



TheDigitalCharleston
2,080 community members, 38,600 readers

Today 43°/67°
Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. East wind around 1 mph becoming calm.

Subscribe | Popular | Calendar | Sections | Guides | Advertise | Contact

Search **Go**



Ken Hawkins/TheDigital

By Spencer Spellman, but enhanced by others Filed Jan 24, 2011 at 8:20 am

Hope and Union: A more intimate coffee shop on the edge Charleston's historic district (update: Carolopolis winner)

Update January 24: *The Post and Courier's Robert Behre has done a fun piece chronicling the recent history and transformation of the 199 Saint Philip Street building which Hope and Union calls home.*

The house, originally built in 1885 has been a lot of things including a family home, a crack house, a boutique coffee shop, and most recently, the recipient of a Carolopolis award-winner from the Preservation Society of Charleston.



Read on.

First reporting: *After going to Starbucks twice in one day this weekend, it was obvious that I needed a big change, especially since change was about all I had after going to the franchise coffee shop.*

Many times when they hand me my drink at Starbucks, I just stare at it, hoping that just maybe, if I stare long enough, it'll grow to the size I expect for the price I paid. I honestly just wanted a place for

Stay current with the feed or e-mail

We're TheDigital.com

There's plenty of great Charleston content out there, but it's ever harder to find -- Charleston's TheDigital is the only place to get linked to the best Charleston content and events.

Easy. Local. Complete.

Supporter message

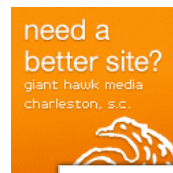
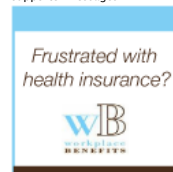
Did you know that our Ball Crew has their own Facebook page? Follow them here --> ball crew 2011! It's not too late to sign up--we are still accepting applications for Ball Crew members! Read more here

What an exciting match up! Nike Tennis presents Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams at the "Nike Clash of Champions"

Popular Recent Comments

- Celebrate your love of vinyl at the Charleston Record Expo
- BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival keeps it local; Now get primed
- Potlikker Film Festival comes to Charleston with food, films, and fun
- Summerville woman accused of 'bumping' kids with car at crosswalk (update: upset, frustrated)
- S.C.'s four freshman congress man don't say 'No' to their federal health insurance
- Georgia-based singer/songwriter features Charleston, Bill Murray in new music video
- Fun, sun and SEWE in this weekend round-up
- Details are in for the 2011 East Coast Canoe and Kayak Festival

Supporter messages



Join the community or Login Publish something

Charleston, South Carolina [called Hope and Union.](#)



Take everything you know about coffee shops and throw it out the window. No part of this [Charleston](#) coffee shop resembles that of your typical establishment. Visitors have to walk a few blocks from [Charleston's Historic District](#) to find Hope and Union. Simply look for the coffee sign that hangs from the house, because if you're looking for what looks like a coffee shop, you'll never find it. Hope and Union blends in with the rest of the street, as it's just a multi-story restored home. I walked up, stopped for a moment and muttered: "This is it?". I honestly expected to walk up the ramp and through the doors and there just be no air conditioning. Yet this was only one of the many surprises.



Part of the sitting area at Hope and Union.

Have you ever walked into somewhere and just took this big sigh because it was such a breathe of fresh air. After walking out of 90-degree heat, I walked into a brightly lit, cool sitting area. It honestly felt more like a chic art gallery in L.A. that I had walked into. I was greeted with shiny hardwood floors, black and white photographs along the walls and a sleek staircase going up to the second floor. I walked through the main sitting area to the coffee bar and noticed another first: a sleek Macintosh computer, instead of a standard register. I was warmly greeted by one of the owners, Harper Poe, who gave me a rundown of what they offered, making a few recommendations, at which time I ordered a tea.

Hope and Union's coffee is brewed using the Chemex brewing method, which is handcrafted using carefully selected in-season coffee beans, offering a fresh, rich cup of coffee you won't find at other chain places. The owner's intentions are to reinvent the coffee houses of old that fostered community and intellectual thought. In my quest to find the perfect coffee house, there have always been elements that are missing. [Hope and Union in Charleston, South Carolina](#) takes all those elements, blending it together for the perfect combination of good eats and drinks, amidst a warm atmosphere.

Photos by Spencer.

Filed in #Features #Food #Creative class and #Charleston #coffee #coffee shop #Downtown #Hope and Union

[Edit article](#)

[Join the community or Login](#)

[Publish something](#)