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WE LOVE TO WATCH...THE CITY’S MOST SOCIAL STARS

December 2016
Real estate experts say the market has one way to go in 2017: Up. Literally.

This grand double floating staircase takes you up to the terrace at RH Las Vegas. Feels like a mansion, functions as a design studio.

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108 // ASIA CALLING
The city’s first new-build hotel casino in six years, Lucky Dragon moves Chinatown to the Strip’s North End.

109 // LEGO LOCO!
Found: the perfect man. Leaning in, listening to your secrets, not talking back… and comes in delightful primary colors.

110 // GOING UP!
Where do the city’s top real estate brokers see the market going next year? In a word, higher.

112 // SPACE: THE GUIDE
The best of Las Vegas home décor, hotels, and real estate.
THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN

YOU’LL WANT TO MOVE IN TO THE NEW RH LAS VEGAS, THE GALLERY AT TIVOLI VILLAGE—AND THAT NICELY ALIGNS WITH CEO GARY FRIEDMAN’S VISION.

BY ANDREA BENNETT

Known for design that offers a unique take on traditional forms, Restoration Hardware has made a latter-day leap into contemporary furnishings with the launch of RH Modern. But while other home furnishings and design businesses move toward selling in the virtual realm, RH CEO Gary Friedman is assertively going the opposite direction. Namely, in openings like the new RH Gallery (340 S. Rampart Blvd., 775-464-0770; rh.com), which, at 60,000 square feet over four floors of a classical contemporary manse, anchors the expansion of Tivoli Village. It is immediately recognizable, with its charcoal-gray Venetian plaster exterior, an entrance of 30-foot-high glass-and-steel arches, and courtyards filled with lush fig ivy and towering date palms. A rooftop park and conservatory is studded with mature heritage olive trees—as if someone lives here. And that is quite the point, as Friedman told us in a recent conversation about RH’s future.

I hesitate to call RH Gallery a store, since I’d like to just move in. Most retailers build a storefront or slap up a big box building. We’re building spaces with fresh air and natural light—really more home than store. We don’t do this because it’s a novelty idea. It allows people to explore and experience in a...
realistic and abstracted manner. Our consultants in the Design Atelier are there to understand how people can amplify their own space and even help them conceive a space that they might not be able to imagine on their own. In Vegas, the rooftop area seems particularly inspired because of our weather. We’re excited to be in Las Vegas, and we’ve allocated more outdoor space here than to any other Gallery because we know that people love their outdoor spaces. We’re trying to express who we are in the most authentic and dynamic way we can.

I understand the idea of experiencing a space, but 60,000 square feet is really large! Where other retailers are shrinking, the physicality of our brand is really important. The more three-dimensional the experience, the deeper connection a person can have. If you’re selling commodities, this isn’t so important. There’s no need for a person to interact with a box of Tide laundry detergent before they buy it!

**How do you see the RH experience evolving?**

These new design galleries are in their very early states. There will be a whole floor dedicated to RH Modern—our new business in the last year. The vast majority of team members are interior designers or consultants with strong design backgrounds. Our design ethos is based on our belief that the most pleasing design is a reflection of human design, and we are helping people realize their own vision.

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**“THE PHYSICALITY OF OUR BRAND IS REALLY IMPORTANT. THERE’S NO NEED FOR A PERSON TO INTERACT WITH A BOX OF TIDE LAUNDRY DETERGENT BEFORE THEY BUY IT!”**

—Gary Friedman

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**FROM TOP:** Pull up a stool and make some design decisions with RH’s team of consultants; this fire pit faces Red Rock.

**FROM TOP:** Customers are encouraged to relax and experience this outdoor furniture in its breezy environs; not just living room furniture—lie down for a bit of retail therapy!
Influencers from the worlds of entertainment, design, fashion, art, philanthropy, and business gathered to celebrate the unveiling of RH Las Vegas at Tivoli Village. The event featured a DJ performance by Chris Malinchak on the rooftop and a guest appearance by actress and supermodel Amber Valletta. Guests enjoyed gourmet bites by Nobu and sipped Bellinis by Cipriani NYC and wines by Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley. The event benefitted local charity After-School All-Stars Las Vegas. Commanding four levels and 60,000 square feet, the new retail experience features artistic installations of home furnishings in a gallery setting—including an entire floor dedicated to RH Modern with an integrated RH Contemporary Art Gallery.
Recently I attended a lecture at Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art entitled “Town and Country: Painting and Modernity from Realism to Expressionism,” given by Claire C. Whitner, assistant director of curatorial affairs and senior curator of collections for the Davis Museum at Wellesley College. The show, which examines how artists depicted 19th century Europe’s rural and urban areas during great social, economic, and artistic change, is fascinating in its own right (read more about it on page 50). But to my surprise, Whitner observed that Las Vegas seems a particularly apt location in which to stage an exhibition about the rise of the modern city. Vegas is “a place that has not only been upheld as the quintessential postmodern city since the 1970s, but has continued to serve as the lens through which to theorize the changing international urban landscapes in the 21st century,” she pointed out. Always evolving, reinterpreting, and reinventing, Vegas offers new interpretations of how spectacle and visual primacy continue to be components of the urban experience. It’s almost too perfect, she rightly pointed out, that our micro-Paris, Venice, and even New York City are inscribed within Las Vegas. This is why I live in and love Las Vegas. Sure, we push the limits of architecture, fashion, and often, good taste. But in many ways, that makes us a testing ground for urban change. We’re the runway to realway of urban planning. In the pages of our #Insta-Vegas cover story (page 84), we offer you that lens Whitner mentioned, quite literally, through which to see our changing city, through our characters, our landscape, our fashion, our unique aesthetic.

Happy Holidays,

ANDREA BENNETT

CLOCKWISE: Elaine Wynn, Sophia Song, and I caught up before Jenna Morton’s birthday party hosted by Michael Morton at their beautiful home in The Ridges (passed White Castle sliders…genius!), I served on the hosting committee for the opening of RH Las Vegas (the dress is from Patina Décor), and met up there with RH CEO Gary Friedman; one of the women I admire most in our community, Rose McKinney-James, was the keynote speaker at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open’s sixth annual Kick Off Your Heels Luncheon.

#THEVEGASEDIT

In the last month, I’ve been massaged with candlewax; eaten my weight in vegan meat; gone on what I thought was a comprehensive oyster happy hour tour (there’s more work to be done), detoxed in a hyperbaric chamber, and did upside down yoga as part of #thevegasedit, our new page on vegasmagazine.com. Want me to try something and give you the inside scoop? Email me at thevegasedit@greengale.com. Your ideas (for which you’ll get credit) could inspire what we cover in the magazine and on our site.
THE BEST OF LAS VEGAS HOME DÉCOR, HOTELS, AND REAL ESTATE

HOME DÉCOR

BACCARAT
Here you’ll find exquisite glass and colored-crystal tableware, home décor, and lighting, plus gifts galore. The Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-693-6877; baccarat.com

LALIQUE
Inspired by René Lalique’s original glass pieces, this shop at Crystals boutique carries the brand’s sparkling line of vases, sculptures, clocks, chandeliers, and more. The Shops at Crystals, 702-507-2375; Lalique.com

LAS VEGAS DESIGN CENTER
At the Las Vegas Design Center’s Design Salon, clients enjoy an unparalleled assortment of showrooms, personal shopping services and consultations. 495 S. Grand Central Pkwy., 702-599-3093; lvdesigncenter.com

HOTELS

ARIA
The spectacular setup at Aria includes two classes of suites—the Tower Suites and Sky Suites—plus award-winning restaurants and lagoon-like pools. 702-730-7111; aria.com

BELLLAGIO
Known for its famed fountain show and must-see art collection, Bellagio brings a sense of Italian romance to the heart of the Strip. 702-693-7111; bellagio.com

CAESARS PALACE
One of the oldest hotels on the Strip continues to evolve with the recent debuts of its revamped Julius Tower, Omnia Nightclub, and trendsetting restaurants. 866-227-5938; caesars.com

DOWNTOWN GRAND
Enjoy close proximity to the best of Downtown Las Vegas at this contemporary retreat, known for its sleek interiors and rooftop pool deck. 855-384-7263; downtowngrand.com

ENCORE LAS VEGAS
Wynn Las Vegas’s sister resort is home to a dynamic collection of suites, restaurants, and indoor/outdoor entertainment venues, including Encore Beach Club and XS Nightclub. 702-770-7000; wynnlasvegas.com

FOUR SEASONS LAS VEGAS
Located next to Mandalay Bay, this exclusive Art Deco-inspired hideaway offers respite from the pulsing energy of the Strip. 702-623-5000; fourseasons.com

GREEN VALLEY RANCH RESORT
Just a short drive from the Strip, Green Valley Ranch Mediterranean resort aims to entice with an award-winning spa and steakhouse, 2300 Paseo Verde Pkwy., Henderson, 702-817-7777; thecromwell.com

GREEN VALLEY RANCH RESORT
Inspired by the glamour of South Beach, the all-suite Delano Las Vegas offers access to a number of high-style dining and nightlife venues, as well as adjacent Mandalay Bay. 702-632-7888; delanolasvegas.com

HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO
Embrace Vegas’s rock-n-roll spirit at this iconic resort complete with multiple nightlife venues, theaters, and action-packed pools. 702-693-5000; hardrockhotel.com

MANDALAY BAY
The gold-plated palace at the south end of the Strip is the focal point of a resort complex that also features a sprawling pool playground, aquarium, and events center. 877-632-7700; mandalaybay.com

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
This Asian-inspired hideaway boasts Michelin-starred chef Pierre Gagnaire’s Twist restaurant, a chic tearoom, and one of the Strip’s most exclusive pool decks. 702-590-8888; mandarinoriental.com

MGM GRAND
Guarded by a 45-foot bronze lion, this massive hotel is home to Hakkasan night club and restaurants from celebrity chefs Michael Mina and Joel Robuchon. 877-880-0880; mgmgrand.com

THE MIRAGE
The Mirage’s tropically inspired grounds channel the spirit of Polynesia with an erupting volcano, saltwater aquarium, and dedicated animal habitats. 702-791-7111; mirage.com

MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO
The palatial Monte Carlo Resort offers nearly 3,000 guestrooms and suites, as well as prime positioning near the new T-Mobile Arena. 702-732-7777; montecarlo.com