

CLUB systems

INTERNATIONAL

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Clubbing At Sea
Making Over
Fabric

CSI MIAMI!

A full report on the people, parties, systems, and venues that will define the city this year.

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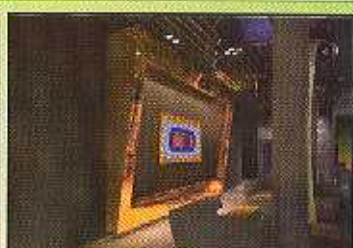
NOCTURNAL

PRIVILEGE

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STATE





Night, Not Quite

Downtown superclub-to-be Nocturnal rushes toward a WMC opening.

At press time, downtown Miami's "next big thing" is still a 20,000 square-foot construction site. The future home of Nocturnal, at 50 NE 11th Street, is a roofless, windy, noisy, dusty, work-in-progress. To get the ambitious project back on track, ownership recently brought on celebrated general contractor, Telesco

Associates (Crobar Miami, Level Miami). But despite some serious setbacks and mounting monetary frustrations, Nocturnal's owner, Glenn Kofman, remains philosophical. "This is going to be a long-term investment," he sighs, surveying the bustling scene.

Go Team!

Judging by the present rate of progress, and considering the current contractors' reputations, Nocturnal should be open just in time for Winter Music Conference, which is, of course, the ultimate goal. Danny Yero, the man responsible for the welding and structural work, has nothing but praise for the construction crew. "These guys here bust hours," he enthuses. "We're all working 16 hours a day." Even with that kind of determination, however, getting the doors open by conference won't be easy.

Fortunately, Nocturnal's director Dade Sokoloff has always enjoyed a challenge. Sokoloff, the man responsible for the surprise success of SoBe's Shadow Lounge, insists the club will be finished on schedule. "If you have a committed team, you can accomplish anything," he contends. Lighting

designer Steve Lieberman of SJ Lighting agrees. "We've come up with new solutions and we're moving forward," he says.

That's a reassuring sentiment, especially since Nocturnal was purpose-built from scratch. "They literally took the roof off and knocked the back wall out," Sokoloff explains. In addition, the contractors are installing "all new plumbing and wiring," which should prevent the embarrassing and potentially dangerous problems that plague so many of south Florida's vintage venues.


Sushi, Tiki, Vistas

The finished Nocturnal experience will be different from standard big club fare. "Everything goes in cycles," says Sokoloff. "For a while, it was chic to do nothing in a club except paint it black and install a banging sound system." The system's a given, but plain black? Not quite. Although minor changes are still being made, the tri-level complex will feature four separate bars, a sushi bar, custom-designed furniture, a full-service restaurant, the world's largest mirror ball, and yes, multiple Funktion-One speaker systems. Upstairs, Nocturnal will have its own open-air rooftop deck, complete with waterfalls, Tiki huts, a high-tech fabric awning, a video projection system, its own DJ booth, and an unrivaled view of the Miami skyline. "I think when people walk in this place, it's going to be a feeling that they haven't had before. Not in this town, at least," Sokoloff says.


The main room will be illuminated by "a very substantial lighting system," created by Lieberman. The motorized rig will consist of "a mixture of Coemar and Martin" fixtures, which "will definitely rival anything down here," he believes. In addition to its size and sophistication, the lighting system is designed for maximum flexibility. "It's extremely versatile," Lieberman explains, which should allow Nocturnal to host a wide variety of parties, including corporate events.

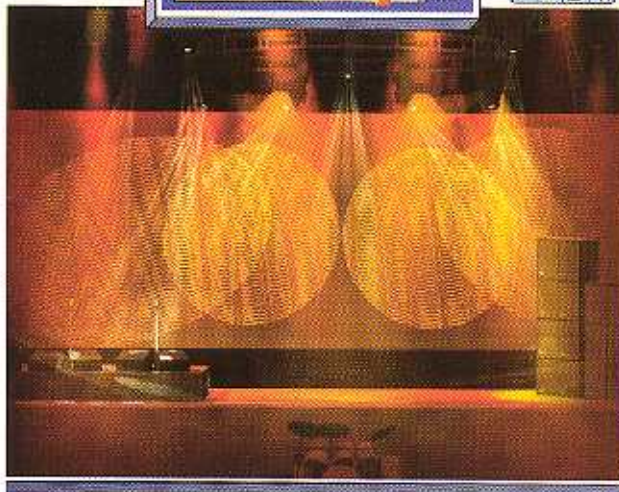
Music, Eclectic

And perhaps most importantly in these changing times, Nocturnal's musical policy won't be rigid in the least. "We are going to be musically diverse," states Sokoloff. "I want to approach the hip-hop room with the same enthusiasm we attack dance. During the course of a normal night, the place will probably offer five different kinds of music." He expects to emphasize great tunes, not just big names, which will open the door for some under-appreciated homegrown DJ talent. And Sokoloff expects to book numerous rooftop live PA events, which would be quite a departure for the Miami scene as well. —JL


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