

GLAMOROUS HOMES IN
LOS ANGELES
MILAN
MELBOURNE
SYDNEY
PALM SPRINGS

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES
at legendary Berowra Waters Inn

ROME FOR DESIGN LOVERS
AN INSIDER'S GUIDE

HISTORIC HARBOURSIDE
GARDEN IN SYDNEY

BELLE SPY
WHAT'S COOL
WHAT'S HOT

LUXURY

WHAT IT MEANS TODAY

Sir Norman Foster + Anna Schwartz + Richard Johnson + Carlo Giorgetti

RIGHT NOW WHERE

Words by CERENTHA HARRIS



Ivy League

The luscious interiors of Justin Hemmes' latest extravagance are in a class of their own.



Ivy's Mad Cow grill (above) features a 1950s Palm Springs aesthetic, while its Den bar, with spectacular turquoise furnishings, has more of a loungey vibe.

AFTER MUCH ANTICIPATION the first stage of Justin Hemmes' \$350-million Sydney entertainment venue, Ivy, opened earlier this year. On the first night, hundreds of people packed its bars and restaurants flowing over two levels. The interiors were the culmination of five years of hard work by Melbourne-based interior designers Hecker Phelan & Guthrie. "I met Justin 10 years ago," says the firm's Paul Hecker. "We'd done The Prince [in Melbourne] and he stayed there. Then when he did Establishment [in Sydney], he called us, and we did the public spaces. He rang us again for Ivy. He also wanted a recommendation for an architect, and we suggested Nik Karalis from Woods Bagot."

That was the beginning of a dream team that would grow to include landscape designer Daniel Baffsky and graphic designer Steven Cornwell. Add to that just-in's design-savvy sister Bettina and you get Ivy - a sophisticated pleasure palace located at the northern end of George Street. "With a project this size, we were lucky to have such a good team," says Paul. "We rarely get to work on projects when there's so much love in the room."

That said, it wasn't all roses and sunshine - the project did experience a delay of five years. So how do you manage a design challenge like that? "We were patently aware... there'd be no point choosing furniture five years ago, we knew we'd be sick of it by now," says Paul. And how about maintaining momentum? "The fantastic thing with Justin is he's fun and willing to reconsider and reassess."

The creative toing and froing has paid off. The result is a strong contemporary space softened with a masterful touch. "Our inspiration was a modernist Palm Springs home, like Bob Hope's. It's glamorous, but casual and laid-back - perfect for Justin and suited to Sydney," says Paul.

Stage two and three, which will include a ballroom and a rooftop pool, are scheduled to open later this year. Already, though, Ivy is well worth a visit. Ivy is located at 320-330 George Street, Sydney; (61) 9240 3000.

