



# MIAMI

A decade after the South Beach boom, IRENE RICASIO uncovers America's next design sensation.

**stay** vintage nautical elements set the theme at the newly re-opened **Royal Hotel**, 1938 art deco structure inside the 42 rooms architect Jordan Mozer custom-designed the jellyfish carpeting, amoeba shaped work stations and gleaming white modular beds where the headboards double as bars, and nightstands double as seats. 758 WASHINGTON AVE; BOOK THROUGH DESIGN HOTELS 800-337-4685 OR [www.DESIGNHOTELS.COM](http://www.DESIGNHOTELS.COM) Doubles \$150. **dine** Located on the coolest and most low-key stretch of South Beach **Pearl Restaurant and Champagne Lounge** bathes its already gorgeous clientele in an immensely flattering peach glow. Designer Stephane Dupoux transformed the 7,000 square foot space into a futuristic Clockwork Orange-style fantasy, with fur trimmed white leather chairs, translucent white drapes and old black-and-white movies projected through an orange filter.



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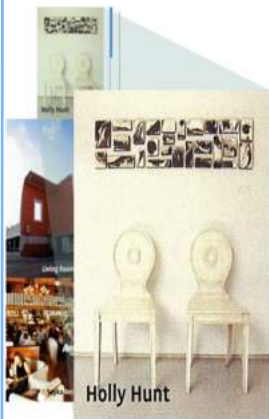
The New American seafood dishes pair excellently with the selection of champagnes by the glass 1 OCEAN DR : 305-538-1111 X 2; ENTREES \$18-\$37.

**Shop** A one stop emporium for the city's bare-all beach divas. **Funky Sexy** is unapologetically garish: Feather Boas and Cher-worthy wigs jockey for space next to glittering sequined evening bags and Lurex bikini tops so skimpy, they're practically feats of engineering. Not for the modest-but it's an entertaining taste quintessential Miami.

637 LINCOLN RD.: 305-532-2649.

# HOT NEIGHBORHOOD:

## Design District



Easily Miami's most vibrant new community, the Design District was down at the heels just five years ago. Now the 18-Square-block enclave (roughly between N. Miami Avenue and N.E. 2nd Avenue. from N.E. 36th Street to N.E. 42nd Street) is nothing short of a miracle of urban renewal, thanks largely to visionary developer Craig Robins, who commissions structures (like the offbeat Living Room Building) that are more akin to works of art. A striking set of murals by Argentine artists Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt greets visitors at the district's entrance. There's a showroom for every possible fancy, and all are open to the public: Highlights include the latest from Chicago based designer Holly Hunt (a breath taking 22,000-square foot space illuminated by a skylight); Tui Pranich (whose serene interior, designed by Hariri & Hariri, features an indoor fountain running along the perimeter). and six month-old a-d, the first U.S. distributor of the new furniture line from hot Paris-based architect India Mahdavi. After browsing, break for lunch at the bustling Soyka Restaurant.

### Installation by Lisa Ariotti in Holly Hunt showroom.

**take home** The Townhouse Collection of beachwear, by ex-Givenchy designer Stephane Parmentier, is tailor-made for denizens of America's Riviera. The baby-blue terrycloth minis and unisex T-shirts are stylish enough to go out for cocktails; the floral headscarf is straight out of *To Catch a Thief*. AVAILABLE AT THE TOWNHOUSE HOTEL 150 20ST 305-534-3800.



**Hirst, Keith Haring and Jake and Dinos Chapman. 95 N.W**

**29TH ST:305-573-6090.**

Prominent locals Jennifer and Jason Rubell (niece and nephew to Studio 54's legendary Steve) are the caretakers of the **Rubell Family Collection**, one of the finest private holdings of contemporary art in the area. Set in a cavernous, slightly out-of-the-way space that once served as a DEA warehouse-yes, the Ironies abound-the provocative collection includes pileces by **Darnier**

