



THOMAS SCHOOS

KNOWN FOR  
KOI RESTAURANT;  
HUNTLEY HOTEL;  
CELEB RESIDENCES,  
INCLUDING THAT  
OF WILL AND JADA  
PINKETT SMITH

**ORIGIN** I moved from Europe and started out with my artwork in my showroom on Melrose.

**DESIGN STYLE** Worldly eclectic.

**TRADEMARK** Fire. You'll find fireplaces or candles [in the interiors I've designed]—and a lot of them. Nature is always part of my design.

**INFLUENCES** Philippe Starck—he's a lifestyle person who thinks between the lines. He designs sofas, airplane seats, spoons. He's had a big influence on me.

**NOTABLE CLIENTS** Koi restaurant, Tao in New York and Las Vegas, the Huntley Hotel [in Santa Monica], and many celebrity clients that I can't name here because of confidentiality.

**FAVORITE PROJECTS** O-Bar, because I own it myself with my business partner, Michael Berman. It was amazing to have myself as a client under my own roof.

**CHALLENGES** The biggest problem you have as a designer is the vision. Even though I can see it, I can smell it, and I can taste it, to make a client comfortable is the most difficult part of the process, especially because [a prospective client] might see two different projects of mine and not know that I did both. I "reinvent my wheel" of design with every project I take on, so it can be a little more challenging to convey my ideas.

**MILESTONE MOMENT** Moving into my own creative studio and hiring my staff.

**ULTIMATE GOAL** To make [my clients] a part of the design, and create a space of indulgence for them.

**ASPIRATIONS** In the next couple of years there will be the TS lifestyle line of furniture, fabrics, carpets, accessories, and books.

**WORDS OF WISDOM** Don't be intimidated by other designers. Follow your gut, like I did. Be

"My ultimate goal is to make [my clients] a part of the design, and create a space of indulgence for them."

a kid at a candy store. Design is beautiful, so don't restrict yourself. To create your own world is wonderful... Don't have a horizon too close; keep an open mind.

**UPCOMING PROJECTS** LAX nightclub at the Luxor in Las Vegas, a restaurant and lounge with [Iron] Chef Morimoto; and I'm building my own eco-friendly resort in Costa Rica.

*Thomas Schoos Design, 8271 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, 323-822-2800; schoos.com.*