



The funky and fun Alphaville



A typical arcade in Flinders Quarter

LANDSCAPE

Changing Lanes

The stylish Aussie city of Melbourne is home to Flinders Quarter—hidden laneways in the midst of a renaissance. Here, 10 addresses worth a look-see. By Chris Massey

1 The **Platform Artists Group** takes underground art to another level: The pink-tiled contemporary-art gallery is located in a subway station beneath the Degraives Street underpass. Site-specific sculptures, photographs, and paintings are displayed in the nooks and crannies of the art deco–style station, originally built for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. platform.org.au.

2 At the **Little Cupcakes** bakery, pastry chef Jamie Min specializes in small snacks: a couple bites' worth of mini buttercream-frosted cupcakes. Popular flavors include passion fruit, coconut, lemon, and Belgian dark chocolate, which pairs nicely with a “babychino.” But try to get there before the nearby high school lets out, or you’ll miss out. 7 Degraives St., 011-61/3-9077-0413, littlecupcakes.com.au, from \$2.50.

3 Karen Rieschieck named her **Alice Euphemia** boutique after a respected seamstress in Melbourne. To stock her

offbeat clothing and accessories shop, Rieschieck regularly makes the rounds at fashion schools across Australia and New Zealand to scout up-and-coming talent. One of her latest finds is Jade Sarita Arnott, a crafter of whimsical quilted dresses and coats. 37 Swanston St., 011-61/3-9650-4300, aliceeuphemia.com.

4 Brother-and-sister design team Alex and Georgie Cleary opened their new **Alphaville** boutique in the former library of St. Paul’s Cathedral in 2006, making it one of the first shops to take up residence on a Melbourne laneway. They replaced the bookshelves with racks of Alex’s T-shirt dresses and men’s tees that Georgie silk-screens with images of pop-culture icons such as River Phoenix. 201 Flinders Ln., 011-61/3-9663-3002, alpha60.com.au.

5 The main branch of **The Australian College of Hair Design and Beauty** offers facials, massages, body wraps, and manicures at sinfully affordable prices—a one-hour massage is \$34. Care to splurge? You can get a facial, foot treatment, hot-stone massage, and body exfoliation package for \$190. 234 Flinders Ln., 011-61/3-9654-7130, achdb.com.au.

6 The glass-and-slate **Hotel Causeway** is steps from the Howey Place Arcade, Melbourne’s boutique shopping area. The hotel’s rooms have dark-burgundy furnishings and bathrooms with deep soaker tubs; the glassed-in penthouse gym has panoramic views of the city. 275 Little Collins St., 011-61/3-9660-8888, hotelcauseway.com.au, from \$157. >>>



From left: Rachel Lewis; Anson Smart. Map by Newhouse Design