

Modern Luxury

SAN DIEGO

CHEZ COCO CHANEL

THE HOUSE'S
FALL COUTURE
FROM FASHION'S
ICONIC ADDRESS

Philanthropy

PORTFOLIO

THE TOP PLAYERS, GALAS &
CHARITABLE CAUSES OF THE SEASON

COMING UP ORCHIDS

San Diego's annual feting of the best local architecture has upped the ante. October's Orchids & Onions awards show sold every last ticket—in advance, no less. It's just another sign that the city's design scene is on the rise. More proof? This year's winning entries. Ranging from a welcoming port of entry in San Ysidro to a newish noodle bar in North Park, they're laudable on many levels. We get the behind-the-scenes story from two of the O&O jurors, architect Gordon Carrier and interior designer James Denton.

By AnnaMaria Stephens
Photography by Darren Bradley

KETTNER EXCHANGE

It's already a crowd favorite for its creative all-American menu and sexy vibe. Now the Little Italy restaurant has won top architecture marks for its stylish design. "It feels like an eye-ful of detail," says Carrier, who toured the nominees with fellow jurors. Designed by S.D.'s Bluemotif Architecture, the two-story Kettner Exchange features a display kitchen, striking architectural elements and an extroverted attitude. "It's a light machine during the day and a beacon at night, lit up to the street," says Carrier, who was also impressed by the restaurant's series of scaled, intimate spaces. "They're so comfortable and interesting and inspired," he adds. "They really did a brilliant job."

THE DETAIL "The large sculptural element in the middle of the space isn't just beautiful to look at," says Carrier. "It's a deflector of natural light and unites the two-volume space."



THE GREAT INDOORS
The breezy Little Italy eatery by Bluemotif Architecture is a stellar example of indoor-outdoor interplay.



KEX RATED It's all in the details at Kettner Exchange, where an adjacent doughnut shop is set to open soon.

SAN YSIDRO LAND PORT OF ENTRY

A multiphase project is set to bring the busiest land crossing in the Western Hemisphere up to par, with a complete overhaul that includes everything from lanes and inspection booths to administrative buildings. Designed by Miller Hull and expected to achieve LEED Platinum certification, the first phase has already won raves. "It's very well-executed in detailing and materials," says Carrier. "It's articulated in a scale that makes a large facility feel inviting."

BORDER PATROL
The new crossing has transformed congestion into contemporary design.



THE DETAIL "The freshness of the blue facade has a welcoming attitude about it; that's what the border crossing is symbolically about." **CONTINUED...**

DESIGN

trends

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SOFIA LOFTS

Multiuse and multigenerational, Golden Hill's Sofia Lofts by Nakhshab Development & Design was a popular pick.

"It's a beautiful mix of scale, massing and contrasts," says Carrier. "This project was really unexpected," adds Denton. "It has such smart concepts, like a pebblestone surface that serves as both driveway and courtyard, that encourage community and interaction with neighbors."

THE DETAIL "It's very site-specific," says Denton. "Windows frame the Coronado Bridge or other viewpoints of San Diego."



LOFTY AMBITIONS
Nakhshab Development & Design nailed it again with this mod Golden Hill compound.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY The Quartyard, made of shipping containers, was dreamt up by NewSchool of Architecture alumni.



GLASS ACT
The glass cheese cave is one of the design highlights at The Patio in Mission Hills.

THE PATIO

The Patio in Mission Hills definitely showcases its star attraction: a glass-encased cheese cave right in the middle of the restaurant. "This property was a vacant eyesore for a long time," says Denton. "And now they've not only improved the local environment, but they've brought a phenomenal new service to the community."

THE DETAIL Aside from the cheese, check out the succulent wall and the namesake happening patio.

QUARTYARD

The brainchild of a group of NewSchool of Architecture students, Quartyard turned an abandoned downtown lot into a bustling social hub with a cluster of shipping containers. "It has almost become a public park for the neighborhood," says Denton. "In urban areas, you want to create density and a feel of community and excitement rather than pockets of void places. Quartyard fulfills so many functions." Plus it looks really cool.

THE DETAIL It may be temporary—and really, the whole place could be dismantled in a few days—but Quartyard feels like it's always been there. "There's everything from a dog park to food trucks and a stage," says Denton.



BOWLED OVER
The Paul Basile Studio-designed noodle eatery is appropriately renegade considering its Jonathan Segal HQ.

UNDERBELLY

Part of Jonathan Segal's much-ballyhooed North Parker, this second location of Underbelly plays well with the minimalist architecture. "A lot of times tenants just do their own thing," explains Denton. "But Underbelly fits in so well with the modern-style building." Designed by Paul Basile Studio, the hip noodle eatery also carries over subtle design elements—like the use of subway tile—from the original.

THE DETAIL "The superclean lines have an organic touch that plays off the geometry of the space and building," says Denton.