

# ITINERARY

NADIA WATTS

"Being surrounded by the arts feeds my soul," says Denver interior designer Nadia Watts, whose early exposure to fine art provided the foundation for her career in design. Watts—the great-great-granddaughter of famed stained-glass artist Louis Comfort Tiffany—grew up roaming the Smithsonian museums and the National Gallery of Art with her art-tegcher mother. Later, she studied at the New York School of Interior Design while working in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's American Decorative Arts department. These days, she shares her deep knowledge of design—and her remarkable way with color and space—with clients whose homes range from an old gem in the East 7th Avenue Historic District to a sleek penthouse at the Denver Art Museum Residences. Here, she shares the local spots that fuel her creativity. [nadiawatts.com](http://nadiawatts.com)

## STAY:

**The ART, a Hotel:** I love this hotel and think it's a wonderful addition to the city of Denver. The space is absolutely fabulous, from the Portico Gallery—home to works by Sam Francis, Sol Lewitt and Mary Ehrin, among many others—to the Welcome Gallery, which displays a breathtaking Deborah Butterfield sculpture and John Baldessari silkscreen prints. [thearthotel.com](http://thearthotel.com)

## EAT:

**Star Kitchen:** If you love Chinese food, go here immediately. They do amazing dim sum, including delicious Xiao Long Bao dumplings that my husband and I had in New York City but could never find in Denver. Another favorite: lobster topped with their special house sauce; I ordered that sauce over shrimp so often, they finally added it to the menu. The look is classic dim-sum-restaurant decor: big round tables, pictures of food on the walls, even a sequined dragon tapestry. [starkitchenseafooddimsum.com](http://starkitchenseafooddimsum.com)

## SHOP:

**The Lark:** This home goods shop, located in the Country Club neighborhood, is known

for its classic style and always has something I need, from Simon Pearce glass bowls and vases to silver frames to a wonderful selection of lamps. I go to find something new, or because I know they'll have just the blue-and-white ginger jar I need for a bookshelf. [thelarkdenver.com](http://thelarkdenver.com)

**William Havu Gallery:** I love this gallery's variety of artists—local and national, established and emerging. Several years ago, I discovered Denver artist Lui Ferreyra there and was immediately drawn to his interpretation of landscapes; his use of shading and color to create depth is very distinctive. [williamhavugallery.com](http://williamhavugallery.com)

## PLAY:

**Denver Botanic Gardens:** If I had the time, I would be at the Denver Botanic Gardens every day, because I find there is always something new to appreciate during each visit. During the summer, the Gardens has a special sculpture installation on view and stays open late. The placement of those pieces and the way in which they are incorporated among the plants is always thoughtful, yet unexpected at times. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)



**Denver Art Museum:** This museum has such diverse and dynamic spaces to house art, and it's large enough that it is able to host special exhibitions and permanent collections. I'm very excited for the renovation of the Gio Ponti-designed North Building, as well as the summer exhibition "Serious Play, Design in Midcentury America." The co-curator, Monica Obniski, is from the Milwaukee Art Museum, and we worked together years ago at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)

