

# 7

SAN FRANCISCO

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**INSIDE  
LUCAS-  
FILM'S  
PRESIDIO  
EMPIRE**

**100 YEARS LATER**  
**THE (NEXT)  
BIG QUAKE**  
OUR VERY OWN WORST  
CASE SCENARIO HANDBOOK

**THE  
X-MEN  
FACTOR**  
**BEN  
FOSTER**  
FROM SIX FEET  
UNDER TO  
FLYING HIGH

**SPECIAL**  
**SFJAZZ**  
YOUR PULL-OUT  
GUIDE TO THE  
SPRING SEASON

**TAKING THE HEAT**  
CONFESSIONS OF  
**4 HOT NEW  
RESTAURANT  
OWNERS**

# BOLD FACE DESIGN

**HIGH-TECH STYLE IS BACK**

■ 21ST-CENTURY HOUSEWARES ■ MINIMALISM IN  
SOMA ■ TOMORROW'S KITCHEN TODAY ■ THE LATEST  
DESIGN NEWS **PLUS** YVES BÉHAR SPEAKS OUT





# Starry-Eyed

I was eight years old when I first saw *Star Wars*. My older brother took me, and I'll forever remember it. The huge theater was packed, and the sound shook my bones. Everyone was on the edge of their seats. Needless to say, it made an impression—enough so that afterwards, I got my own light saber, which made me one of the more popular kids on the block.

Of course, I know I'm just one of the millions of *Star Wars* fans around the world. So when we received the nod from George Lucas himself to take an exclusive look inside his new Letterman Digital Arts Center for our spring design issue (p. 94), I was a bit intimidated. But once you're in any one of the four buildings, which are designed not to clash with the surrounding Presidio architecture, it's hard not to feel at home: While the creative goings-on are decidedly high-tech, the physical surroundings are warm and inviting.

When it comes to design, respecting history while creating the unexpected is what excites me. Turn to page 110 to see an inspired SoMa loft designed by Sand Studios; page 114 for cutting-edge products—from ironing boards to illuminated

bath tubs—and page 144 to hear straight talk from media darling Yves Béhar.

Just like great films, the best design should withstand the test of time—and practically speaking, even a natural disaster. Since this month is the centennial of the Great Earthquake, senior editor Robin Rinaldi chats up a panel of experts, from an architect to a head of emergency services, to get the hard-to-hear facts about what we need to know in case the next “big one” hits. It might make you flinch, but it's crucial information.

Finally, Ben Foster graces our cover. Introduced to us as Claire's complicated boyfriend on *Six Feet Under*, he's been acting since high school. With his latest roles—in *Alpha Dog*, an edgy film directed by Nick Cassavetes, and *X-Men: The Last Stand*—Foster is now straddling the indie and blockbuster worlds. Get ready to feel the tremors.

Enjoy the issue!

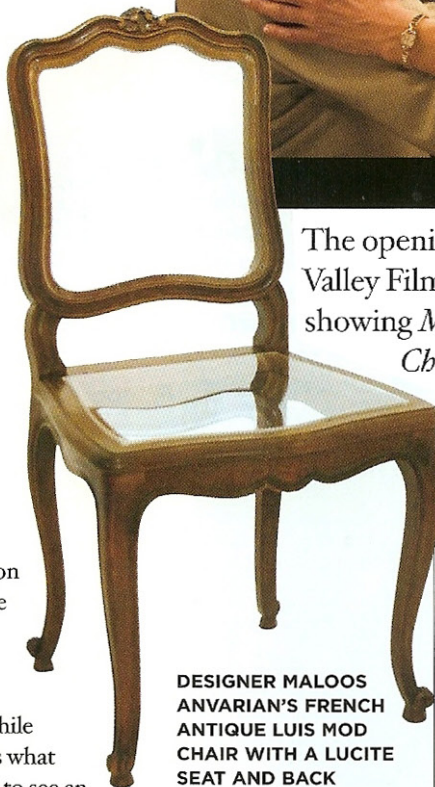
*Heather*

—Heather Luplow Hartle,  
Editorial + Creative Director  
beather@7x7mag.com



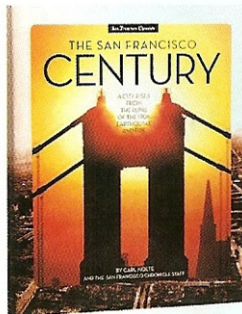
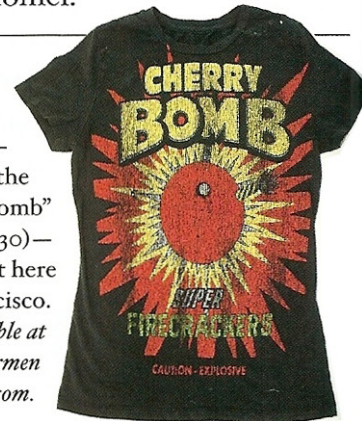
## ON MY LIST...

The opening night of the ninth annual Sonoma Valley Film Festival ([www.cinemaepicuria.org](http://www.cinemaepicuria.org)), showing *Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing and Charm School* with Robert Carlyle and Marisa Tomei.



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*The San Francisco Century* (SF CHRONICLE PRESS), a gorgeous book tracing our rise from the ashes of the 1906 quake—a good read for the centennial.

KARIM RASHID'S CANDLABRA BUD VASES (\$210). AVAILABLE AT AREA SAN FRANCISCO. (415-989-2732; [WWW.AREASANFRANCISCO.COM](http://WWW.AREASANFRANCISCO.COM))

