MODERN LUXURY

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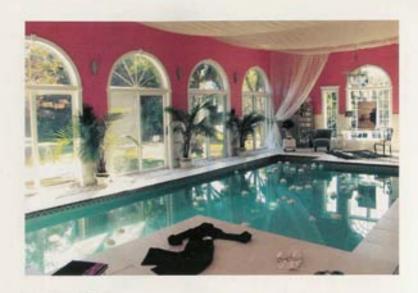
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RESTAURANT BEAT

With the promise of spicy gumbo and New Orleans-style barbecue shrimp, we anxiously await the newest member of the TenPehn, Ceiba. DC Coast family—Acadiana—set to open this September. Named after the southern Louisiana region where the Cajuns settled, this Penn Quarter restaurant will focus on delicacies from the Gulf region and the Chesapeake Bay. 901 New York Ave., NW. > Marcel's has a new look for fall. The impetus? "I wanted to bring more finesse to the dining room," says chef/owner Robert Wiedmaier. Rich reds and golds permeate the space while a few refinements are made to the menu. > At Le Paradou, chef Yannick Cam and noted interior designer Barbara Hawthorne transform the bar with a glamorous new lounge area. A champagne flight has been added to the menu, so skip the martini and go straight for the bubbly. > Tabaq Bistro on U Street brings a whole new meaning to "cocktails on the roof" with a top-floor, glass-enclosed bar outfitted with retractable panels, allowing DC's chic set to sip under the stars. > Lastly, Franco Nuschese (of Cafe Milano fame) adds panache to the Clarendon corridor later this fall with the opening of Sette Bello. 3101 Wilson Blod., Arlington. -- Ann McCarthy



BRAVE HOUSE

Whether you're looking for interior design tips for your Logan Circle loft or your Chevy Chase colonial, you're bound to find something that catches your eye this October at the National Symphony Orchestra's Show House, the primary fundraiser for the NSO's Women's Committee. While you might never have the guts to hand over your home to a group of designers who are bound to paint your pool room hot pink (see above), you'll undoubtedly enjoy the fact that someone else—this year, Michael Pusateri, president and co-owner of Residential Design—did. Pusateri's home, Hidden Brook Manor at 8925 Alvord St., McLean, will feature the handiwork of 24 DC-area decorators, designers and artists. You decide whether the man is very lucky or very brave. October 2-31. 202.416.8149 or www.hemedy-center.org. —K.T.