

Calendar weekend

LOS ANGELES
EDITOR

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WWW.CALENDAR

Dodd Mitchell Is Everywhere: It's not just one or two restaurants that this designer is responsible for, it's Katana, Sushi Roku, Falcon, Balboa, Pearl Dragon, Gaucho Grill (Brentwood), Avenue (opens Sept. 1) and Voda. (How does he do it? "I work an 18-hour day. When I've got so much going on, I sleep at the office. . . . I even have a bed in the back room.") Now Dodd Mitchell is adding the Zen Grill and Sake Bar in Westwood to his list. With its hand-carved Buddha bar and more than 100 sakes from around the world, he says, "It will be a spiritual experience mixed with amazing food. You'll feel you're far, far away from the U.S."

At the same time, he's at work on

Dolce in the old Chardonnay location on Melrose. "I'm blowing out the ceiling and dropping a 25-foot tree into the back patio," says Mitchell. "I want this to be a different kind of Italian restaurant with a great Italian wine bar . . . something L.A. has never seen." He's planning on opening these two restaurants before the New Year.

Dodd, who is a partner in all the restaurants he designs, is also redesigning the Huntley/Radisson Hotel in Santa Monica with its 7,000-square-foot restaurant boasting a panoramic oceanfront view.

If he keeps up this high-octane pace, soon he may have no time to sleep.

Rhythms of the World