

8-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S AFFLUENT ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

BRENTWOOD

DECEMBER 2002

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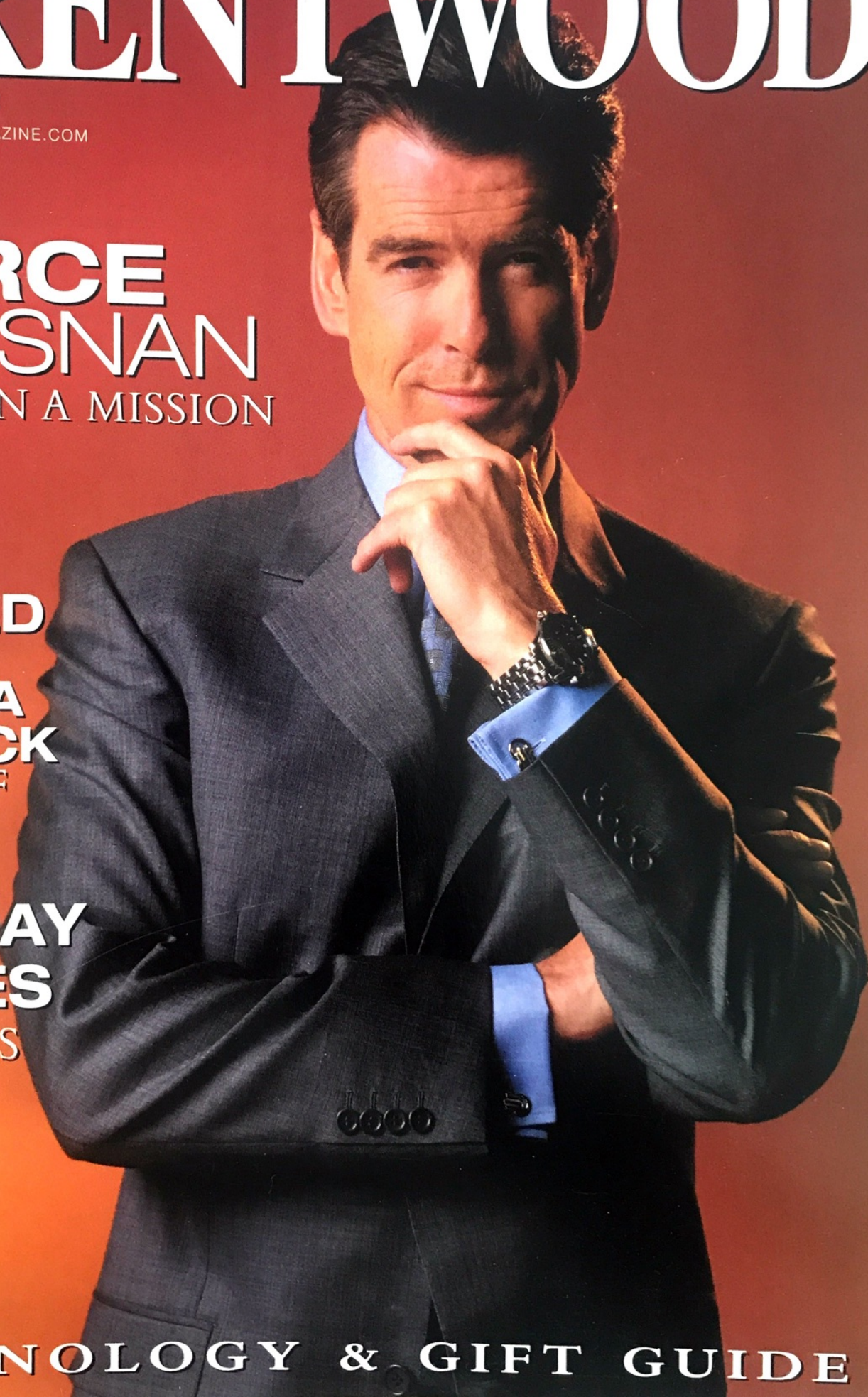
**PIERCE
BROSNAN**
A MAN ON A MISSION

AT HOME
WITH
**TOM
ARNOLD**

**SANDRA
BULLOCK**
STATE OF
AFFAIRS

**HOLIDAY
MOVIES**
BEST BETS

TECHNOLOGY & GIFT GUIDE



BRUSHING

UP Luxe color and skin care are as rich as fall 2002's fashion.



Display-worthy Armani (above). Poole's silver compacts



SINCE OUR FACES, HAIR AND SKIN ARE our most prized fashion accessories, we owe it to ourselves to keep them glowing and healthy, and accent them with color and fragrance that truly flatter. The beauty of fall 2002's crop of products is its unsurpassed wearability and versatility. Not only are the cases and packaging fabulous but the products inside are a joy to behold — and apply.

The new **Giorgio Armani** line of color cosmetics fulfills its promise of being the perfect counterpart to its timeless, elegant namesake clothing line. The refined packaging is positively museum grade — matte black compacts and tubes that gently taper in the middle and feel good in the hand. Inside these elegant trappings are some of the silkiest powders and best-blending foundations that have come along in awhile.

In contrast, **Poole Cosmetics'** bold silver compacts say "Look at me!" when pulled out of a Prada handbag. In just a year's time, Louise Bonnet built her line's cache with "Poole Kits": compact combinations of shadow, blush, lip gloss, eye liner complete with an instruction book to create a specific, mistake-free look. This season, the Poole Kits include the cool "Icon" Collection (inspired by *Breakfast at Tiffany's*) and the warm "Stepford" collection (inspired by the polished look of *The Stepford Wives*, minus the attitude). For those who like just a little color on the side, the Poole "separates" offer generous portions of lip color, all-purpose color and shadows in bold-but-oh-so-wearable colors.

MAC, a perennial Los Angeles favorite, once again launches a season with some trend-setting colors such as "Shadowy Lady," an earthy purple that works either as a contouring shadow or eyeliner and "Charmer" eye shadow which makes a good base for people with fair to medium skin. The new Brow Set, which looks a tad sparkly in the tube, delivers a most desirable effect once applied. While the "Show-off" shade is great for lighter brunettes and red-heads, "Sophisticated" works for natural blondes and fashion-forward types looking for a funky golden twist.

L.A.'s **Stila Cosmetics** continues to charm its way into cosmetics kits with more imaginative new products sporting those cute illustrations. Although Stila glosses still reign as celebrity must-haves, line-creator and make-up artist Jeanine Lobell throws lip color a curve-ball this fall with the launch of Demi Crème, a frosty high-tech lip pen. Its rich pigments go on with the ease of a gloss, and stay on with an enduring matte finish. Stila also expands into fragrance with Bouquet du Jour, a fun and infectious "system" of perfumes that allow a wearer to create her own customized scent by combining perfumes, body lotions and body powders that can be layered any number of ways. The collection (\$24–\$50) comes in two "fragrance families," Jade Blossom (green tea, cucumber and lemon verbena) and Crème Bouquet (vanilla, pink lilac and lily of the valley).

LORAC, another mainstay for L.A.'s most beautiful people, puts a hip edge on fall polish. In fact, the popular Lip Polish is now available in three new mouth-watering shades: Tickle, Tease and Tempt. For those who cannot pick just one favorite, LORAC offers a PRO-9 lip compact with eight universally flattering shades.

Hair for fall 2002 is tiring of the "bedhead" look and waking up to clean and refined, according to Etienne Tenaka of the Beverly Hills **Vidal Sassoon** salon. Tenaka stresses that it's the quality of the haircut that counts. He recommends products that accentuate rather than dominate it, like Vidal Sassoon's Lifter Spray Gel (sprayed in roots, not through lengths and ends, to create volume), Vidal Sassoon Frizz Control Cream for sexy, manageable curls and waves and Heat Defender, a classic pre-style treatment that is now reemerging as essential hair care (as opposed to "styling" products).

No time for a spa? The **DermaNew** Personal Microdermabrasion System, a home version of some of the news-making skin treatments offered at Beverly Hills' Dean Rhodes Salon, puts state-of-the-art skin care, literally, in the palm of your hand. The presentation is slightly overwhelming on first inspection, but the care that went into developing the main unit, instructions and ancillary skin care line as well as the comprehensive nature of the kit is impressive. Although, it is recommended you consult your skin-care expert before use, preliminary trials on face and feet went smoothly.

Other additions to your new home spa may also include the new **Baiaime Body Care** line from Australia. The earthy, fresh-smelling collection, made from indigenous plants, includes a Salt Glow, Native Mint and Peach Hair Mask, Wattleseed & Lemon Myrtle Exfoliant, Tasmanian Kelp Purifying Mask and Riberry Hydrating Gel. Also check out the delicious Ayurvedic **Body Bistro** skin care line, chock full of edible ingredients (i.e. orange, basil leaf, cucumber, lemon peel, apricot, carrot and tomato fruit extract) and exotic plant abstracts from Burma, Nepal, Tibet and Mongolia. **B**

— Elyse Glickman



Accentuate with Vidal Sassoon



The DermaNew Personal Microdermabrasion System



Body Bistro Creme, Gelle and Wash

architecture

STATE OF THE ART

Taking on ambitious commissions in an ever-changing world.



THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT LAST YEAR'S NEWS HEADLINES STILL INFLUENCE our way of life. Whole industries have been deeply impacted: Architecture is no exception. But as businesses push forward, issues of safety, energy efficiency, community and value are becoming paramount. Los Angeles architects Eric Owen Moss, DMJM Harris, SFP:a and Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn are all rising to the occasion with a slate of projects reflecting creativity and resilience. The firms may differ in their outlook on work and business, but they share a commitment to service their clients with innovation and imagination.

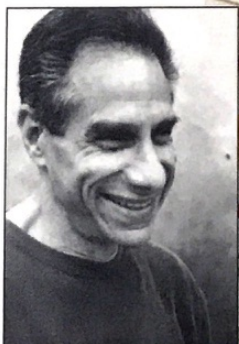
Eric Owen Moss, a revered figure in Los Angeles architecture, has imparted his signature style for three decades. To call him prominent may even be an understatement. In fact, he was recently appointed director of the Southern California Institute of Architecture and has an influence on architectural design that extends far beyond Los Angeles.

In the last year alone, Moss' firm spearheaded commissions for the Queens (N.Y.) Museum of Art (scheduled to open in 2005), the Mariinsky/New Holland Cultural Center in St. Petersburg, Russia and many others locally and nationally. Models for the Mariinsky/New Holland project were selected for exhibition this summer at the GA Gallery in Tokyo and will be moving on to the Russian Pavilion of La Biennale di Venezia this fall. The urban redevelopment project includes reconstitution of the Blagoveshinskaya Church anchoring a "religious corridor," a remodeling of the old Mariinsky Theater, the addition of new theater and gallery spaces, a five-star hotel, office spaces and retail areas.

Moved by the events last fall, Moss participated in the international exhibition, "A New World Trade Center: Design Proposals," appearing earlier this year at the Max Protetch Gallery in New York City and the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. This September, Moss' World Trade Center drawings will be showcased at La Biennale di Venezia in the American Pavilion. In subtle ways, September 11 affected his daily business as well.

"At this stage, terrorism is not quite in our heads yet the way it may be in Israel or Northern Ireland, but it is hard to say where we are headed," Moss reflects. "We lost one project shortly after 9/11, a new headquarters for the United States Census Bureau. I sense that the political climate pushed the clients in a more conservative direction. At a more immediate level, however, I have noticed that security questions posed by some clients are more overt, especially places for public

gatherings. Recently, we did a Culver City-based commission where we designed pretty landscaped mounds that also serve as protective screens. With each project, we have to address whether security features should be apparent or amalgamated into a design solu-



Eric Owen Moss

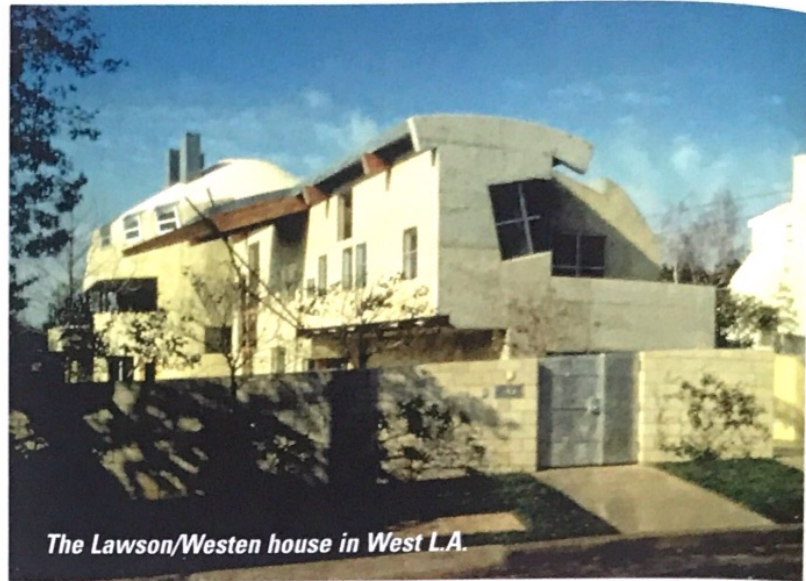


tion where you don't turn every business into a prison."

Energy efficiency has also become a burning question with clients. Just like security features, Moss uses his arsenal of design components and hallmark uses of materials to address them creatively. In a central city high-rise development, for example, he is exploring a glazing technique for glass that is not only aesthetically pleasing but adjusts the temperature of the building to reduce heating and energy costs.

In terms of residential and commercial trends, Moss elaborates on the increasing popularity of lofts and multi-purpose structures (i.e. retail on the bottom, offices on middle levels and residences above that) in L.A. Though they have been popular in New York and other East Coast cities for many years, West Coast young people and creative careerists are discovering the potential of space that can be thoroughly defined by the person who buys it.

Among his residential designs, he takes great pride in the Tracy Lawson-Linda Westen house in West Los Angeles, built in 1993. The house, which Moss considers a collaborative process between his team and the couple who commissioned it, bears



The Lawson/Westen house in West L.A.

his modern, streamlined trademarks. Describes Moss, "The essential component is a three-level hybrid cylindrical/conical volume that holds the first floor kitchen. A cone becomes the roof shape of the cylindrical kitchen, but the center of the cone

"WITH THE ECONOMY, MOSS INTUITS THAT HOME INVESTMENTS ARE CURRENTLY THE MOST ATTRACTIVE OPTIONS AT THE MOMENT."



A transformed corridor at the Wildwood school in Brentwood.

is not the center of the cylinder. The cone top is cut off creating an ocean view deck. The only literal instance of the vault is one rib fully extended at the entrance."

With the economy, Moss intuitively feels that home investments are currently the most attractive options at the moment. He explains that as confidence in the system falters, people favor the solidity of a home over stocks and bonds, and approach him with their ideas. "The times are uncertain," he says. "However, from a creative standpoint, it can be invigorating since exciting things come out of the unknown. Issues of personal security can give way to new trends, inventions and innovations."

"Some things move forward and others stay the same," con-





The Pantages Theater renovation allowed SPFA Architects to restore the legendary building to its original grandeur.

"WHEN IT COMES TO PRIVATE HOMES, CLIENTS TEND TO STEER TOWARD MODERN, CLEAN LINES AND SHAPES THAT ARE HARMONIOUS WITH THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM."

cludes Moss. "As I observe my family (based in Los Feliz), I've noticed that issues of humanity don't change much. We all have security concerns and a need to take care of our families. If anything, the past year has made us collectively more conscious of how fragile human life is. Architecture is a good metaphor for this — plans could change at any time, and you have to be careful about the way you decide what elements of the project are most important to you."

"What makes us different from other firms is that we don't have an easily recognizable style, like the 'Los Angeles' style or the 'I.M. Pei Style,'" affirms Zoltan Pali, one of the three partners of SPF:a (the catchy name representing Stenfors, Pali & Fekete Architects). "The way we approach architecture is specific to each

individual project and all about problem-solving. We're not about formulas, but customized building concepts that address individual clients' issues and needs."

This individualistic approach has allowed this young (est. 1995) firm to secure a mix of sought-after commercial projects (The Greek Theater, The Pantages Theater, The Wildwood School, an award-winning Virgin Megastore in Orlando, Florida) and one-of-a-kind residential commissions. Pali says that even with the current political climate and economy demand for the firm's individualized designs and services is as strong as ever. (After 9/11, Pali says only one residential client canceled their project, feeling the investment in a lavish home was inappropriate at that time.) He credits the continuous success to the firm's

design

BEAUTY ON THE INSIDE

Interior design and the outside world

THE BOSTON-BRED BETHANY KARLYN

first made her name in Los Angeles as a make-up artist, adorning the faces of such Hollywood legends as Faye Dunaway and Ali McGraw, and today's hottest stars, including Cameron Diaz, Mila Jovovich and Calista Flockhart. She also helped create advertising campaigns for Armani, Clairol, Neutrogena, Neiman Marcus, Coach, Sergio Rossi and Gianfranco Ferre. Her work has graced such magazines as *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Vanity Fair*, *W*, *Rolling Stone*, *Arena* and *Marie Claire*.

Even with those successes, however, a new career for Karlyn waited in the wings — literally — of her Hollywood Hills mid-century home, purchased in 1996. After renovating her property, she took a uniquely Los Angeles kind of gamble and rented her home as a shoot location for print, commercial and film. (The house played a key role in the feature film *Art of Revenge*, starring Third Eye Blind singer Stephan Jenkins.) Since the photogenic dwelling was in-demand for



A Zen attitude and simple elegance characterize Karlyn's style. Bethany Karlyn (right)

shoots, she saw a perfect opportunity to earn back renovation expenses and showcase her interior decoration savvy. Photographers, hairdressers, models and celebrities working in Karlyn's home began to ask about the designer. When her first client's home and her own home won kudos in *Metropolitan Home*'s 2001 Home of the Year Competition, buzz built up around Karlyn's talent and roster of clients.

Karlyn's focus is residential. Her style is influenced by Japan and Scandinavia — simple lines, the natural beauty of woods and the

mission to keep their roster of commissions as diverse as possible.

"There is so much variety out there, and clients come to us because they know exactly what they want," Pali affirms. "When it comes to private homes, clients tend to steer toward modern, clean lines and shapes that are harmonious with the outdoor environment around them."

Case in point is the Oshry commission, a private home in Bel Air nearing completion that is slated for a stop in the 2002 American Institute of Architecture Home Tour. The best views and the inner peace deriving from them are situated in the circulation spaces. Explains Pali, "What makes this home special is the way the design affects people as they negotiate the home's spaces and flow to different parts of the house. Although the rooms have views to the exterior, people sleep in their bedrooms, work in their offices and watch television in their living rooms. When you walk through the circulation spaces, your mind is free to enjoy the outdoor space. This particular design bridges the gap between interior and exterior space."

Likewise, the Wildwood School in Brentwood underwent an amazing transformation under the SPFA influence. Under the careful eye of partner Jeffrey Stenfors, it morphed from a spare industrial space to a multi-faceted educational "destination." The design



Open spaces at the Wildwood school encourage creativity and learning.



tech-driven Japanese concept of the "smart" home, juxtaposing nature and modern design and touch-pad automation. She sees this as an asset in a competitive market complicated by current events. Like her architecture contemporaries, she feels the loft movement is significant in revitalizations of industrial downtown areas once victim to neglect.

"People want to come home to a soothing protective environment and forget the problems in the world around them," she says. "The complexities of the world create a desire for the simple things in life. Being surrounded by nature reminds them of this. I also see trends leading toward an emphasis on the home office. My clients embrace telecommuting and want to invest in quality of life at home. They're also paying more attention to landscaping and home gyms. In general, people are investing in real estate like there's no

tomorrow. The stock market has failed and people are turning to real estate to protect their assets."

Marina Del Rey-based **Jae Omar** has built an impressive clientele with business partner-furniture designer **Carlos Gutierrez**. He is a firm believer in the transforming qualities of personalized strategies in

interior design. With a passion for detail, the team's ideas are capturing attention in Los Angeles' discriminating interior decoration scene, as well as with a growing number of celebrities, including Gabrielle Reece and Denzel Washington.

"Design work should follow necessity, empathy and passion, not limiting fads," insists Omar. "The true evolution of design relies heavily on original thought and action. The willingness of our clients to try something new is growing with each project. I believe this reflects the desire of the entire industry to evolve beyond the current standards."

Omar, with nearly a decade of experience in furniture and interior design, and Gutierrez, the former executive director of antique reproduction for Waldo Fernandez, integrated their mutual love of Asian style with simple-but-

continued

"ARCHITECTS ARE PROBLEM SOLVERS," DECLARES PALI. "EVEN IF THE ECONOMY DICTATES SPECIALIZATION AND REPLICATION, WE ARE DETERMINED TO GO THE OTHER WAY AND KEEP EVERYTHING VARIED AND DIVERSE."

echoes the school's progressive educational philosophy — rather than teaching students by subject, the students work in pods and study subject areas that bring all the disciplines (math, English, social studies, and science, among others) together. Areas within the bow truss structure were adapted into language and computer labs, while other learning and reception spaces are big, bright and airy.

Historical renovations, meanwhile, allow the SPF:a staff to take a fresh look at what gave Los Angeles' landmarks their broad influence and a great sense of place. Says Pali, "We freed ourselves from our personal design desires to approach the Pantages renovation with reverence for the original design." Completed in October 2000, the Pantages Theater, under the watchful eye and influence of Pali, underwent a refurbishing that required intense research and

interaction with Los Angeles' Cultural Affairs Department. The dazzling results, from the Hollywood Boulevard facade to the chandeliers and fixtures in the grand hallways, preserve a past era and illustrate SPF:a's distinctive eye on the future.

The Greek Theater renovation, set for construction in November and completion in May 2003, is a hard-won victory after two years of negotiations (in collaboration with the Nederlander Organization). The theater, built in the 1930s, went through a series of remodels that compromised the original structure. Pali emphasizes that, even with their modern outlook, the SPF:a redesign will restore the theater to its original glory and be respectful to Los Angeles' history and culture. It will rejuvenate the original architecture, while adding a new state-of-the-art stage-rig-



using natural elements, textures and the subtle hues."

Omar also called on his decade of experience as a collector and custom furniture maker, mixing a handful of exotic antiques with new pieces he and Carlos chose from their up-and-coming Carlos Alberto Collection. In

Reece's home, for example the entertainment area combines turn-of-the-century Chinese doors with a trio of custom overstuffed club chairs and an elegant seagrass-wrapped coffee table.

Although Omar has found success over this past year, the priorities of his clients have shifted — further in the direction of what was predicted long before. "In light of the events of 9/11, clients who once asked me to 'give us a comfortable-beautiful home' are now asking to 'give us a self-sustaining beautiful shelter from the storm.' Though cocooning predictions from the '90s pointed in this direction, 9/11 catapulted us 10 steps forward. With my work today, I cannot recall a project recently that didn't include a meditation room, a Zen garden, or other area where occupants can escape to."

Omar's receiving audience and peers place emphasis on the need for originality and innovation in both environments and the furnishings that go in them. But his is a challenge that fuels Omar's creativity. "We feel the industry is ready for a new model," he affirms, "one that embraces individual needs, and comfortably propels them into the future." **B**

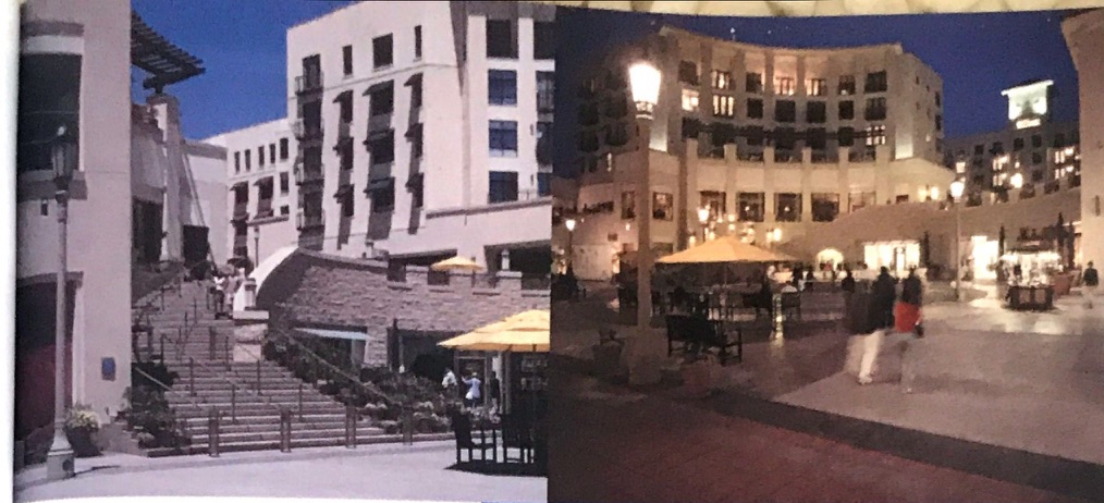


Jae Omar

A custom Oasis designed for Gabrielle Reece.

seductive shapes. Their creative vision paid off when model-athlete Reece and her husband, extreme surfer Laird Hamilton, approached them for a makeover on their 10,000-square-foot Malibu home.

Even though the couple purchased the property as their "dream house," the vastness diminished the homey feel they were craving. However, Omar's "modern with passion" approach allowed him to flow with, rather than fight, the house's museum-like qualities. "We treated the large walls as a blank canvas," says Omar. "With individual rooms in traditional homes, you have more latitude to create different themes for each area. But with Gabrielle's house, we needed to establish one harmonious look that would blend from one area to another



Above and below: The comforts of Paseo Colorado in Pasadena are found at every turn.

ging system, sound system, concession areas and landscaped plaza with a subtlety that modernizes the complex without detracting from the Greek Theater's intended style.

Like Eric Owen Moss, Pali also welcomes the convergence of work and living space. He says that in many of SPF:a's residential commissions, clients specifically request home offices — not spare bedrooms — designed to accommodate the accoutrements of home office technology (digital phone lines, space for computer wiring and mini-conference areas replacing the dining room as a meeting area).

"Architects are problem solvers," declares Pali. "Even if the economy dictates specialization and replication, we are determined to go the other way and keep everything varied and diverse. Every project we do brings us to a new level of learning we in turn can bring to other projects. For instance, what we gained from our work with the theaters can be applied to schools, retail areas or homes."

The popular phrase "designs for living" is an apt description for how Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects approach their commissions. However, firm principal P.Vaughan Davies sums up his firm's philosophy this way — "We're about creating first-class environments. It's about why urban living is becoming popular



again." Davies stresses that, more than ever, their focus is on building places where locals want to spend quality time, as opposed to "iconic" buildings or obvious "signature" architectural styles. Says Davies, "Our goal as architects is to create places that can be enjoyed for generation after generation, rather than responding to fashion or trends."

Although Davies senses September 11 and the economy temporarily slowed business, they usher in a new era of architecture where greater value is placed on quality of life for people who will use and enjoy the complexes. "From an architectural standpoint, the World Trade Center [towers] were buildings that called attention to themselves, symbolizing America's freedom and financial success. In a sense, a part of the tragedy lay in that. Our firm is





The newly completed, Korea Development Bank Building in Seoul, Korea.

communicating with the Connections Team of New York New Visions (a pro-bono coalition of architecture, planning and design professionals), and with them we hope to create new urban environments in areas like Battery Park City that reflect the healing and vitality so many New Yorkers seek now. It is about rebuilding a community, not a building."

Back in Los Angeles, Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn's work ethic springs to life with the Hollywood & Highland shopping and entertainment complex, Pasadena's Paseo Colorado shopping, entertainment and residential complex, and Gateway Terminal at Union Station. Though the firm has taken great care to design places to "fit" their specific neighborhoods, all have

Artists rendition of Santa Monica's redesigned Rand Corporation.



Headquarters for a law firm in Downtown L.A.



qualities that make them desirable, inviting places. During the 2002 *Academy Awards* telecast, all of America had the opportunity to get a glimpse at how the new Hollywood & Highland achieved this, marrying old Hollywood glamour and modern entertainment in a way that was accessible to all.

Paseo Colorado is so successful that it was recently listed in the latest edition of the NFT (Not-For-Tourists) Guide as a "great place to wander and dream." But don't call it an extension of Old Town Pasadena. Davies insists that Paseo Colorado, integrating specialty stores, supermarkets, movie theaters, restaurants and 450 condominium units, is a bright destination that complements Old Town. Additionally, its concept truly responds to people young and old who embrace the amenities of urban living. Like its counterparts in Santa Monica and West L.A., Paseo Colorado gives the people more of what they want — an attractive place that gets you out of your car and into enjoying life to the fullest.

A great point of pride for Davies is Gateway Center, built in 1995, which not only enhances Union Station as a visitor's destination but may change Angelenos' attitudes about bus terminals. "Our challenge was to create an area that would treat bus users and personnel like they were special, and deliver a beautiful new way to be welcomed to L.A.," Davies points out. Instead of the previous dirty, intimidating Greyhound stations and public transit depots, the concourse is accented by murals, Italian granite and windows emulating the rays of the sun. The park-like outdoor plaza that flanks it features walls of Kasota stone, three fountains, elegant metal accents and sweeping stairways.

"Our concepts reflect a creative synthesis of public and private needs," says Davies. The success of each project is a model for other joint development projects worldwide. In each situation, the design accepts that tenants come and go, but the lasting and unique place we're making lasts forever. We try to blur distinctions — not exaggerate differences. In that way, we are also able to enhance all that exists around our design, elevating the experience of the visitor before they have even thought about the specific tenant."

The 50-year-old DMJM (Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall) is best known for its mega-engineering and program management projects. However, the L.A.

architecture principals (Paul Danna, Jose Palacios and Michael Mann) and interior design principals (DMJM Rottet — Lauren Rottet and Richard Riveire) recently expanded on DMJM's growing reputation for groundbreaking design. The two branches operate independently, but collaborated on numerous assignments, including the new, space-efficient RAND headquarters in Santa Monica, the Van Nuys Flyaway terminal, a new headquarters for Paul Hastings (a national law firm) in downtown Los Angeles, the multi-award-winning BMC Software headquarters in Houston, Texas, and the newly completed, 1-million-square-foot Korea Development Bank Building in Seoul. Additionally, DMJM is involved with the renovation of the Pentagon. Their endurance can be credited, in part, to keen awareness of how changes in the world affect the market and sensitivity to the human needs of their clients.

"The changes in the industry relate to the economic fluctuations after September 11, as well as repercussions from corporate crises like Enron," notes Lesley Grant, the firm's marketing and communications specialist. "However, the residential market is a bit busier as people focus on personal environments, or 'nesting,' in reaction to the world being so chaotic. We will probably see the manifestation of the past year's influences over the next several years as people react creatively to socio-political and economic issues. It will be interesting to see how security is incorporated given the heightened sense of vulnerability. Design will probably become more humanistic as well, as Americans reconsider their values and needs. Design always reacts to science, politics, and economics — materials, form, systems, everything is informed by external conditions."

Though the firm is one of Los Angeles' oldest and most established firms, like their counterparts, they are mindful of how people beyond those awarding commissions will react to their concepts. "Over the past five years, we have seen a continued and steadily increasing demand for 'place-making' and design that promotes interaction," says Grant. "While clients are concerned with maximizing their real estate opportunities and reducing costs, they are equally concerned with retaining talent and promoting positive workplace environments that will keep their employees happy and comfortable." **B**

— Elyse Glickman

IN EACH SITUATION, THE DESIGN ACCEPTS THAT TENANTS COME AND GO, BUT THE LASTING AND UNIQUE PLACE WE'RE MAKING LASTS FOREVER.



MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Essential De-stressers and Pepper-Uppers for Winter

The holiday spirit is definitely in the air. However, the change of season, yuletide preparations, demanding work schedules and increasingly busy social calendars can either dull that spirit or simply take your breath away. It's imperative that you treat yourself well, so you can rise to the occasion...or an entire season full of them. As the autumn chill sets in, take cover in luxurious color, fragrance and body care that will remind you of how good you've been this year — inside and out.

The season, and New Year's Eve in particular, dictates a look of all-out glamour. And what better way to bring it to life than with Chanel's brilliant, jewel-toned maquillage. Illuminate with the limited edition **Les Perles de Chanel**, an iridescent, creamy collection of colorful, light-reflecting pearls that enhance eyes, cheeks and lips. The Double Contraste compact (ideal for those day-to-dinner or work-to-celebration circumstances) offers a more traditional style of "one-stop-shopping" color — two luscious cream blushes and lip glosses in pink and plum tones, along with a neutral lip pencil, that effortlessly ups the glamour quotient. But before you add color, perfect the canvas with Eclat Originel, a delicately textured serum that blends VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor, a naturally occurring protein in healthy skin) and Pulsator (a triple-effect energizing complex that

promises serious glow). Complementing a rich holiday look is the newly minted Chance fragrance, a fresh and youthful blend of citron, pink pepper, hyacinth, iris, vetiver and jasmine.

Those on a never-ending quest for the perfect red lipstick or face rejuvenator take heart. The new **Stephen est. 1985** collection for face, body and hair (available at Fred Segal), offers a few solutions that will both remedy the consequences of environmental stress and cut down your shopping time. Creator Stephen Musumeci, a major player at Kiehl's for 17-plus years and genius behind "Silk Groom" and other best sellers, brings new innovations to his signature line. The Compliments Lip Color line is designed to bring about perfectly matched, make-up artist caliber color by reducing contrast between lip and skin color. This is achieved via six primary colors in three different skin tone ranges. All 18 shades contain ComplimenToners and a rich, silky formula that promises wear-and-go versa-



A few of Lather's many great escapes

tility. And after a long day of shopping, cooking, working or worrying, you can unwind with Stephen's Nice & Clean face wash, Hydrating Regeneration Cream and Daily Moisturizing Lotion.

On extra-busy days when holiday miracles are most needed, **Lather** (in Pasadena and at Hollywood & Highland) provides some much-needed vacations-in-a-jar. Lather's many great escapes include Bamboo-Lemongrass Foaming Body Scrub, a most delicious Kukui Nut Whipped Body Creme, Honey Moisture Mask with Propolis Extract and invigorating Yuzu Sugar Cane body buff. And why not surprise the men in your life with such pour homme treats as Almond Shave Creme, Vitamin C Facial Serum and Clove-Olive Oil Soap in their stockings.

While Lather and Stephen take a decidedly modern approach to body care, **Mistral** (on Third Street in Los Angeles, or available at 866-MISTRAL) goes about it in an old-fashioned, but almost edible kind of way. Their best-selling fragrance is melon-pear, and they also entice with other delights like tiare coconut Polynesia, mandarin and fruits of paradise infused into bath cremes, shower gels, hand and body lotions, candles and 100-percent-pure veg-



L'Or de Torrente

etable soaps. But for those true traditionalists, their heady versions of scents like green tea, vetiver, gardenia and lavender are also available. Mistral's wares are handcrafted in Provence, France, and made with first-quality oils of olive, palm or coconut, skin-softening African shea butter, and fragrances selected from some of the region's most distinguished perfumers.

Another perfumer rooted in tradition is Penhaligon's, a quintessential British purveyor of fine fragrance since 1870, which has uplifted everybody from the royal family to entertainment and fashion royalty like Madonna and Kate Moss. Bringing their collection up-to-date is **Artemesia**, inspired by Artemesia Gentileschi, a Renaissance-era artist who was also very much a Renaissance woman. The scent reflects strength and

grace, with its notes of green foliage, moss, sandalwood and sweet amber. If you simply want to feel as good as gold, indulge in **L'Or de Torrente**, inspired by French couture Rose Torrente-Mett. This perfume is a luxurious multi-note fragrance (a mix of roses, tangerine, kiwi, lychee, vanilla orchid, blackcurrant leaves and other good things) in a gorgeous Fabergé-inspired floral too pretty to leave at home. **B**

— Elyse Glickman

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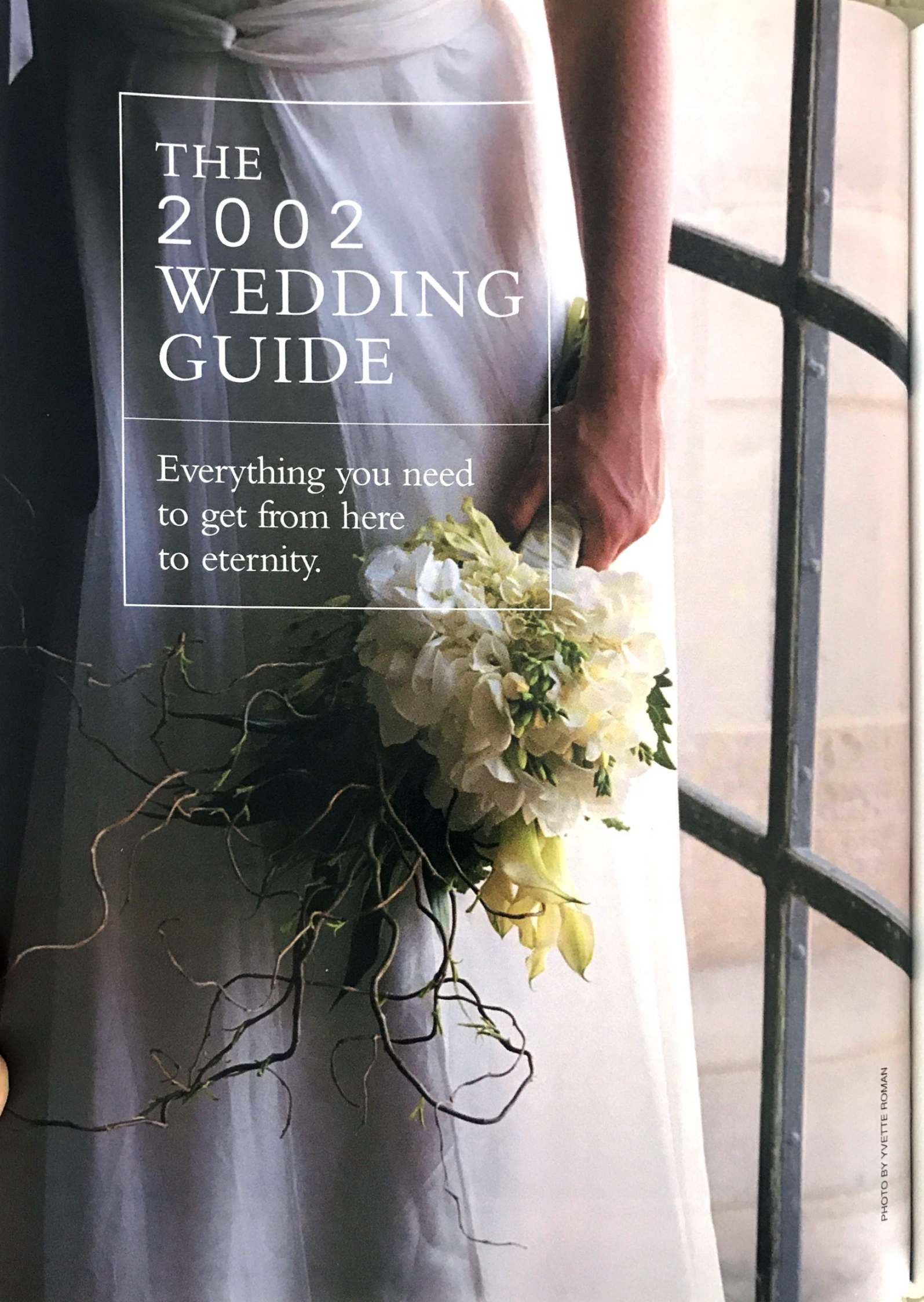
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THE 2002 WEDDING GUIDE

Everything you need
to get from here
to eternity.

YOU'VE FOUND YOUR PRINCE (OR PRINCESS) AND PROBABLY HAVE your head in the clouds. It is essential to keep your feet planted on the ground, given how complex the reality of planning your wedding can be. Just like Cinderella, you have quite a bit of work to do before the ball — compiling the guest list, considering honeymoon spots, fielding your family's suggestions and making "happily ever after" a reality.

Nevertheless, this is your day...your fairy tale. You have earned the right to have fun, not only on the big day but in the planning phase as well. With a little bit of time, patience, creativity and a little help from the pros, the perfect wedding is within your grasp. Whether you opt for an intimate family gathering, a full-blown gala or an out-of-the-ordinary theme wedding, the following Southern California resources should help you find the shoe that fits.

Locations

"Best of the West" aptly describes the elegance and diversity of locales available to Southern California couples — from beaches to historic properties to garden settings. Among the many choices, there are grand establishments known for their attention to detail as well as small discoveries guaranteed to be the talk of family and friends long after the last drop of champagne has been poured. A few examples:

The St. Regis Hotel and Spa, centrally located in Century City, offers gor-

geous settings for weddings of any size. It features views extending from the Pacific Ocean to the Hollywood Hills as well as a fabulous full-service spa, the award-winning Encore restaurant, lush gardens, a regal ballroom and elegant suites. The spa touts such sublime treatments as



One of the well-appointed guest rooms at the St. Regis Hotel and Spa



Rev up or revive at the gym or spa



A balcony view at the St. Regis

how sweet it is...

THE WEDDING CAKE IS NOT JUST A FASHION STATEMENT FOR THE DESSERT TABLE. In many traditions, it represents the enduring sweetness of a couple's love. Los Angeles tastemakers have always taken the delicious leap of faith with cakes from such perennially and deservedly popular purveyors as Sweet Lady Jane and the Cake Studio. However, there are other bakers worth checking out that have taken dessert beyond the butter cream.

SugarPlum Bakery (7122 Beverly Boulevard; 323-934-7900), brainchild of L.A. restaurant veterans Jenna Turner and Anna Delorefice, has a Belle Epoque-era look and a gorgeous selection of cakes and sweet table treats crafted with "old European" methods. Their signature St. Honore Cake is a traditional Italian wedding cake of chocolate mousse, puff pastry, whipped cream, sponge cake and vanilla crème custard. (Creating this dessert is such a challenge it serves as a test for aspiring Paris pastry chefs who have just a mere three hours to compose the symphony.) Their petite cookies and sweets (amerena cherry butter cookies, chocolate almond paste with chocolate ganache, cornmeal cake with apricot jam, fruit tartlettes) are real gems — most of them no larger than a quarter, but grand on flavor. With strong reputations as event coordinators and caterers for more than eight years, the team at SugarPlum has planning capabilities to suit all weddings be they traditional or trendy (i.e. a Hawaiian-Jamaican theme).

According to some, there's no better way to end a meal than with a rich, silk-textured slice of cheesecake. For those who can't live without the decadent concoction, Millie's Cheesecakes (877-4MILLIE), delivers the goods in a sumptuous variety of flavors and sizes, from



sweet table bites ("Millie's Minis") to multi-tiered extravaganzas. Robert Wagner, Debbie Allen and Suzanne De Passe are among the tasteful personalities who have enjoyed Stephanie Ellis' creamy creations at their events.

That Takes the Cake (1194 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena; 626-792-1109) can design a

cake that will match the lace in your wedding dress, your invitation's ornamentation, the blue in Wedgwood china or anything else striking your fancy. Marlee Matlin and NBC's *Today's* Ann Curry have taken these cakes for their nuptials. All the designs are more than tasteful, with five melt-in-your-mouth cake flavors (white, chocolate, lemon, spice or carrot) and fillings ranging from classics like raspberry, lemon and pineapple to out-of-the-ordinary hazelnut mousse, chocolate toffee crunch, Grand Marnier and white chocolate mousse.

Wedding cake bliss from Millie's Cheesecakes (top and left) and Takes the Cake (above and bottom).

The Cake Divas (310-479-7783, by appointment) have become superstars in the special occasion cake world through their commitment to making each cake — simple or whimsical — a "diva-licious" work of art from the heart. Their edible sculptures have been commissioned by such high-profile productions as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Blow*, *ER* and *The Practice*, as well as an exclusive list of celebrity weddings. The star qualities of Cake Divas' Joan Spitzer and Leigh Grode have also won them appearances on the Discovery Channel and Bravo.

GOING THE DISTANCE

If your vision of the perfect wedding has you hearing the Marseillais instead of Wagner, look no further than Susan Tabak, Paris Personal Shopper (212-404-8398) to make all your French-accented wedding fantasies reality. Combining her passions for shopping and French culture with a comprehensive fluency in French, Tabak will prepare an extensive itinerary based on your needs. Next, she'll whisk you alone or with your bridal party to the City of Lights's most fabulous faubourgs and quartiers to uncover the latest trends, couture salons, hidden gem boutiques and smiles from normally guarded merchandise gatekeepers and style setters. *Quelle belle idée!*

the river rock massage, with warm basalt stones to relax the body, and the luxurious champagne facial and gentlemen's facial — all welcome sensory boosts before and after the nuptials. For more information, contact Margot Hummel (310-407-8220).

It's not surprising that year after year the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel & Spa (626-568-3900) and Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel (949-240-2000) are prime choices for couples seeking the ultimate hotel wedding experience, whether you desire an affair as glamorous as a movie premiere or as genteel as a small wedding in a private home. With the distinctive backdrops of the beaches of Laguna Niguel and the lush landscaping and views of the San Marino Valley, both of the Ritz-Carltons provide the food, spas, amenities and exceptional service associated with one of the world's finest hotel families and wedding trendsetters.

Just east of Pasadena, the historic Chateau Bradbury Estate (626-305-5344; www.chateaubradbury.com) brings Europe to Southern California with its French Normandy ambiance. Surrounded by two acres of lush gardens, this private residence designed by Robert Farquhar (chief architect of Washington's Pentagon) in 1912 and restored in 1989, offers an experience both grand and intimate. Chateau Bradbury Estate hosts only 40 events per year, and is shown by appointment only to ensure privacy of its full-time residents and the wedding party.

When it comes to atmospheric outdoor weddings, the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa (905 Country Club Road, Ojai; 800-422-6524)

has a little bit of paradise for everybody, whether the wedding is a large formal gathering, a small candlelight ceremony or a quaint country service at the on-site ranch. The village-like resort features the grassy Hacienda Courtyard and terraced Hillside Herb Garden flanked by majestic mountains. Indoor settings include the Topa Ballroom, the casually elegant Fragrance Courtyard and a big red barn that's perfect for the all-American couple. Keenan Ivory Wayans and Daphne Polk celebrated their nuptials at this site.

Want a Vegas wedding that rocks? The Hard Rock Hotel (800-HRD-ROCK) in Las Vegas just may be the winning ticket. It's the same place where Kid Rock's gamble in proposing to Pamela Lee paid off. With the music-themed restaurants, lounges and suites to choose from, you can be sure the memory of the ceremony and reception will be an enduring hit.

Wedding Gowns & Accessories

Finding the perfect wedding dress may not be as effortless as having a fairy godmother wave her magic wand. However, with Los Angeles' distinctive cache of designers and bridal salons, you're bound to find the precise look that will make you the belle of your ball.

Les Habitues (101-109 N. Robertson Boulevard; 310-273-2883), opened by French-born Michel Perey in 1990, is famous for creating dresses that once and for all prove that Los Angeles is as significant a fashion capital as New York or Paris. The Les Habitude



Claire's Collection has dresses to fit every bride

gowns, worn by Courtney Thorne-Smith and Michelle Maika, are designed with classical lines yet are clearly intended for the modern bride with their dramatic combinations of fabrics, colors and embroidery.

At St Pucchi (1033 Westwood Boulevard; 310-443-1105) designer Rani puts the romance back into the wedding dress. Expect full-blown extravagance inspired by the Renaissance — chapel trains, full sweeping skirts and intricate lace work. She is also noteworthy for her infusion of color into white as well as exotic fabric choices as Thai silk, Mikado fabric and even leather. Claire's Collection (213-399-6935), another Los Angeles-based couture house, features an enchanting collection of gowns appointed with silk chiffon, chantilly lace, four-ply silks and lace georgette. Designer Dinesh Chandrasena and creative director Rita Mezrahi have distinguished themselves by introducing new designs weekly rather than seasonally and inviting clients to step into their ethereally appointed showroom to select a design or mix elements from different dresses to create the perfect gown. The 20-year-old, family-owned and operated company boasts a client base that includes Halle Berry, Sandra Bullock, Leeza Gibbons and Mary Hart among many others.

Renee Strauss for the Bride (8692 Wilshire Boulevard; 310-657-1700), a wedding mainstay in Los Angeles since 1984, boasts a clientele that includes Heather Locklear, Raquel Welch, Viveca A. Fox, Holly



Want a "pre-honeymoon" in Vegas? Why not check out **The Palms** (866-942-7770), the new, new-school hip hotel. In addition to offering plenty of opportunities for the bridal party's pre-marital bliss (via their spa, the cuisine of Nine or cocktails at the Ghost Bar), the atmosphere is an amalgam of '50s cool and millennial refinement.

Robinson-Peete and Laura Linney. Strauss has also set the stage for numerous Hollywood production weddings, including *Father of the Bride*, *ER*, *Beverly Hills 90210* and *General Hospital*. Her elegant selection of gowns includes traditional and contemporary styles from designers Domo Adami, Fenaroli for Regalia, Ines Di Santo, Jim Hjelm, Lazaro and Watters and Watters.

Located in a lovely fairy-tale castle building, Cantu & Castillo (7415 Beverly Boulevard; 323-931-8325) have granted spectacular wishes for many L.A. brides. Venezuelan-born Rodolfo Cantu and Los Angeles native Daniel James Cantu merged their diverse backgrounds and mutual passion for couture to create precision-tailored creations that are as winning as the women who have worn them (Jenna Elfman's wedding gown for *Dharma & Greg*, as well as award ceremony gowns for Jessica Alba and Jane Kaczmarek). "Dolf" and Daniel also fashion custom tuxedos for the groom with the same degree of sophistication and care.

BLUSHING BRIDE-MODE D'EMPLOI

Sephora West Coast beauty editor Hillary Clark, who recently launched Blush Beauty (415-248-9312; www.blushbeauty.com), a service catering to L.A., New York and San Francisco brides' on-site beauty needs, has worked with *Spy Girls* Kirstin Miller and Roseanna Arquette. To transform yourself into a picture perfect bride, Hillary suggests:

- Do a trial run with your makeup artist before the wedding to ensure that they have captured your vision. If you do your own makeup, practice weekly beforehand.
- To keep foundation fresh, prepare the skin with a pre-makeup cream like NARS Makeup Primer. Next, apply an oil absorbing serum like Philosophy's Never Let Them See You Shine to keep you oil free yet glowing in your photos.
- Get plenty of rest before the big day, drink LOTS of water and sleep with your head elevated to minimize dark circles. Because "Something Blue" shouldn't be dark circles, use color-correcting concealer like Stila Eye Concealer.
- Since all eyes will be on you, make sure eye makeup stays in place with water-resistant products that won't budge even through tears. Tear-proof with Benefit SheLac, a makeup sealant designed for use around the eye area.

Hollywood makeup artist and LOLA cosmetics creator Victoria Jackson (110 S. Robertson, Los Angeles; 310-205-9950), provides the following suggestions:

- A little iridescent lipstick in a lighter shade in the center of your lips highlights and helps fill out your lips.
- Use colors that match your clothing and surroundings, and remember to blend well. Be mindful that a 10 a.m. outdoor wedding will take place in different light than an indoor wedding at 4 p.m.
- Let your maid of honor carry a bridal bag for you that contains touch-up essentials, including foundation with a sponge, pressed powder with a puff, blush, brown eye pencil and waterproof mascara. Have a light, sheer lipstick for early in the day and a darker shade with some iridescence as the day progresses. If you have a favorite scent, include that with a good luck charm.
- If you wear white, your cheeks may need some extra color on them to avoid looking washed out. If your face is naturally flushed, go easy with your blush.

Stuart Weitzman (437 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills; 310-860-9600) is one of America's top bridal and formal shoe designers for a very good reason — craftsmanship and a sense of aesthetics that is always in fashion for both traditional and contemporary brides. Timmy Woods (310-550-8551) features a variety of enchanting wood-sculpture bags, some smooth and polished '50s inspired designs and others shaped like a bride, a frog bride, a groom or your favorite pet. Fans include Rachel Griffiths, Melanie Griffith and stylists of *Sex and the City*. Another fun, sexy-but-sophisticated accessory idea for the bride or bridesmaids comes from Pack-Happy sacks (310-474-5950), with charming embroidery for lingerie and other honeymoon essentials.

Jewelry

Basic wedding bands represent the eternal bonds shared by a couple. However, the Platinum Guild International and the Diamond Information Center offer riches that take the age-old symbol to a most spectacular level. When shopping for wedding jewelry, it is helpful to know a few industry terms — such as the mounting (the ring before it is set with a stone), the shank (bottom and lower sides of a ring), the girdle (thickest part around the stone) and the prong (the “claws” holding a stone in place) — to assure you find the highest quality investment as well as the best look.

According to the Platinum Guild, platinum wedding sets are white hot. Celebrity couples drawn to the white light include Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas and Madonna and Guy Ritchie. “Nothing shines like platinum,” affirms Neil Lane, who designed Brooke Shield's engagement ring. Lane's wedding collection features an ascher-cut diamond engagement ring as well as a complementary Edwardian pearl and diamond bracelet. Other affiliated Guild designers include A. Jaffe, Chris Correia, Scott Kay and Christian Bauer for striking contemporary looks and Martin Katz, Jack Kelège and Tacori for traditional designs.

Many Hollywood celebrities have discovered an optimum way to find the most personalized wedding jewelry is through the comprehensive and highly informative Diamond Information Center (www.adiamondisforever.com) Web site. One major trend surfacing among celebrities is the “Bigger is Better” movement, where brides like Kate Hudson, Reese Witherspoon, Angie Harmon and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos all show their love with diamonds well above the traditional single carat. The three-stone diamond ring, meanwhile, represents past, present and future. Sharon Stone and Phil Bronstein have followed this trend, as have Toni Braxton and Keri Russell, who designed their own rings

Sparkling ideas from
the Diamond
Information
Center



THE GRAND EXIT...

Sexy bachelorette parties present boldly creative ways to send spirited brides off to married life in style. MyPleasure.com offers these ideas and sexy accessories for a sophisticated, adult party that will have the bride and her friends saying, “I do” to the waning hours of single womanhood:

- ♥ A *Sex and the City* party served with martinis, cosmos and a very attractive bartender to put a little sexiness in the mix. Guests, wearing outfits sported by Carrie & Company, will enjoy a variety of toys (Love Swing, Rabbit Pearl, Hitachi Magic Wand, Satisfaction and Nipple Enhancers) featured on the show, which will be playing in the background.
- ♥ An edibles-themed party: Each woman attending will be asked to give the bride something sexy and edible — traditional (i.e. wine, champagne, chocolates, even oysters) and non-traditional (chocolate body frosting and flavored massage oils). This will assure the bride and groom will enjoy many nights of fine dining and erotic play.
- ♥ A Kama Sutra party: Each guest brings a gift from the Kama Sutra gift line and is assigned a page from the Illustrated Kama Sutra to explain each “move” to the bride-to-be so she will acquire a repertoire for the big night.
- ♥ Love 101: Make sure the bride is prepared for the big “first night” with useful (and humorous) books like *How To Be A Great Lover*, *The New Joy of Sex*, *Satisfaction: The Art of the Female Orgasm* and the *Illustrated Kama Sutra*. You can even read the books together at the party, so guests can share their experiences with the new bride-to-be. If you're ambitious, you can adapt segments of *Dreams and Sexuality: Interpreting Your Sexual Dreams* and *SexScopes* into eye-opening bachelorette party games.

Of course, MyPleasure.com advises you make sure every-body knows what's going on at the party!

through the innovative “Design Your Own Engagement Ring” program. Also recently added is the Design Gallery, an interactive program allowing consumers to “experience” the myriad of jewelry designs from the nation's finest manufacturers and designers on-line, store locations.

My Philosophy bracelets (the same ones gracing the wrists of Madonna and Al Pacino) offer a fresh way to say, “I love you.” Customize bands with gold, sterling silver, or white gold with diamond letters spelling out sentiments for the bride and groom such as “Amore,” “Je T'Aime,” and “Love” or have the couple's initials embellished with a heart or Japanese symbol for love. They also make nifty gifts for bridesmaids, or party favors for couples who really want to make a statement to their guests.

— Elyse Glickman

SUIT UP PRINCE CHARMING

Why not be adventurous and check out the most innovative approaches to the basic black uniform? After all, it's a big day for the Prince too. Here are some ideas to make the groom feel as regal as the bride.

Giorgio Armani (436 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills; 310-271-5555), a longtime favorite among Hollywood's elite, offers tuxedos in the styles that graced leading men at the 2002 Academy Awards. The complements sported by Mel Gibson, Benicio del Toro and Sidney Poitier are available at the boutique. Also available are made-to-measure tuxedos in two different models. The groom can come in, choose the model along with fabric from a selection, and have it custom made to his measurements. Delivery takes 6-8 weeks.

Even with a well-earned reputation in menswear, London-based Ted Baker is generating a buzz with his "Party Animal" tuxedo, recently worn by Dick Clark and *Entertainment Tonight's* Bob Goen. It will endure any champagne toast, spill or stumble the groom may encounter on the big day. However, don't let the playful name fool you. The suit is fashioned from pure Super 120 wool and has a light coating of Teflon that not only allows it to withstand spills but resist wrinkles. Available in Los Angeles at Fred Segal (310-815-0606), this tuxedo will take the groom anywhere, with classic tailoring, a secret invitation compartment tucked away in the lining and cleverly concealed interior pockets for cash and cell phone.

American designer Kenneth Cole, who brought new meaning to the term "if the shoe fits," carries the notion over to menswear. His collection of classically modern tuxedos has been embraced by George Eads (*CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*); Neal McDonough



David Rickey & Co. suits up grooms for the big day



(*Band of Brothers* and *Boomtown*), who added flair with Kenneth Cole "Trail Blazers" boots instead of tuxedo shoes; and comedian David Alan Grier. Those men seeking to do their nuptials in casual style can look to *Bring it On's* Nathan West, who sported a more casual black Kenneth Cole suit for his Alaskan "I Do" to *Not Another Teen Movie's* Chyler Leigh. Cole's tuxedos and suits are available at better Macy's locations and fine menswear

stores throughout Los Angeles.

David Rickey & Co. and David Rickey Sport (800-546-SUIT) masterfully design and provide custom wardrobes for leading men of entertainment, business and sports. Their "Who's Who" client list includes Kobe Bryant and Rick Fox of the L.A. Lakers (Fox married Vanessa Williams in a David Rickey creation), motivational speaker Anthony

Robbins, entertainment mogul L.A. Reid, Herbie Hancock and world champion boxer Lenox Lewis, among others. Designer David Rickey hand tailors each formal outfit for a specific event.

For more than 80 years, Ermenegildo Zegna (301 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills; 310-247-8827) has built a legendary reputation producing the finest quality menswear and Italian fabrics. Zegna offers a wide variety of both off-the-rack and made-to-measure tuxedo styles perfectly suited for any special occasion. Tuxedo styles include one-button, three-button and double-breasted models. With exquisite fabrics, formal tailoring and classic designs, Zegna attracts a large list of celebrity clientele. Hollywood fans include Denzel Washington, Tobey Maguire, Al Pacino, Robert Redford, Gene Hackman and David Schwimmer.

THE BEST LAID (*Wedding*) PLANS...

Shay Watson of Aesthetica Events (310-739-8759) and his team (including hot florist Kimberly Mendoza of Collage; 310-558-1300) have coordinated many extraordinary "special days" for celebrity couples in addition to special events for Guess couple Armand and Marie Marciano and a Moroccan birthday soiree for Baroness Monica Von Neumann in her Bel Air estate so fabulous columnist Liz Smith covered it extensively. To ensure both the relationship with a planner and the party will go without a hitch, Shay recommends the following:

♥ Be sure your planner's personality is compatible with yours and that she will work with your vision rather than challenge it, while keeping you up to date on current trends and ideas.

♥ Find a planner who not only has an excellent client reputation but an acute eye for details — unique materials used in the invites, lighting to create just the right ambiance, exquisite fabrics for that elegant texture and chic floral design. Details are what people remember most about a party.

♥ Make sure your planner is not overbooked. It's critical that you are getting who you've paid for and planned with.

♥ Take note of how relaxed or high-strung the planners you are considering are. You are hiring them to remove stress.

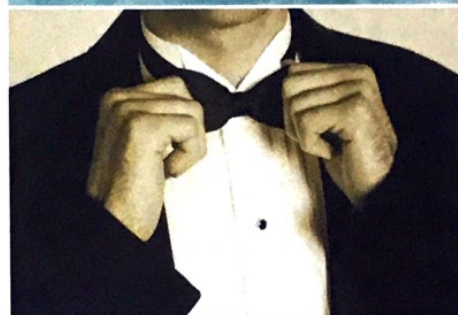
Since 1997, Carolyn Mason (323-962-5062) has coordinated high-profile weddings, including the wedding of Daphne Polk and Keenen Ivory Wayans. Her advice to all wedding clients is the same, no matter how big or small the event:

♥ Set the boundaries of the relationship with your planner early. Define the "dos and don'ts," identify goals, and the steps necessary to achieve those goals.

♥ Don't just get former client references from the planner, also ask for vendor references (florists, musicians, etc.)

♥ Find out if vendors your planner recommends pay a fee or commission in exchange for the recommendation, and if so, how this is calculated.

♥ When interviewing a planner, all decision makers (i.e. parents paying for the wedding) should participate in the interviewing process and feel comfortable with the choice.



Randy Fuhrman, president of Creative Concept (323-860-0900), has brought cinematic magic to events for Nicholas Cage, John Travolta, Robin Williams, Joan Rivers and numerous entertainment industry events. His pride and joy, however, are his weddings. With 36 years of experience, he offers the following insights:

♥ Make a "vision board." Cut things out from magazines (dresses, cakes, food, party settings, color swatches, etc.) to help you and your planner develop a truly individualized party concept.

♥ Know what your budget will be beforehand and figure in all elements of the wedding (catering, location, gifts, party favors, entertainment, etc.).

♥ Read all contracts and agreements carefully so you can be absolutely sure you are on the same page with the planner.

♥ Good planners have lists covering wedding planning benchmarks. Before meeting with your planner, ask for a copy of that list

to formulate specific questions — and don't be afraid to ask a lot of them.

And finally, Evan Kleiman, the innovative owner-chef of Angeli Restaurant (a popular entertainment industry dining spot) and host of KCRW's "Good Food" and Ivana Athey Prince, catering manager, offer this food for thought on nuptial nourishment:

♥ Choose a theme that ties the food to the decor. Moroccan food, for example, lends itself to an autumn or winter wedding using rich colors and glittering accents.

♥ Taste your menu in advance so there will be no surprises. Don't take a friend's recommendation for granted. Your taste and expectations may be quite different.

♥ Create a wedding day itinerary from when you first get up to the time of the cake cutting so that decision makers are all on the same page. Walk through the wedding reception space with the catering manager and site manager, whether it is a hotel, a private home or a rented location, so you can address potential problem areas involving food.

The perfect wedding day is, literally, yours for the asking, so ask away!