

THE HotCORNER

HOLLYWOOD & CAHUENGA

The Sunset Strip is ten years past its heyday, a stretch of West Hollywood that's only still popular with Euros carrying frayed guidebooks. The action has moved east to Hollywood. Earlier this decade, Cahuenga was the flashpoint, and thanks to a new batch of entrepreneurs, the corridor is beginning its second wave.

Designer Kristofer Keith of Spacecraft positioned himself at the center of the action. He was nominated for an AIA/LA Restaurant Design Award for his



work on Kitchen 24, a sleek 24/7 diner. He's working on a burgers-and-beer concept down Cahuenga called Stout, with a wraparound patio and beer bottle chandeliers. Now he's become a restaurateur, partnering with Adolfo Suaya (Gaucho Grill, the upcoming Osaka Hollywood) on **Delux**. Keith adorned the Art

Deco restaurant and lounge with a green marble bar and a 45-foot-wide stained-glass mural inspired by "Metropolis" that depicts blimps, skyscrapers and mountains. Eric Greenspen, chef-owner of The Foundry on Melrose and Suaya's long-time friend, infused his entire small plates menu with alcohol. Think crispy mac and cheese with whiskey barbecue sauce, seared scallops with champagne beurre blanc and whiskey chocolate truffles with walnuts and caramel.

David Stratton used to have a club around the corner called Club Lingerie. For Cahuenga 2.0, Stratton partnered with Danny B on **Ecco Ultra Lounge**, occupying the former Tokio space.

Designer Beau Robb's eco-friendly facelift utilized recycled aluminum siding, LED bubble lighting from Europe that changes color and a state-of-the-art sound system designed by Advanced Audio. "All the DJs from around the world want to come in and play here," says Stratton. "It's a dream spot." The power is harvested from the sun and wind, and even the straws were recycled.

Two doors down, Stratton and Danny B are launching a pizzeria with Andrew Belchic (the original owner of Citizen Smith) and Nicky Nahas in the former home of Blest Boutique. Belchic's design includes patio seating and a 100-year-old wood door. The working title is **Lucca**, though the name may change before January's opening. Whatever the name, expect pizzas and pastas made with organic ingredients, 24-hour service and DJs.



Delux, 1624 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, (323) 461-6800

Ecco Ultra Lounge, 1640 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, (323) 464-2065, www.eccohollywood.com

Lucca (name for now), 1634 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood