
MEN OF *VISION*

Esteban Lopez & James Niebling

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Esteban Interiors is a professional interior design company. Celebrating their new "Inspiration Heights" location in the historic Mission Hills area of San Diego, California, the firm exemplifies quality and strives to exceed their client's expectations by bringing the client's interests and desires into a collaborative design.

Principals James Niebling and Esteban Lopez are proud of their long history in 'award winning' residential and commercial interior design. Two of their firms completed projects have been nominated for 2 Orchid awards for 2018. Every project and client is unique. With this in mind, Esteban Interiors provides a wide range of

"Esteban is known to introduce new concepts and products that reflect the client's individual needs and personal style."

design services to suit a variety of needs including space & lighting plans, virtual 3-D renderings, custom furniture, color consultations, window treatments, product procurement, accessorizing, and styling. With a high level of expertise and experience in residential, hospitality, and commercial design projects, Esteban Interiors creates a finished product that exudes high quality design and materials, and a sense that the space has evolved over time.





TRAVELING LIGHT

Welcome to this issue of *Modern Luxury San Diego*, celebrating my birthday month! All right, this October issue has nothing to do with my birthday, but it does focus on travel, which is my absolute favorite thing to do. And while I avoid any kind of birthday celebration my friends and family plan for me (call me surprise-averse), I have no problem co-opting trips, events and, yes, even magazine issues, and celebrating them a little more because they fall in the best of all possible months.

I'm especially looking forward to a trip with friends to Kailua, Hawaii, where we'll be taking over an estate that looks out over the Mokulua Islands and visiting our friend's parents' house for a traditional luau. Technically, it's his celebration, but true to form, I'm setting my birthday clock to it. For me, traveling is about rekindling friendships and taking some time away from my real life so that I appreciate it that much more when I return. I'm increasingly loving a low-key approach: My beauty routine is going to be strictly wash-and-wear, and I will not wear a fancy outfit—not one time.

In fact, I'm already planning the year in trips, which includes truffle hunting in Tuscany—from an 800-year-old castle, of course—with my best friend, and I'm researching silent retreats (let me know your favorites!). One of the biggest responsibilities of publishers, aside from running the business of the magazine, is entertaining people. We're in many ways the social hub, not only of the community we form around the magazine, but also in our office. But as Gustave Flaubert so aptly put it, "Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world." When I get back, I know I'll appreciate my small place in the world even more.

While the rest of the country is hunkering down and back to work, we still have glorious weather to extend our social season out of doors. Here's wishing you a fabulous October—aka my month—and feel free to appropriate all our great events so you feel like they're all just for you too.

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From left: Esteban Lopez, James Niebling, me and Alex Yáñez at the Women to Watch event



WOMEN TO WATCH EVENT PHOTO BY TIM HARDY; PORTRAIT PHOTO BY BECCA TEAL BATISTA

on the SCENE

BY CLAIRE HARPER

GIRL POWER

This year's **Women to Watch** event featured an evening of dancing and delicious fare on the Kettner Exchange rooftop.

1. Modern Luxury San Diego's Casey Gillespie cheered with the crowd.
2. Mahjuba Levine and Alex Yáñez
3. Karla Ortega and Valerie Kundis
4. Christine Baker and Christa Schott
5. Jason Grauten, Philip Auchettl and Justin Navalle
6. Linda Karami, Estaban Lopez, Camille Andres, James Niebling and Tom Melody
7. Lillet was one of the party sponsors.



THE PARTY Passed hors d'oeuvres, flowing libations and celebrating some of San Diego's most notable women at the Kettner Exchange made for a perfect summer's evening. Sponsored by Lillet and Antonyan Miranda, this year's Women to Watch event was a must-attend event. **THE GUESTS** Honorees Ilona Antonyan, Christine Baker, Linda Clow, Farideh Dunford and Jen Rubin enjoyed their special night. **THE HIGHLIGHTS** Lillet served drinks in specially made mini Champagne flutes and decadent sliders were passed to guests as they mingled on the rooftop. Stunning views of downtown, photo booth fun, music and dancing also made for a spectacular night honoring these remarkable women.