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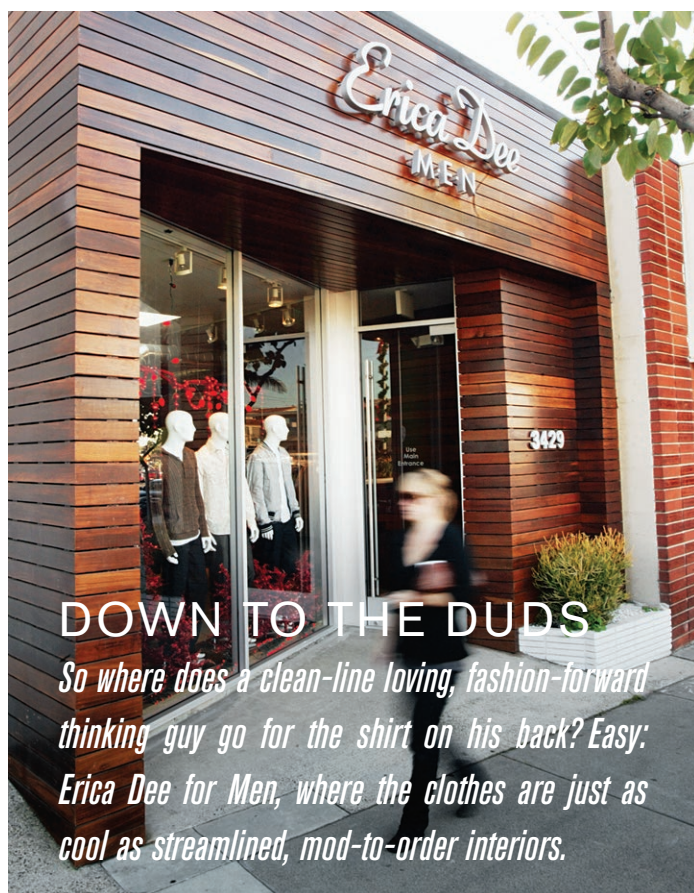


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HORST'S HALL OF FAME

Along with a portfolio of five-star residential projects, such as this Laguna beauty (above), Horst and Arianna are also the brains behind Quiksilver stores and the knockout Hush restaurant, and next up, he'll be breaking gated-community rules at The Strand at Headlands.



DOWN TO THE DUDS

So where does a clean-line loving, fashion-forward thinking guy go for the shirt on his back? Easy: Erica Dee for Men, where the clothes are just as cool as streamlined, mod-to-order interiors.

TILE HIGH CLUB

Horst may think globally, but he acts locally when it comes to his favorite craftsman, Laguna Beach-based Marlo Bartels. An original employee at the famed Pottery Shack, Bartels was recently tapped for the revived shack's mosaic sign, made of lost tiles. "He creates highly inspired ceramic tile benches and fountains," says Horst, adding that Bartels has the childlike imagination of legendary Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí, plus an awareness of history that make his art "site-specific and meaningful." 2307 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach. www.marlobartels.com.



THE GREAT SCAPES!

When Horst needs a modern fix, he heads to Corona del Mar's Scape art gallery, which boldly pioneered this maximilist stretch with its minimalist approach and cool concrete space. "Dianne Nelson is the founder and director," he says. "I find the work within Scape to be emotive of architectural landscapes and soundscapes, which are wonderful complements to the homes we are designing." 2849 E. Coast Hwy., Corona del Mar. 949.723.3406, www.scapecite.com.

THE AIR-ISTOCRATS: HORST AND ARIANNA NOPPENBERGER

He's the German-born principal of Horst Architects. She's the Italian-bred founder of design firm Aria. Together, Horst and Arianna Noppenberger are making big waves in Laguna with their site-sensitive structures that bridge interiors and exteriors, emphasize nature, and bring to mind organic modernists such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Rudolph Schindler. "I think of architecture as frozen music," says Horst. "Spaces, solids, supports, rhythms—it's like a composition." Today, the two of them are walking on air—almost literally. Known as the go-to masters behind some of Laguna's trickiest terrain, they've carved out a following for themselves by creating homes that seem to almost float above ground. "We try to avoid the big excavation projects. We want our homes to feel like they're on air." —Andrew Myers

