

MENS ROOM | a much needed break

THE ULTIMATE BACHELOR PAD

FI: What's the best (and the worst) aspect of a loft lifestyle?

MJH: Best aspect for is being able to imagine what it is like to live in a major metropolis like Chicago or New York. To taste in my own backyard what true City Life is all about...the action, the sounds, people milling around on the streets at night...all very exciting for Sacramento. The worst part does not yet exist for me. I don't mind the inconvenience of parking, noise and other perceived negatives of city life.

FI: What surprised you the most when you started living (and I assume spending more time) "downtown"?

MJH: How great it is to be able to explore the city by foot without ever getting back into the car. From my loft, I can enjoy IMAX one night, a night of blues at the Torch Club, tapas at Aioli, art night at Sakata Gallery etc...lots of options all within a few blocks of The Elliott. We have a lot to be proud of and enjoy in our City.

FI: What are the three most important "must-haves-in-the-pad"?

MJH: For me...great sound system, lots of ART and of course very cold beer. Can I add a fourth? Cool views of the skyline!

FI: Name your top five retail connections—the places, the people, the brands, the philosophy—any aforementioned motivations can apply.

MJH: Not sure if you mean restaurants or pure retail but for the latter, I am enjoying seeing new, funky, creative, imaginative entrepreneurs opening up small shops in the City. For example, the Atmospheres and Shoe Flies of the world excite me. Makes me feel again like I am cruising around Union Street in SF. If you are talking about restaurants, of course I have a love for Mikuni and PF Changs but also enjoy Waterboy, Celestines, Aioli and Centro.

FI: Gazing into Heller's crystal ball—what's in the forecast—more loft/living spaces, more state of the art business environments?

MJH: I personally think it is time for us all to throw away conventional thinking in all regards. By that I mean Sacramento is very ready to break through and approach urban living with new eyes and away from of our historical perspective. This applies to everyone...our City Council, the City Planning & Building Departments, the development and architectural community, the restaurants and retailers, the office users etc. We should all be striving to do better. My hope is that Sacramento's momentum continues and everyone trying to make a deal or open a business does so with a goal of bringing something special, of superior quality and aesthetic and imagination to our downtown. Sacramento certainly has enough generic aspects; it is time break through and elevate our expectations. Right now we are emulating other cities such as Portland and for good cause. But I feel strongly that we have the opportunity in the years to come to do even better! We have an open pallet and in my view, an obligation to do great things here!