



**Q&A: BENJAMIN NORIEGA-ORTIZ**

## **Designer Chat**

Last spring, Morgans Hotel Group purchased The James Hotel in downtown Scottsdale, AZ and renamed it The Mondrian. This summer, Designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz was announced as the designer of the new hotel. Expect a total cosmetic overhaul, new restaurant (Asia de Cuba will replace Fiamma), and more functional flow of space. *DL* posed five questions to Noriega-Ortiz as he was in the design process.

**Describe your design style.**

Theatrical and dramatic but with a great sense of serenity.

**What's the biggest challenge you're facing with the existing property?**

To get rid of the present image in order to create a sophisticated design that relies more on a strong concept than on architectural gimmicks.

**What are some of your signature materials we can expect?**

I enjoy using acrylic, feathers, and glass. In general, my work is known more for the strong use of monochromatic schemes with rather sculptural furniture and sensual fabrics.

**How will you account for the color palette and climate of the desert?**

... The new Mondrian design is inspired by the "heavenly" quality of the desert but nothing is taken literally. The amazing rose/pink of the [desert] sunsets and the amazing night skies are used throughout the complex.

**What single word describes how people should feel entering the new Mondrian?**

Sensual.

**More: 7353 E. Indian School Rd.;**

**480.308.1100;**

**[www.mondrianscottsdale.com](http://www.mondrianscottsdale.com)**