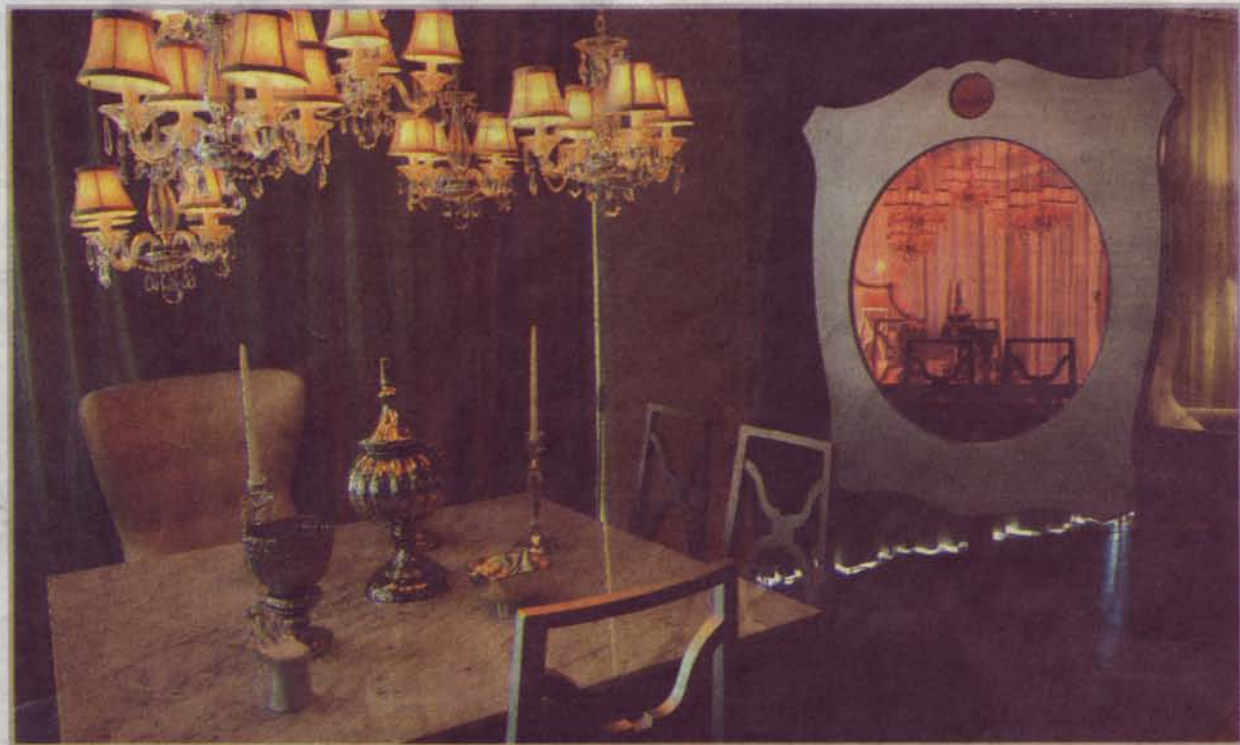


THE SCOUT

MEL MELCON *Los Angeles Times*

SEEN

Mondrian's fantasy chic

By DAVID A. KEEPS
Times Staff Writer



Mondrian

FOR HIS \$40-million redesign of the Mondrian in West Hollywood, Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz goes one step beyond the "Alice in Wonderland" concept of the hotel's original mastermind, Philippe Starck. "This is what Alice found on the other side of the looking glass," says Noriega-Ortiz, pictured. Indeed, when the new design premieres Thursday, the concierge desk will be shaped like a toadstool. Guest rooms feature an oversized mirror on a swivel pole: One side is a sunset-orange-colored looking glass, and the other side is a TV screen. The neo-Rococo curve of the piece is echoed in headboards and daybeds that reference the peaks and canyons of the Hollywood hills, and botanical motifs sprout on lamps, tables and wallpaper. Backlit bathroom mirrors and vanities emphasize the glamour of sparkly golden Silestone countertops. One of Noriega-Ortiz's brightest ideas to steal: a grand chandelier made from a cluster of nine petite, strategically hung glass dazzlers bought online for \$99 each at www.greatchandeliers.com.