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ON THE COVER

In the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas hotel lobby by the Rockwell Group, columns support video screens showing an installation by Digital Kitchen. *Photography: courtesy of the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.*

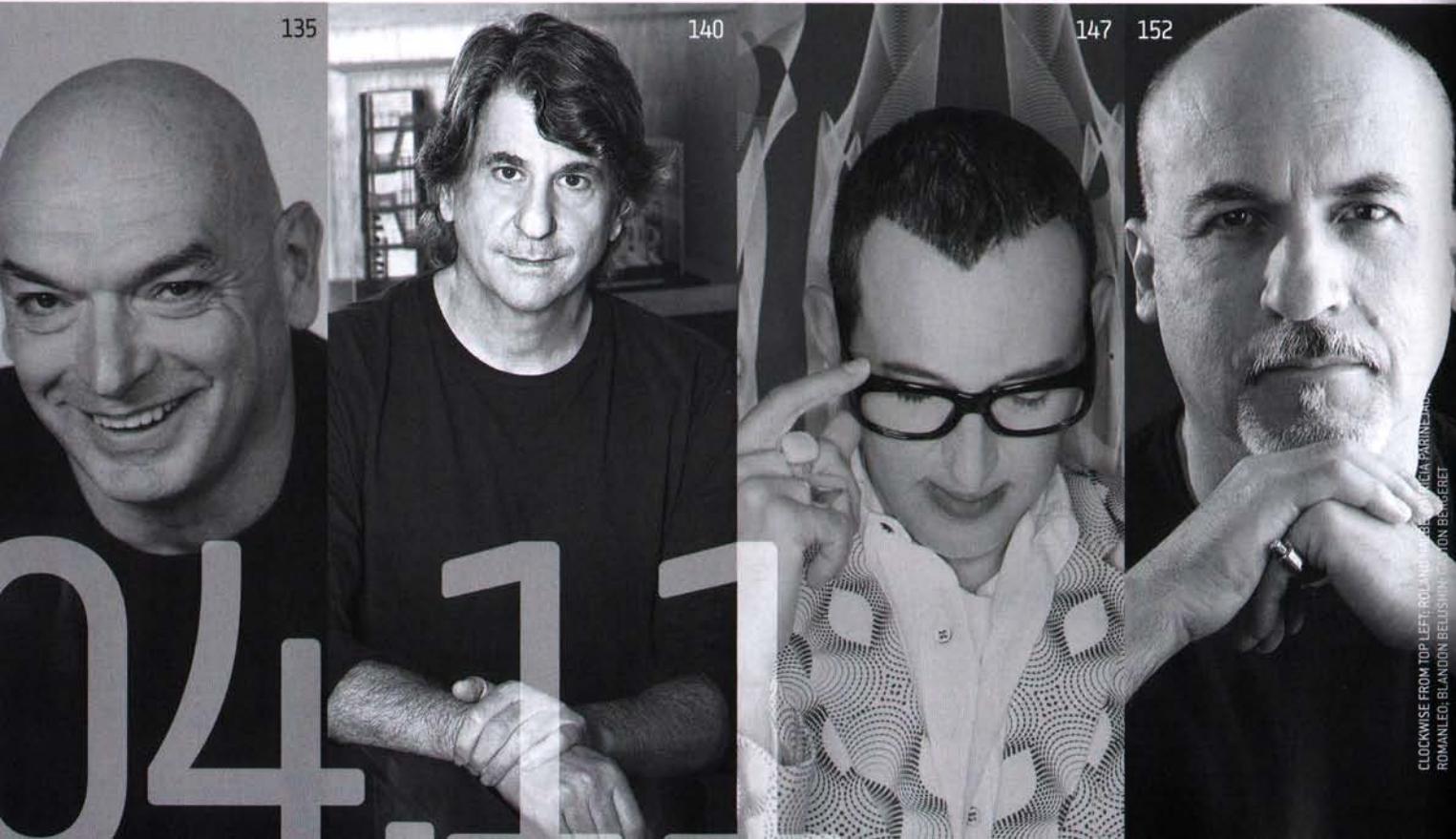
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by Stephen Wallis

140 SHALL WE DANCE?
by Edie Cohen

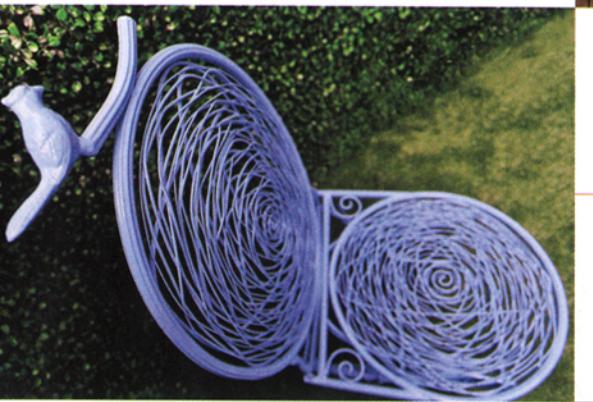
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firm: bno design site: new york



some enchanted evening

Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz admits he's obsessed with storytelling. Narratives as disparate as the book of Genesis and *Through the Looking Glass* have influenced projects by his BNO Design. "The most important thing to me is to have a cohesive story. Everything flows from that," he says. He's now embraced his dreamiest tale yet, channeling Jean Cocteau's film *La Belle et la Bête* for ➤

Clockwise from left: A powder-coated iron chair sits in an outdoor lounge at the Mondrian SoHo. In the hotel's restaurant, Imperial No. Nine, a glass pendant fixture lights cedar shingles. This cocktail tray is high-pressure plastic laminate. A site-specific sculpture by Beth Lipman was constructed from borosilicate-glass vessels. Crystal chandeliers and marble tabletops meet brick pavers.

Opposite: An 80-foot-long entry tunnel combines an oxidized-steel frame with polycarbonate panels.



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the 270-room interior of the Mondrian SoHo in New York.

In the Noriega-Ortiz version of the fantasy, the city plays the role of the beast, while the hotel plays the beauty. "New York attacks you at first," he says. "Then, all of sudden, you fall in love with it and don't want to leave." His collaborator on the project, Morgans Hotel Group senior vice president of design Mari Balestrazzi, uses the word *seduction*.

The story begins in an enchanting garden, where an ivy-draped entry tunnel lures guests up a long ramp that ultimately deposits them at the hotel's glass tower by Barry Rice Architect. Noriega-Ortiz bathed the lobby in a supersaturated French



blue—from the paint on the walls and columns and the velvet upholstery on the seating to the faux feathers on a lamp shade. For a hint of *beauty* and *beast*, check out the rose-vine foil decals on the ceiling and the claw feet on the blue stools. ▶

From top: Lobby seating is upholstered in cotton velvet. Carpet in the guest corridors is wool-nylon with a custom-woven pattern. Guest rooms boast 300-thread-count cotton bedding and polyester sheers.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: TOM SIBLEY; COURTESY OF THE MORGANS HOTEL GROUP (2)



From top: Mister H, the hotel nightclub, features an oil mural by Gregory de la Haba. Vinyl covers another wall. The VIP room's custom neon sign is based on vintage signage from neighboring Chinatown.



Of the restaurant's two rooms, the more conventional one references its seafood-centric menu via cedar shingles rounded like fish scales.

The other room is a skylit greenhouse. Across the lobby is the nightclub Mister H, envisioned as a dimly lit Chinatown den where Humphrey Bogart might have hidden out.

—Nicholas Tamarin

FROM FRONT THROUGH CYAN DESIGN: CHAIR (EXTERIOR). **LIGHTING ARTISTRY:** PENDANT FIXTURE (RESTAURANT). **IBRIDE THROUGH MADE IN DESIGN:** TRAY. **SCHONBEK WORLDWIDE LIGHTING:** CHANDELIER. **LAMP POST MERCANTILE & POTTERY:** ARMCHAIRS. **WALTERS WICKER:** WING CHAIRS. **CONCEPTA:** SIDE CHAIRS. **CAMPANIA INTERNATIONAL:** PLANTERS (RESTAURANT, EXTERIOR). **ABYU:** LAMPS (LOBBY). **THROUGH EMISSARY HOME & GARDEN:** STOOLS. **COLOREDGE:** CUSTOM CEILING DECALS. **KRAVET:** SEATING FABRIC (LOBBY), PILLOW FABRIC, CURTAIN FABRIC (GUEST ROOM). **TAI PING CARPETS:** CUSTOM CARPET (HALL), CARPET (GUEST ROOM).

IWORKS: SCONCES (GUEST ROOM). **ANICHINI:** THROW. **COUNTY DRAPERIES:** CURTAIN FABRIC (CLUB). **MDC WALLCOVERINGS:** WALL COVERING. **LET THERE BE NEON:** CUSTOM SIGN. **THROUGH OK LIVING:** TABLE. **GRETCHEN BELLINGER:** PILLOW FABRIC. **THROUGHOUT H. THOMAS O'HARA ARCHITECT:** ARCHITECT OF RECORD. **KUGLER NING LIGHTING DESIGN; WHITEHOUSE LIGHTING DESIGN:** LIGHTING CONSULTANTS. **TOWN AND GARDENS:** LANDSCAPING CONSULTANT. **PGS MILLWORK:** WOODWORK. **ARGOSY DESIGNS:** METALWORK. **GOTHAM CONSTRUCTION:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.



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