



FETE ACCOMPLI Merryl Brown Events is known for Santa Barbara's most memorable, chic, over-the-top, yet eco-friendly soirees. Here's her personal trend forecast for 2013.

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This will be a year of **OPULENCE AND ELEGANCE**, with events styled with more elaborate decor and guests invited to don more formal attire. Expect to see items like sterling silver flatware, antique china, and vintage stemware. / **HIGH BROW/LOW BROW** events are hotter than ever. We are seeing a big interest in materials such as leather, suede, faux crocodile, and faux fur combined with gorgeous crystal chandeliers, gleaming dance floors, and gilded mirrors, creating a very sophisticated but ultrasexy environment. / Delicious and beautiful **CUSTOM COCKTAILS** are still all the rage, and the recipe and presentation are equally important. Be on the lookout for beautiful rental barware, and don't forget custom drink stirrers in the theme of the party. / **EXPERIENTIAL EVENTS** will take center stage this year, taking partygoers on a journey from the moment they arrive with fabulous lighting and soundscaping, dramatic reveals, interactive food stations, and LED screens and digital mapping. / This year, entertaining will be all about **FUN!** No more boring parties!

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Some of Brown's staple vendors for her fabulous fetes include RRivve Works, rrivveworks.com, for chic furnishings, Ambient Event Design, ambientevent.com, for lighting, Louloudi, louloudidesign.com, for flowers, and Classic Party Rentals, santabarbara.classicpartyrentals.com.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ERIN FEINBLATT