"Brandy: cool.

That's how goldsmith Lauren Ramirez, a transplant from San Francisco, described Raleigh to me when I popped into her jewelry studio in late November. It was the same evening that I had a smashbook drawing in the middle of the Big South Carolina. (I'd learned that quotidian purchase that spanned like a brown ball)

"It sneaks up on you," Ramirez said about the city's cool factor, as she and her cat, Alice, sat at her feet. "I moved to Raleigh in the fall five years ago and search days if I did make it. But it's really a good city. I appreciate the city's small-town feel and the extent to which locals support each other."

I hadn't visited Raleigh for any length of time since I was a kid but had a sense that it was a staid state capital, the cultural underdog of the Research Triangle. (No other points being Chapel Hill and Durham.) As I biked around, eating, shopping and talking to locals, I realized that if my assessment wasn't already outdated it would be soon.

"It's just past noon as I gaze at the skyline of Raleigh, N.C., awaiting those who make their way to the public terrace on the ninth floor of the Dillon. The Chihuly is a dessert at the Herons restaurant inspired by a the famed artist's glass sculpturein the lobby of the Umstead Hotel and Spa, where grape holly blooms on the grounds. Mark Rossbach, owner of Che Empanadas at Transfer Co. Food Hall, helps his daughter, Mila, with her homework.

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The City of Oaks is growing swiftly, with a population of nearly 500,000. As I explored, I found a progressive city in a state that often seems backward. Raleigh is home to a forlorn place, and its architecture, including the old train station, and a university-inspired hub of innovation. Locals are at once excited about growth and worried about how it will change their city.

After three days, I wanted more Raleigh. I asked an extra night and then an extra hour. I didn't want to go home.

"The Research Triangle has a subtle sense of coolness and design. I found a progressive city in a state that often seems backward. Raleigh is home to a university-inspired hub of innovation. Locals are at once excited about growth and worried about how it will change their city."

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An artful take on public space

KAREN PARKER

Go

Local eats

Hey, other city. Just try to eat like I did when I was in Raleigh. Open, Open, Open. On South Tryon Street, I was visited by the sun, a mealtime staple that rose to the morning skies to nudge the sky of its limited portions. The sky of its limited portions. The sky of its limited portions.

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Thirteen pinches and a twist: Crafting momos in Nepal

BY ANDREA SACHS

If you were in Raleigh two Februarys ago, you might have seen an Indian lunch train rolling across downtown —36 cars of handmade momos, each made by a different home chef from Nepal. As we chatted, the ghost sounds of pigeons who inhabit the wedding procession walked through the open windows.

After Purna knapped the dough, we formed small dumplings filled them into saddo dollars. We rolled out the little puff pastry, sinus funny until the dough was a better, fatter shape. We then pinched off the edges and set the dumplings into the steamer. 

Heat-intolerant. He dropped our 10 minutes on a two-burner electric

For the finest momos, where they would cook for 10–15 minutes...