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NOVEMBER 2008 \$3.95

Bloom Room

Culver City's Gallery Row knows where the artsy party's at: SmogShoppe, a new, eco-chic private-events venue directly across the street from Mandrake on La Cienega. Aimed at the Westside's pious Prius demo, the 6,000-square-foot indoor/outdoor venue—which was recycled out of its former life as an auto-emissions testing site (hence the name)—is an almost entirely sustainable space, boasting complete solar power and a rainwater-collection system that irrigates the property's drought-resistant "living wall," that's packed with plants sprouting from salvaged felt bags. Also green: the vintage furniture culled via local flea markets and Craigslist ads. "We don't like new—it doesn't have the same charm," says co-owner Miguel Nelson, who, along with wife Sherry Walsh, dreamt up the spot as an expansion of Marvimon, their Chinatown foray into one-night-only destination digs. www.smogshoppe.com —A.J.



GARDEN OF MEETIN': The indoor/outdoor scene at SmogShoppe in Culver City.



PERFECT TIMING Clock and load! Nonprofit Chrysalis has partnered with jet-set watchmaker Ernst Benz to celebrate the charity's 24th anniversary with four celeb-designed timepieces—the final one, by director Brett Ratner, is out this month. Previous iterations came courtesy of Russell Simmons, Mary J. Blige and Eric Dane. Ratner's camera-inspired creation features cut-out peepholes that allow its interior mechanisms to be viewed. "Every time I glance at the watch, it reminds me of looking into the eyepiece when I'm filming," he says. Only 24 were made, and 50 percent of each watch's \$6,800 price tag will be donated back to the homeless-employment organization. "Building

a watch is actually more similar to making movies than I ever thought," says Ratner. "It was like re-shooting that perfect scene until you get it just right." Available exclusively at Saks Fifth Avenue, Bev Hills. —A.J.



MINUTE MAN: Brett Ratner and his Ernst Benz watch.



[CULTURE FLASH]

PATRON-IZING! MOCA's just launched its very own junior league with Happy House, an invite-only members club for twenty- and thirty-somethings meant to incubate the next generation of local philanthro philes. Run by a trio of socially connected aesthetes—24-year-old stylist/DJ Ezra Woods, 26-year-old Charity Water activist Karyn Kohl and 34-year-old PR vet Jessica Trent (ex of People's Revolution)—the group, named after the Siouxsie And The Banshees song, is set to host a slew of private dinners and artists' studio tours for its creative-class crowd of designers, actors, writers, musicians and chefs, who are each paying more than \$1,500 in annual dues. "L.A. lacks the established tradition of intergenerational nonprofit support that the East Coast has," says Kohl. "We're striving to change that." —Paul Young

FRAMED: Happy House founders Ezra Woods and Karyn Kohl at the Geffen Contemporary downtown.

