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Editor's Note

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As I was planning this "Best of" issue, I couldn't help but notice a trend emerging: L.A. types are relocating to San Diego. In droves. You see, it used to be that S.D. talent migrated north. More often than not, I'd hear, "So-and-so moved to L.A."

Well, L.A.-dee-dah, how the tables have turned.

Just check out this issue's Radar Now section, where we get the exclusive on L.A. nightlife impresario Cedd Moses, who is crashing the North Park scene with his whiskey bar. Next up? The SBE group is setting serious sights on our fair shores with Katsuya, slated to open later this year in the Andaz Hotel, replete with Philippe Starck design and those signature-inflated (dare we say "injected"?) geisha lips.

Another SBE import is inching down the 5: Umami, home of the fifth-taste burger whose nuanced recipe tingles previously untapped taste buds. At press time, the company was still scouting locations.

Little sister to the south, we are not. I've never had an inferiority complex about San Diego. *Au contraire!* I've spent the last seven years at *Riviera*, celebrating and sharing what we are—and being proud of what we are not. In San Diego, we don't try too hard, like—*ahem*—other cities. Our beach-tousled hair comes courtesy of, well, the beach, not salon surf spray.

Take, for example, this issue's Radar Trends

("New Wave") about Leucadia, one of the last hippie beach bastions of San Diego. Even though the keep-it-funky town is evolving with a lineup of new eateries and a Bird Rock-style beautification, Leucadia is not trying to be someplace else. It's sticking to its roots.

So too is our back-page Look Who's Talking subject, Jeff Jacobs ("Ranch Hand"). The Qualcomm heir quit the family biz to take over the gem that is Rancho Valencia, already a world-class resort that Jacobs will improve and hone with the care that only a local can.

And then there are the masterminds behind S.D.'s newest furniture line, which we get the scoop on in Radar Design ("Shape It Up!") Nomad Mobili looked no further than its La Jolla backyard for inspiration, tapping two legendary surfboard shapers to create a next-level concept. It's the kind of design that feels at home in any modern space, including the Wallace Cunningham stunner where, naturally, we did the photo shoot.

The buzz continues with this issue's "Best of the City" feature: a whopping 10 pages of the S.D. style- and trendsetters improving our vast landscape. Let's just say it validates the buzz—as does this issue's cover.

Shot beautifully by local photographer Robert Benson, it shows all roads are indeed leading here. gflynn@modernluxury.com