

August 5, 2009

The roofers didn't finish the night before, so we didn't head out until about 11:00. Not wanting to wait two hours for lunch, we stopped at Honeybee ham on Valley Mills and had soup and half sandwiches. We both had Baja enchilada soup, though I opted for the ham on jalapeño sourdough with jack cheese while Susann had chicken salad on jalapeño sourdough.

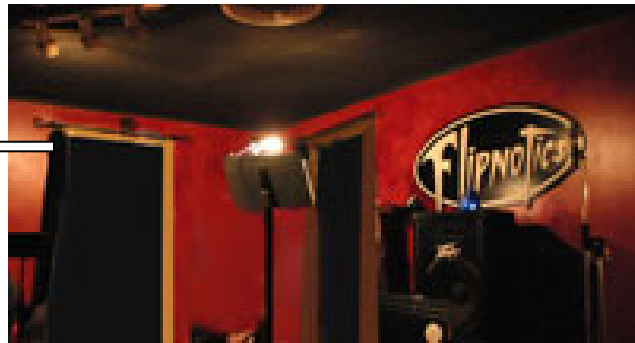
We arrived at the Holiday Inn on Town Lake (now Lady Bird Lake) about 2:00, but were told the room would not be ready until 2:30... so we drove down to St. Edward's campus to check on construction that Gracie worried would interrupt her classes. Back at the hotel at 2:30, we checked into room 501 in the round tower section. We had stayed there many, many, years ago, so it all added to the anniversary theme.



About 3:30 we headed over to Book People on Lamar and 6th. We were looking for the new Rick Steve's book on Budapest, and wanted to take advantage of the free Wi-Fi that is all around Austin in their 'Less' network (as in WireLESS). We also did some last minute checking on music. About 4:30 we were heading to the Hula Hut on Lake Austin... a great combination of Mexican and Polynesia food. At about 5:00 we were dining on our Hula Hut favorite, the huli-huli pu-pu platter with nachos, soft BBQ chicken tacos, flautas, queso, guacamole, salad, potatoes, and a rack of ribs that we left for posterity. We sat right on the front row, with a great view of the lake, and watch the boats come and go as we ate.



About 6:00, we were on our way to Flipnotics on Barton Springs to listen to George Carver's trio. Flipnotics is mostly on the second floor of a converted house with a great wooded hillside behind with picnic tables for those who didn't mind the 101° heat; we did mind, so we got our cold drinks and went into the small auditorium room to listen to the trio. They played a lot of blues and were very good, especially the sax player, thought the stand up bass player was great, too. George played the guitar and sang songs set up by incredibly odd segues... such as 'we haven't done a song on public execution yet...'



About 8:00 we were in the car reading the Austin Chronicle, trying to decide if we wanted to go hear more music, or if we were ready to have some dessert. We knew Momo's club was on the top floor of Kat's deli on 6th, so we headed over to see which one would call to us.

As the sun was setting, we found ourselves enjoying key lime pie and an incredible carrot cake, listening to all sorts of music waft in from all the surrounding clubs.



The Austin skyline is so neat, with all the unusual facades and lighting schemes. There are new condo towers going up that complement the lofts and just add to the character of downtown.





Back at the hotel, we headed to the deck overlooking Ladybird Lake.



August 6, 2009

After a decadent opportunity to sleep in, we headed to Angie's on East 7th street, across the freeway.

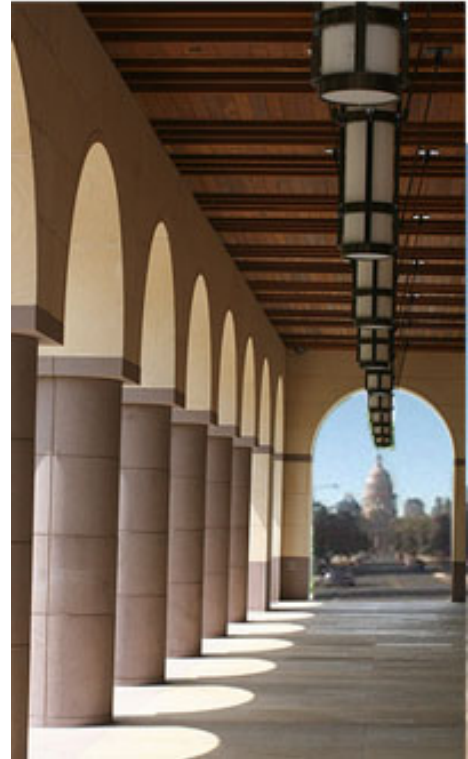
This is the new Angie's; purpose built to replace the small converted house that they had outgrown. While we had breakfast tacos, what we LOVED was the chips and salsa. Great chips, and LETHALLY addictive salsa.



We headed back to the hotel to pack, and noshed on leftover carrot cake until about 11:30, when we checked out of the hotel and headed to the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on Lamar. The Alamo theatres have taken out every other row of seats, and put in tables. The wait staff circulates during riotous cartoons and vintage trailers before the movies, then later sneak around looking for pieces of paper stuck in the rail indicating an additional order. I had a root beer float and Susann had a Midnight Espresso coffee bean milkshake while we watched Public Enemies.



After the movie, we headed back to the Blanton Art Museum on the UT Campus. The arcades on the outside lead to some great views, especially of the Capitol down Congress. The atrium is a gorgeous room of acrylic tiles that give the effect of the depths of water. We first explored a temporary show on Francisco Matte and his contemporaries of the School of South (Latin American Modern artists). There was also Jerry Bywaters printmaking, European art, prints and drawings, and a good deal of modern art.



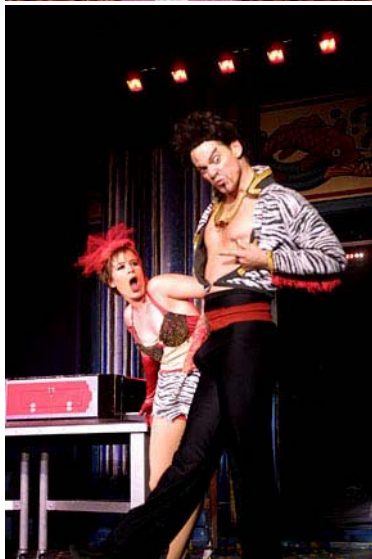
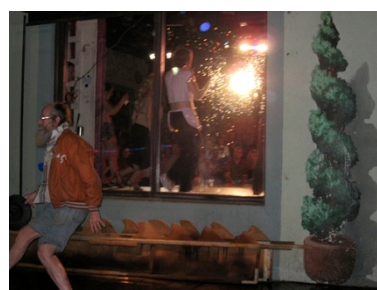
After finishing up at the museum, it was back to Book People to do a little reading; then by 6:00 we had successfully found a parking place near 6th and Red River, and were walking to the Old Pecan Street Café on 6th. We each chose quiche; it started with a great salad and wheat bread, and the quiche came with broccoli and cheese sauce, cantaloupe slices, and the biggest, tallest, best tasting quiche ever. We had expected typical sized portions... we could have shared this beast. For dessert, we opted to share their famous Pecan Pie. It was great... not 90% Karo with a few nuts on top, but a complex base loaded with pecans, and the same homemade crust that we loved about the quiche.



At 7:15, we were heading in to Esther's Follies on 6th. It is a comedy club that features jugglers and a world class magician, Ray Anderson. We try to get to Esther's a few times a year... you might think we would tire of the show, but it is always new, with lots of topical humor, plus a few classics, such as 'Patsy Cline' looking for a class ring as Shannon sings "I've got your picture." And while we have seen the magician countless times, he does great comedy, mixes up the extravaganza style illusions, and being so close still amazes us as we just can't exactly figure out how he does it.



Esther's has windows behind the stage, so passersby constantly peer in, and become part of the show... not to mention a few well placed ringers and cast who 'just happen by.'



We headed back to the house about 10:00 arriving just before Midnight.

August 7, 2009

The weekend now kicked in, allowing us to continue the Anniversary at home. After lunch at Simply Good Eatery in the Shops at River Center, we did some shopping as a reality check before having pizza at Baris and seeing Julia and Julie at the Hollywood Theatre, followed by a visit to Starbuck's.