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entertainment

"Real World" house gets a new life

By Kat Valentine
Special to The Post

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LoDo's latest lounge opened last week, and though many of us have seen the space before, we're not likely to recognize it.

The "Real World: Denver" house at 1920 Market St. is now Theorie, a new restaurant and martini bar. (The name was changed just prior to opening from The Abbey to Theorie because of a copyright conflict with a different establishment.)

The second-floor living space, once home to many a reality-TV drama scene, will open soon as a new wine store. But the pool that people saw on the TV show is missing, and the stairs have been removed. Now the entry is flanked by two long full-service bars, one on the three-season outdoor patio to the left and one inside the main bar area to the right. Inside, several dining areas offer elegant tables, cozy booths and two banquette-lined lounge areas.

The décor is certainly creative, if chaotic, mixing vintage opulence, modern simplicity and LoDo loft style with mixed results. It works brilliantly in the entry; look up as you walk through the front doors,

and you'll see a large piece of ornate iron scrollwork on the ceiling, along with a modern chandelier of red glass ribbons and a brick wall dotted with twinkling red-beaded sconces.

The patio feels like a different place altogether, with mod brushed-steel tables, a long, sleek steel bar and a casual back lounge area. The inside bar mixes things up with plush plum-colored banquettes and throw pillows, white molded-plastic chairs and bare brick walls, and the dining areas follow the vintage route again with sparkling chandeliers, dark tables and sheer curtains.

One private dining area goes all out, with a gazebo-like circular space enclosed by white crystal-studded curtains, containing a round glass table and a glittering \$20,000 crystal chandelier. Walk into the VIP lounge, and the décor changes again, this time with low black tables and couches, and zebra-upholstered wall cushions.

So what's the theory behind Theorie?

"We want to bring the Larimer crowd to this area," said co-owner Shane Alexander.

This is the first restaurant project for Alexander and his business partner Josh Hawkinson, and the two intend that the glittering décor will be outshone only by the "affluent, sophisticated" crowd they plan to attract. They are obviously proud of the remodel, dropping adjectives such as "elite," "luxurious" and "exquisite" into their conversations and press releases.

"It's the atmosphere that sets us apart and will bring

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the crowds in," Alexander said. "We'll focus on dining until around 10 each night, and after 10:30 we'll go into more of a lounge. But it's going to be chill. The music won't be overpowering, and we'll do late-night bottle service without having all the tables reserved."

\$20/\$55 VIP, 16 , groovetickets.com

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Chef Deryk Schnepf created a menu of contemporary American cuisine with a touch of French and Asian flair, and the cocktail menu centers on martinis and wines, with 75 specialty martinis and a wine list with 25 whites and 25 reds available by the glass along with a large selection of bottles. Swing by tonight for the soft opening party; Saturday's VIP grand opening party is invite-only.

Drinking to fight cancer

Who knew that pickling your liver could help find a cure for cancer?

Head to Harry's Bar at the Magnolia Hotel (818 17th St.) tonight for \$2 Absolut mixed drinks during happy hour from 4 to 8 p.m. The Magnolia will donate \$1 from each purchase to the Colorado Cancer Society, and the Absolut girls will be on hand to offer promotional goodies and prize drawings including a stay at the hotel.

Electronica at Cervantes'

Finish the evening tonight with an electronic music festival at Cervantes' Masterpiece Ballroom (2637 Welton St.); "2K7" features Infected Mushroom, Randy Seidman, Friends in Stereo, Amplified Illusions, Sensory Orchestra and the Vixens, along with 17 other DJs and performers on two stages. The party starts at 5 p.m. and goes until 3 a.m. Saturday.

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