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JANUARY 2009

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1. ART OF GLASS
Bar du Matin, Brussels

With its full-length glass wall and floating ceiling of cut-outs, Bar du Matin, designed by Frederic Nicolay and AAC architects, attracts an interestingly mixed local crowd. Healthy juices and homemade tea mixes are on offer and – this being Belgium – the beer selection is far from disappointing: try one of the artisanal treats from Quintine or Taras Boulba. **Guy Dittrich**
172 Chaussée D'Alseberg, Brussels, tel: 32.2 537 7159



2. SNOW FJÄLL
Fjäll, Australia

When developer Andrew Ryan saw an existing lodge at Falls Creek on the Victorian ski fields, he knew it was the perfect candidate for an overhaul. Bringing in Salter Architects and interior design company Hecker Phelan & Guthrie (who worked on the massive Ivy entertainment complex in Sydney), the Fjäll (pronounced 'fee-all') was gutted and transformed. 'The aim was to create something contemporary that still had that ski feel,' says Ryan. The result is six Scandinavian-style apartments with limed timber floors, wood panelling, mid-century furniture and marble kitchens, some with balcony spas. Fjäll is located at the end of Falls Creek village, so it's close to cafés and restaurants, yet has one of the best views in town over Tawonga Valley. It's also a true ski-in/ski-out resort, with the main chairlift at the end of the street and a ramp at the back of the building for a perfect re-entry after a day on the slopes. **Carrie Hutchinson**
7 Snowgums Lane, Falls Creek, tel: 61.3 9650 0509, www.fjall.com.au. Rates: from \$AUS600 (£250) a night for a three-bedroom apartment



3. STAGE EFFECTS
Kettner's, London

Soho's good old theatrical eatery has had a revamp by London-based designer Ilse Crawford. Named after Auguste Kettner, Napoleon's chef, Kettner's runs over five floors, with private rooms on top and a secret passage in the basement leading to the Palace Theatre – once used by King Edward VII to meet his lover, the showgirl Lillie Langtry. 'We've used the history of Kettner's to make a contemporary place that plays on the allure of glamour and greasepaint,' says Crawford. Apart from the Brasserie (pictured), the Pudding Bar and Champagne bar (which features a vintage chandelier), we've a secret crush on the Apartment room, overlooking the streets of Soho. **Sara Henrichs**
29 Romilly Street, London W1, tel: 44. 20 7734 6112, www.kettners.com