

ultra vegas.

Jeffrey Beers does Las Vegas to the max at the MGM Grand's Tabú Ultra Lounge

*text: aric chen photography: eric laignel
styling: patricia parinejad*





"Fashionable Attire Required," announces a sign outside the Tabú Ultra Lounge at Las Vegas's sprawling MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. Of course, "fashionable" is a relative concept. And it's especially so in Las Vegas, where high-profile art collections, luxury lodgings, and four-star restaurants have sprung up on territory dominated by creatively coiffed, fanny-packed tourists since Wayne Newton belted out his first tune.

Tabú, however, is neither incongruously trendy nor intended for the blue-hair crowd. "The project is fashion-conscious," says its designer, Jeffrey Beers. "Its saturated sensuality constantly engages and stimulates." True to Vegas style, Tabú packs it all in—Jeffrey Beers International has filled 7,000 square feet with everything from mutating murals to kaleidoscopic lighting and a vodka bar of solid ice. "I created separate environments, with probably over a hundred different types of lighting and materials," the architect continues.

After passing through the bronze-paneled entry in Tabú's facade of wengé, walnut, and flagstone, the "fashionably attired" encounter the first of three environments. It's the lounge, where custom pyramid pendant fixtures in titanium cast an architectural light on custom sofas and ottomans upholstered in iridescent faux leather.

Behind the bar itself, cylindrical glass towers holding bottles of liquor rotate and change color as a result of holographic coating. The bar's concrete top acts as a screen for a projected cycle of photographic images: nudes, natural landscapes, and fashion shots. Projection is also involved in what is perhaps the lounge's most novel feature. Cast on two of four concrete tables—weighing in at 700 pounds apiece—are motion-sensitive images that respond to the wave of a drinker's hand. An image of water, for example, will ripple; a black-on-white nude will change to white-on-black. Beers points out that the visuals respond to feet, too: "As the night progresses and energy levels increase, the tables become platforms for dancing."

To define the perimeter of the lounge, Beers built partitions of amber-colored resin panels, and one of them →

Previous spread: At Tabú Ultra Lounge, part of the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Jeffrey Beers International suspended titanium pendants above sofas and ottomans upholstered in faux leather.

Opposite top, from left: Overhead projectors cast motion-sensitive images on 700-pound concrete tables in the lounge. One of the hotel's 30-story towers. *Opposite center:* Custom partitions of angled resin panels partially reveal a light-sensitive mural at the back of the lounge. *Opposite bottom, from left:* In the champagne bar, LCD screens in the Calcutta marble bar show videos of walking feet; Beers designed the silk pendant. Fashionable legs are encouraged to dance on the main lounge's concrete tables.

Right: Glass towers hold bottles of liquor; as the towers spin, their holographic coating changes color. The chairs are upholstered in faux leather.

