

PACHA WMC 08

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TEXT: BRETT O'BOURKE

CROBAR IMPRESARIO RETURNS

Designer, nightlife impresario & Bigtime co-founder callin fortis - primarily known for designing and branding the international and award-winning brand of crobar night-clubs - is combining fashion, music, branding and architecture into one package with new company Bigtime design.

Recent projects include working as the interior architects for morgan's hotel group's mondrian on south beach, a dirty disco re-imagining and build-out of the cameo theater (for which Fortis received a interior design award nomination) and a full scale re-branding of uk dance music institution Gatecrasher. Bigtime has also completed numerous projects in Chicago, including Ristorante Angelina, Exit, Franks, Glow, Hi-Tops, Kaboom!, Neo, Oo-La-La!, Tequila Roadhouse, Vinyl and Watusi. Bigtimedesignstudios.com

The common thread in all of Bigtime's work is that there is sociology to good design. "People might



ask what kind of social or political dislocation my designs represent," says Fortis. "If you look around any significant design you will find that successful space is interpreted as a social and political monologue, where each user reacts with whatever emotions they already possess."

Bigtime design is a collaborative studio, consisting of a team drawn of creative artists, architects, designers, and nightlife marketing pros. Fortis and his studio utilize a design ethos where oversized objects create the experience, while the human-sized details evoke a personal connection and create a lasting memory. "I encourage design to react with you, not to you," says Fortis.

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TEXT: CHRISSY MARK

CLUB WORLD AWARDS 2008, MIAMI

The Club World Awards are to take place on Wednesday March 26 at Set in Miami during Winter Music Conference. Rock star Tommy Lee, Tony Award winner Idina Menzel (Wicked) and DJ/producer Kaskade will grace the stage to present awards, alongside a bevy of celebrities and dance-music glitterati. Three-time host The Scout24 retires from the post, passing the torch to the CMAA's first ever female MC, Becky Baeing, host of DirectTV's CD:USA. The CMAAs honour the best in the club industry, from operators and DJs to gear makers and promoters. New awards for 2008 include: Best Renovation for revived venues; Best One-Off for spectacular one-time club events; Best Bottle Service for the swank set; and three new People's Choice categories which allowed the public to reward excellence in club music - Best DJ Set, Best Club Banger [instrumental] and Best Club Anthem [vocal]. The public also decided on the NightStalker Award, which honours an underground local favourite club. Nominated music tracks and Top Ten picks from DJs nominated for Best Set were available for listening courtesy of Beatport. Thousands of clubbers and fans then voted on partystands.com where they could check the polls live before casting their vote.



The remaining award winners are determined by a 12-strong panel of industry veterans and expert judges. Pacha New York, a three-time winner in 2007, is nominated in seven categories and will have to defend its coveted Best Superclub title against Avalon, Mansion, Pure and Circa. Circa has collected four nods in total as it marks the return of clubland impresario Peter Gatien to the industry. The CMAAs also pitch veterans against newbies. In the fiercely competitive Best Club category, established nightclub and 2007 winner Smart Bar Chicago goes up against promising newcomer BoMA Columbus, Ohio. Meanwhile, Vegas-based Pure Management Group vies for titles in eight categories, as does the Miami-based Opium Group. Opium's Set, the CMAA host venue, earned them five of the nominations. The nominees were selected from online submissions via www.clubworldawards.com. The full listing is below.



CLUB WORLD AWARDS 2008 NOMINEES.

<p>BEST SUPERCLUB Avalon, Hollywood Circa, Toronto Mansion, Miami Pacha, New York Pure, Las Vegas</p>	<p>BEST INTERIOR DESIGN Bigtime Design Studios for Cameo, Miami Francois Frossard Design for Set, Miami Jeffrey Beers International for Aura, Bahamas Kenny Beard for Circa, Toronto Mister Important for Motif, San Jose Robert McKinley Creative for Goldbar NY</p>	<p>CLUB BANGER OF THE YEAR Deadmau5 - "Not Exactly" (maudtrap) Dubfire - "Roadkill" (Toolroom UK) Mark Knight & D Ramirez - "Colombian Soul" (Toolroom Trax U.K.) Fedde Le Grand - "Put Your Hands Up For Detroit" (Ultra) Samm - "Heater" (Get Physical Germany) Sander Van Doorn - "The Fix" (Ultra)</p>
<p>BEST CLUB BoMA, Columbus, Ohio Cielo, New York Jet, Las Vegas Marquee, New York Smart Bar, Chicago</p>	<p>BEST RENOVATION 1015, San Francisco Cameo, Miami Opera, Atlanta Razzles, Daytona, Florida Sullivan Room, New York</p>	<p>CLUB ANTHEM OF THE YEAR Axwell feat Charles Salters - "I Found U" (Remode mix) (Axtone/Vendetta/Ultra) David Guetta feat Chris Willis - "Love Is Gone" (Perfecto/Ultra) Eminem feat Natejia - "Calabria 2007" (Ultra) Justice - "DANCE" (MSTRKRFT mix) (Ed Bangir/Because/Downtown/Vice) Ralph Falcon feat Victoria Wilson James - "I Need Someone" (Nervous) Samantha James - "Rise" (Eric Kupper mix) (OM)</p>
<p>BEST LOUNGE Blush, Las Vegas Goldbar, New York Set, Miami Tabú, Las Vegas Vessel, San Francisco</p>	<p>BEST ONE-OFF Body & Soul, Pacha New York Made Event, Sunday School for Degenerates, Pawn Shop Miami Pick Me I'm Famous, Cameo Miami Juicy Beach, Nikki Beach Miami Timbaland + DJ AM, Pure Las Vegas</p>	<p>BEST RESIDENT DJ Boris, Pacha, New York DJ Voo, LAX, Las Vegas Kaskade, Smart Bar, Chicago Louie Vega, Cielo, New York Richie Santiana, Deko Lounge, Sayreville, N.J.</p>
<p>BEST NEW VENUE Aura, Bahamas BoMA, Columbus, Ohio Circa, Toronto LAX, Las Vegas Set, Miami Tao Beach, Las Vegas</p>	<p>BEST DJ SET BT, Flawless Sound at Sullivan Room, NY Darryl Tanaglia, Vinyl Reunion at Pacha, NY DJ Micro, Red at Anara, Los Angeles Justice, Smart Bar, Chicago Roger Sanchez, Space, Miami Bob Sinclair, LAX, Las Vegas</p>	