

september 2009 hdmag.com

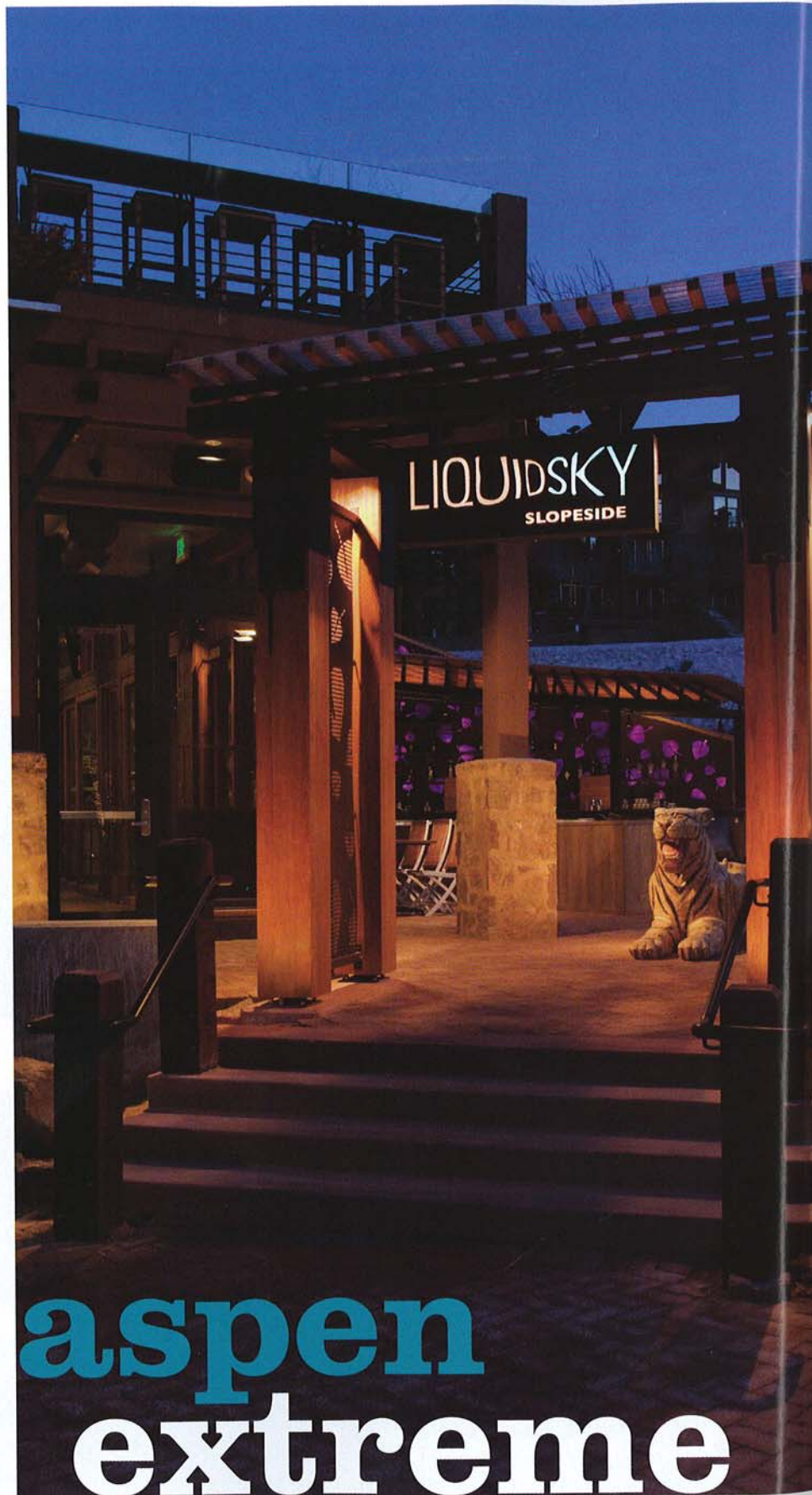
hospitalitydesign

indulge
the hd boutique issue



Every restaurant or nightclub that Scott DeGraff has opened in Chicago, Las Vegas, or Dallas has broken all the rules when it comes to design. A retractable roof at Moon; a Plexiglas floor panel at Ghostbar that looks some 50 stories below. So it comes as no surprise that after moving to Aspen, Colorado, two years ago he wanted to open a place that would “add some fun and energy to it,” he says. But instead of opening one of his and partner Michael Morton’s signature concepts, he decided to try his hand at something new. “The goal was something that would stand the test of time,” he explains of his new concepts Junk and Liquid Sky at the base of up-and-coming Snowmass Mountain. “It had to be unpretentious but still have that sizzle factor.”

Spread over 10,000 square feet, two floors, indoors and outdoors (complete with outdoor showers, lounge chairs, and firepits) and connected by multiple staircases, high-end fast casual joint Junk and sexier, loungey Liquid Sky upstairs redefine après ski. “Upstairs it’s an adult



aspen extreme

Vegas Strip style in the mountains

This and opposite page, from far left: Chandeliers made of silverware hang over the bar filled with junk at Junk; an 800-pound tiger greets guests at Liquid Sky; and firepits warm outdoor seating in the wintertime.



Right, from top: The bar at Liquid Sky is fronted with concrete tiles imprinted with Persian rug designs; Liquid Sky's interior lounge area features faux fur blankets, teak couches, and reclaimed oak floors. *Opposite page:* Perforated steel Aspen leaves backlit by LEDs line the backbar at one of Liquid Sky's outdoor patios.

party, and downstairs is a family party," explains Karen Herold, vice president of design of 555 Design in Chicago, who handled the design. (In fact, she and her partner James Geier have worked on the majority of DeGraff's projects for the past eight years.)

In Junk, the palette and materials are simple—custom butcher-block wood tabletops, oak floors, penny tile on the walls, furniture powder coated in cream. Instead, it's the whimsical—but thoughtful—touches that make the space (and hark back to the name and concept). The custom bar is made up of more than 20 boxes filled with different types of junk: PEZ dispensers, crushed beer cans, bottle caps, mini liquor bottles, cowboys and Indians, Barbie Dolls. "Stuff you liked as a kid or as a big kid," DeGraff says. And five chandeliers, each made with 750 pieces of silverware hang throughout the space. "We cleaned out three states in silverware—Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana," explains Herold. "There are a lot of fun elements. We wanted it to be down to earth."

Guests know they have reached Liquid Sky by the 800-pound teak tiger sitting outside. "When we were in New York City [on a scouting trip], we saw it in a store," Herold explains. "It has nothing to do with the project; Scott just said 'he needs to go with us.'" Inside, the designers played on the idea of rustic in a more contemporary, non-typical Aspen way. Stacked quartzite tile and stainless steel shelves held together by rope make up the backbar; floors are done in aged oak; LEDs change color throughout the night; copper tile covers the ceiling; and the cement tiles fronting the leather topped bar are imprinted with Persian rug designs (found after a three-month search from a picture DeGraff ripped out of a magazine eight years ago). "We used a lot of amazing materials," DeGraff says, adding that building in the mountains had its challenges. "It has the Vegas level of design but it has been mountainized." **hd**
www.555.com; www.funworldwide.net





Junk/Liquid Sky

Snowmass Village, Colorado

Owner Scott DeGraff and Junk Investors

Architect of Record Bolo Design, Santa Monica, California

Design Architect 555 Design, Chicago

Interior Design Firm Scott DeGraff,

Aspen, Colorado, and 555 Design, Chicago

Interior Design Firm James Geier and Karen Herold

Contractor PCL Construction

Lighting Liest Lighting

JUNK

Recycled Silverware Chandeliers and Butcher Block Tabletops 555 Design

Penny Tile Ann Sacks

Table Bases West Coast Industries

Cream Chairs and Barstools Tolix

Custom Oak Flooring Balentine

Collection International

Cluster Lamp Moooi Lighting

Custom Oak Floor Tiles Balentine

Collection International

Glass and Metal Back Bar 555 Design

Barstools Tolix

Bartop CaesarStone

LIQUID SKY

Metal Signage/Aspen Leaf Bar Back/

Couches/Tabletops and Banquette/

Firestix and Signage 555 Design

Rusted Metal Distinguished Boards/

Beams Teak Barn Door Hardware

New World Millworks

Teak Tiger Andrianna Shamaris

Teak Folding Chairs and Lounger

Design Collection

Stone Top Around Firepit

CaesarStone

Barstool Fabric Knoll Textiles

Cushions/Pillows Juan Duarte Design

Turquoise Barstools Emeco

Quartz Tile Around Firepit Realstone

Systems

Umbrellas Shadescapes

Silver Snake Fabric Concertex

Teak Couches Tru Furniture

Sound System Function One

Copper Table Bases West Coast

Industries

Faux Fur Blankets/Teak Barstools/

Reclaimed Wood Ottomans Four Hands

Pillow Fabric Concertex

Vinyl Wallcovering Elitis

Copper Drapes Holly Hunt