold and standoffish, he is a warm host, welcoming gallery-goers with a soft nudge or a meow of approval, making Tonto the absolute best gallery cat.

“He likes to be around people and see what’s going on,” Pancoast says.

Tonto is a Flame Point Siamese, adorably cross-eyed and armed with a sweet backstory: Years ago, when Pancoast was leaving Market of Choice in South Eugene, he encountered this kitty. “I just looked at him, touched his head and walked away,” Pancoast says. He looked back in wonder as the kitty followed him the many blocks home. “I opened the door and he sat upon the bed and was like, ‘I live here now.’”

That was seven years ago and, after Pancoast did his due diligence to make sure he wasn’t someone else’s pet, the duo have grown to be inseparable best buds. When Pancoast opened the gallery in 2015, it became Tonto’s new home because “I’m here, so he’s here,” Pancoast says.

And boy, is Tonto ever-present. At a recent Tuesday Talks — one of many new community series that Shadowfox has started recently with help from the city of Eugene — Tonto casually sashayed around as 30-plus people spoke in a circle, occasionally sauntering into the center to take a bath or climbing atop a 5-foot speaker to nap.

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