

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS—CHAPELS—WWH—MALLORY

### Sacred Spaces

A trinity of chapels enliven the spirit in Houston's Montrose area. They're a short walk apart, located between the University of St. Thomas campus and the Menil Collection. From US 59 (Southwest Fwy.), take Shepherd Dr. north to W. Alabama St. and go east to Yoakum Blvd. and Yupon Streets.

The area code is 713, and the zip code is 77006.

### De Menil Attractions

The website for de Menil attractions is [www.menil.org](http://www.menil.org).

The **Rothko Chapel** is at 3900 Yupon at Sul Ross (524-9839). Hours: daily 10-6. Admission: free. Street parking is available or use the Menil Collection parking at 1515 W. Alabama. Oct. 11, 2001, Houston lawyer and environmentalist Jim Blackburn presents an environmental discussion on "Place, Spiritualism, and Activism" at 7:30 p.m. at the Rothko. Admission: free. Nov. 5, 2001, in association with the Houston Seminar, the Rothko presents a seminar (11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Admission: \$50 per person (includes luncheon). Nov. 15, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., the Rothko presents its annual Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service, with seven religions represented. Admission: free.

One block from the Rothko is the **Byzantine Fresco Chapel** (4011 Yupon at Branard, 521-3990). Hours: Wed-Sun 11-6. Admission: free. Limited off-street parking or Menil Collection parking. Greek Orthodox Church services,

open to anyone, are held in the chapel from 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Near the chapels are three de Menil art museums: the **Menil Collection** (1515 Sul Ross, 525-9400); **Cy Twombly Gallery** (1501 Branard St., 525-9450); and **Flavin Pavilion** (1416 Richmond Ave, 520-8512). Hours For all three: Wed-Sun 11-7, with free admission. The **Menil Collection Bookstore** is at 1520 Sul Ross (535-3181). Hours: Wed-Fri 11-6 and Sat-Sun 11-6:45.

### **University of St. Thomas**

The **Chapel of St. Basil** (3802 Yoakum Blvd. at W. Alabama) is on the campus of the University of St. Thomas (3800 Montrose Blvd., 525-3589, <http://basil.stthom.edu/ministry>). Hours: daily 9-5. Admission: free. For tours, call the Office of Campus Ministry, 525-3589. Visitors should respect the chapel's religious character by remaining quiet and by not touching sacred objects, taking flash photographs, or entering the altar area. The chapel is closed to the public during services. Street parking is available.

Learn more about the architect who designed the Rothko and St. Basil's chapels in *Philip Johnson and Texas*, by Frank D. Welch (University of Texas Press, 2000). For Rothko Chapel background, see *The Rothko Chapel Paintings--Origins, Structure, Meaning*, by Sheldon Nodelman (UT Press and the Menil Foundation, 1997). For details on the Byzantine frescoes, check out *A Byzantine Masterpiece Recovered; the 13th Century Murals of Lysi, Cyprus*, by Annemarie Weyl Carr & Laurance J. Morrocco, (UT Press, 1991).