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November 2013 • Haircuts

Making the Cut

Cool, classic, or wash-and-go—these hairstylists can do it all. Get more recommendations for salons and spas across the country at allure.com/salon-spa-reviews.

New York City

Frédéric Fekkai SoHo

Jordi Martinez Fenoll
394 W. Broadway,
212-888-2600

We try not to judge a book by its cover—unless that book is absurdly good-looking and speaks with a heavy Spanish accent. But Fenoll definitely earned our admiration, too. To make our fine hair appear fuller, he delicately trimmed our ends, snipping them straight across for a sleeker, more polished look. At least in Fenoll's case, looks are not deceiving. \$135 and up.

★★★★★

Seagull Salon

Shaun "Surething" Cottle
240 W. 10th St., 212-989-1807

There are no guarantees in life—unless you've booked an appointment with Shaun "Surething." Then you're certain to encounter a friendly eccentric, a diverse clientele, and obsessively precise scissor work. Using confident, calculated snips, Cottle tidied up our ends and removed bulk from all the right places. The results were so flattering, we're certain we'll be back. \$190. ★★★★★

Boston

Salon Eva Michelle

Jennifer Ng
118 Newbury St., 617-262-8118

Ng noticed that our hair falls forward and obscures our cheekbones, and got to work sculpting long layers that



Hansen Liu at Sally Hershberger Downtown in New York City takes control of thick hair.

Sally Hershberger Downtown

Hansen Liu, 425 W. 14th St., New York City, 212-206-8700
Having a lot of hair doesn't always mean having a lot of options. Liu told us that the angled bob we wanted wasn't in the cards (short, thick hair settles into a triangle shape). We appreciated his honesty and his plan to create "pointy" layers that would give our waves some edge. The swiny results looked cooler, felt lighter, and earned more compliments than any cut we've ever received. \$175. ★★★★★

curved away from our face instead of tenting it. She also assured us our versatile new cut would sit well whether we wore it straight or curly (something we always request but seldom receive). We left with a sexy, tousled cut—plus the comfort of knowing we had been seen and truly heard. \$95 and up. ★★★★★

Philadelphia

Mirror & Mantel Salon & Apothecary

Kelly Palange
117 S. 22nd St., 215-988-9088

We asked for a style that wouldn't require a lot of upkeep. Palange divided our wet hair into quadrants and whittled each one, creating subtle layers all around. She

rough-dried our hair, and our formerly dense mop swung effortlessly. \$65. ★★★★★

Washington, D.C.

Isabelle's Okyo Salon

Isabelle Goetz
2903 M St., NW,
202-342-2675

It's no wonder D.C.'s most influential women flock to

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Goetz. She assessed our blunt, shoulder-grazing strands, then recommended face-framing layers and side-swept bangs. An hour later, we had a sultry, disheveled cut—and volume that seemed to have appeared out of nowhere. \$300. ★★★★★

Atlanta

White Salon and Spa

Max Sanchez

2973 Grandview Ave., NE,
404-816-7500

Once we described the look we were after (longer in the back but lush all around), Sanchez broke out his iPad and showed us a few examples to confirm we were both on the same page. As soon as we approved, he shampooed our hair and worked in some midlevel layers. Then he used a diffuser and gave us a dry cut, streamlining each curl to prevent a pyramid effect. It was just the style we had requested—only better. \$120. ★★★★★

Miami

Junior & Hatter

Mario Silvestri

2750 N.W. Third Ave.,
305-571-8361

When we told Silvestri we had an infant at home, he prescribed a wash-and-go cut. He reenergized our droopy layers by slicing them with a razor, which dramatically enhanced our waves. True to his word, our buoyant new cut air-dried to perfection the next day. \$80. ★★★★★☆

Chicago

Red 7 Salon

David Kafer

210 W. Kinzie St.,
312-644-7337

Within minutes of our arrival, a friendly receptionist offered



Taylor Fennema at Oscar Blandi Salon in New York City carefully assesses a style before cutting.

Oscar Blandi Salon

Taylor Fennema, 545 Madison Ave., New York City,
212-421-9800

We've always yearned for Brigitte Bardot-esque volume, but stylists usually miss the mark, pumping up our fine texture with unmanageable layers. Fennema, who earned her chops assisting salon owner Oscar Blandi, knew just what to do. She gave our ends an almost uniform length, then snipped soft angles in front. By the end, we looked every inch the wide-eyed ingenue—thanks to this fresh-eyed protégé. \$90. ★★★★★☆

us a beer (of all things) and escorted us to Kafer, who sculpted cool, asymmetric bangs and longer angles that cupped our chin. After a crash course on how to blow-dry our new cut, Kafer sent us on our way with a shapely style that seemed to make our cheekbones sharper and our eyes bigger. \$175 and up. ★★★★★

Minneapolis

Juut Salonspa

Joel Gunderson

2670 Southdale Ctr., Edina,
MN, 952-925-4343

Gunderson has a cool, edgy aesthetic that brought out

our adventurous side. We asked him to transform our long, thick strands into a short, wavy bob. Excited by our dramatic request, he lopped off three inches, then enhanced our natural texture with strategically placed layers. The result: a beautifully disheveled cut with verve and nerve. \$85. ★★★★★

San Francisco

TokyoSF

Tokyo

1517 California St.,
tokyosf.com

Tokyo gave us the best haircut we've ever had—not some-

thing you'd expect from a tiny two-chair shop. But this quaint salon perfectly underscores Tokyo's laid-back aesthetic. He studied our face shape, then produced the soft, beachy waves we've always wanted but never achieved on our thick, coarse hair. And the price tag defied expectations, too. \$80. ★★★★★

Los Angeles

Ahn Co Tran

By appointment only,
310-724-8167

When we heard a few friends and even celebrity hairstylist Adir Abergel praise Tran, we decided to book a house call. Tran instantly perked up our drab, chest-length mane by dispatching an inch off the bottom, then gently tapered our ends for a flirty, tousled effect. Our new style wasn't a dramatic change, just a sexier, swingier version of what we had before. \$300. ★★★★★

Cabin 207

Kristen Shaw

400 S. Main St., 213-687-7420

This charming salon also houses an out-of-print bookstore, but Shaw is the real rare find. She softened our long, angular cut with layers in back and a few graduated pieces in front. The playful style was so fresh and flattering, even our husband noticed the change—a true novelty. \$120 and up. ★★★★★

Reported by: *Allure* staff, New York City; Nicole Boudreau, Boston; Jolene Hart, Philadelphia; Caroline Cullen, Washington, D.C.; Emily L. Foley, Atlanta; Nikki Novo, Miami; Nicole Pearl Kaplan, Chicago; Michelle Olson, Minneapolis; Cristina Mueller, San Francisco; and Natalie Toren and Beth Whiffen, Los Angeles.