



scene

# behind the scenes

## CLUB DESIGNERS

BY JOHN HOOD PHOTOGRAPHY BY WICK BEAVERS

**If nightclubbing is a sensory experience (and it is), those who design the nightclubs must then be responsible for the sensation. He who designs the most sensational wins. And wins big.**

CALLIN FORTIS

### BIG TIME DESIGN STUDIOS | CAMEO

With Cameo, Chicago kingpin Callin Fortis undid his crobar creation and remade it in the likeness of the Palladium of the past. Picture Wright retrofitting the insides of Burnham & Root's Rookery while dancing to a "dirty disco" beat. It's the hallowed hollowing of a classic core to make way for a whole new modernity, a keen that not only knows history, but knows how to make it. Something stellar, something sinful and something sublime. But Fortis and his Big Time Design Studios partner, Orlando Lamas, could not be content merely to incorporate many elements of one of the life's most legendary clubs and make of it a night. Tossed with torn fragments of Warhol's Factory fabrications, tweaked with techniques devised by the crafty Steven Holl, and looked to lure residents of John Laulner's space-age residences, this new redo sums up its parts with a decidedly 21st-century feel. Currently, Fortis and Lamas are working on the Morgans Hotel Group's big-ticket Mondrian project on South Beach.