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Got Milk?

**LOSE** p24  
**WEIGHT!**

¿Tienen leche?  
¡Pierdan peso!

Sci-Fi Rock p26

**COHEED &  
CAMBRIA**

Rock de ciencia ficción

**RESORT** Chic p14  
Cool Beauty,  
Hot Fashion

Belleza renovadora,  
moda fabulosa

PLAYING TIMES

**Fabulous** p52

Relojes **Watches**

fabulosos para  
que se diviertan

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DARK ANGEL TO BRIGHT STAR • ALBA

*Jessica*

DE ÁNGEL NEGRO A ESTRELLA LUMINOSA p42



The elegant yet functional kitchen. Even washing dishes can be fun in this well-designed space. Una cocina elegante pero funcional. Hasta lavar los platos puede ser divertido en este espacio bien diseñado.

I have asked the designers to summarize in their own words the inspiration for these rooms. I want you to share their excitement about such stunning work.

We start with the entrance hall, and guess what? It contains not a coat closet but a bar! What a great way to greet your guests: with a refreshing drink. This elegant bar, designed by Susan Wesley, is visible through a large opening in the wall within the home's entry rotunda, and the bar appears as a little jewel alongside the grand entryway.

"Walls are adorned with a faux-finish called Luster Stone, which contains flecks of mica to produce an iridescent sheen. The bar's existing white cabinets were replaced by new doors and drawers stained a rich golden-brown to complete the look of elegance.

"A specially-commissioned art piece provides the focus of the bar area and can easily be viewed from the entry hall and rotunda. The abstract 48-inch-square wall sculpture was created by artist Laddie John Dill. The burnished metal and glass reflect the terra cotta, turquoise and teal color scheme that is used throughout the Design House. The artist does not reveal how he achieved such intense colors from minerals and pigments, but the results are fabulous."

Adjoining the foyer and adjacent to the bar is the dining room by Mary Ann Beggs, Edison de'Sa and Linda Uy. In the past few years the dining room has become an often-forgotten area seldom used except on holidays. Here is a great example of how all that is changing. Even though today's lifestyle is more casual, with the kitchen/great room becoming the location of choice for entertaining, there is a movement away from casu-

al to a more elegant experience. Now designers spend time creating an environment that is more dramatic than the rest of the house, a couter room suitable for dinner parties throughout the year.

"Our inspiration is from the late forties, using metallic finishes throughout to create a transitional setting, warming the large space and bringing it into scale for entertaining. The elegant nineteen-foot-high garnet draperies against the gold metallic and burnished walls complement a glass table for ten, leading the eye to the dramatic custom artwork. We used pieces that reflected light to create the shimmering, elegant glow, such as the mirrored buffet by designer Julia Grey, the gold Murano glass chandelier from Joseph Sala and the limited-edition Corbin bronze statue, all reflecting onto the tabletop. The table continues the metallic theme with tall Murano gold glass candle holders that were made by the same artist as the martini glasses and the fruit bowls lining the center of the table."

Bone china from Tiffany set on gold placemats make for an elegant dinner. The final touch is a round Limoge porcelain box in the center of each plate, a gift for guests and a remembrance of a wonderful evening. Connected by a columned hall to the dining room are the kitchen and adjoining morning room by Barbara McLane.

"First of all, I worked very closely with the homeowners to make sure that the kitchen remains functional and supports their lifestyle. They enjoy entertaining around food, both formally and informally. In fact family and friends frequently cook together, so they needed more appliances than an average kitchen would require. Placing sinks vis-à-vis in the island brought an amazing dynamic to this kitchen. Besides adding