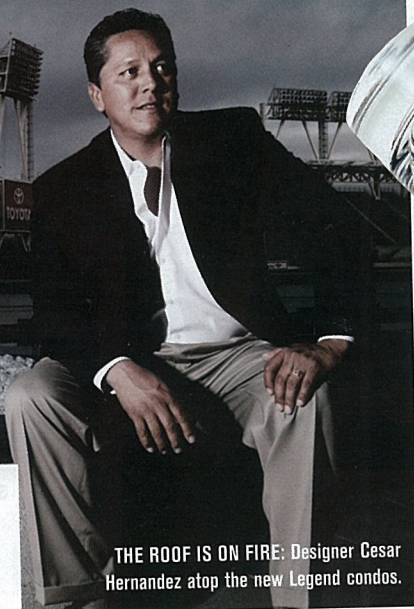


HOME FRONT NOW!



THE ROOF IS ON FIRE: Designer Cesar Hernandez atop the new Legend condos.

HAIL CESAR!

When the Ivy Hotel needed a high-design fire pit worthy of their sexed up Eden rooftop bar, they went straight to Cesar Hernandez, San Diego's "It" exteriors darling. The hitch? A three-week deadline before the Black Eyed Pea-peppered grand opening. But that was no problem for the alfresco chicer-upper of the Downtown loft set, currently heating up the skyline with his in-demand fire pits and architectural lighting, seen everywhere from Downtown's five-star hotels to the manses of local sports elite. Thanks to his solid-steel work at the Ivy and the Legend condo at Petco, Cesar's Exterior Designs is luring San Diego's savviest developers like moths to a custom-built flame (which, in the Ivy's case, had to "glow blue with yellow tips and dance along the top of the brilliant white marble," per the engineer). He's currently hard at work prettifying the rooftop of the embattled Diegan Hotel. Next up? Cesar warms up to WeHo with the brand-new London Hotel's pool deck, where the fire pit will feature 4-inch-thick honed Carrera marble, prime for celeb sightings. It's getting hot out here... 619.850.4826, www.cesarexterior designs.com. —K.W.



HEAD OF THE GLASS: Fornasetti tumblers (\$285 for six) and the Adam Plates (\$1,995-\$3,200).

THE ITALIAN JOB

Versace china? Yawn. Any hostess worth her Fleur de Sel is currently clamoring for Fornasetti, that Italian stallion of tableware that's bringing its brand of cheeky Neapolitan chic to the table. La Jolla's My Own Space (MOS) recently snapped up the line, and it's the only shop south of West Hollywood to carry it. No faux royal crests here: Designs range from drinking glasses adorned with black-and-white sketches of women's faces (sourced from a 19th-century magazine) to a set of decorative gold plates that, when arranged, form a rather well-toned Biblical Adam. (An "Eve" version is also on offer.) Brides-to-be, take note: this is one registry selection that'll really get people talking. 7840 Girard Ave., La Jolla, 858.459.009. —Chantal Gordon



MOD SQUAD: The DNA showroom and owners Catherine and Jesper Pedersen.

EMERALD CITY

Still think green design is all about inconvenient truths and—gulp—hemp? Take a page from the European exchange at DNA Modern Design Studio, where the earthy trend is a lesson in sleek and stylish. The Little Italy go-to source for the urban haute house that's green, not gauche, features the coolest in terra-friendly furnishings by innovators like Fritz Hansen, Bonaldo, and Moroso, as well as a full line of super-mod, super-modular kitchens by world-renowned Italian manufacturer Valcucine. No green-washing here—Valcucine walks the walk, utilizing up to 30 percent fewer materials, non-toxic paints and formaldehyde-free adhesives in their sustainable kitchen systems. (What good is that locally sourced, organically coddled bok choy if it's not prepped in a conscious kitchen?) "Demand for environmentally sound choices has risen dramatically in the past few years," says DNA's Danish-born principal, Jesper Pedersen. "Architects and designers are looking for products to fill the niche." DNA European Design Studio, 1990 Columbia St., San Diego, 619.235.6882, www.dnaeuropeandesign.com. —Ramona d'Viola

