

Victor Draï

Just weeks from unveiling Draï's Beach Club & Nightclub, its creator discusses its conception

There was never a ceiling when it came to Victor Draï's ambitions, and now there literally isn't any ceiling at all. With the May 22 opening of Draï's Beach Club & Nightclub at The Cromwell, Draï will reveal an unprecedented rooftop party space for day and night at one of the Strip's hottest intersections. *Las Vegas Magazine's* Jack Houston caught up with Draï during the building of the club to talk about its journey to the top.

What was your motivation for getting involved with this particular space?

I've been in this building for 17 years (with Draï's After Hours), and from day one I came here I saw the roof and I wanted to do something on the roof. So it took me about 16 years to do. But there was a reason we couldn't do it before—there were power lines. ... When I heard they were taking down the lines, I called Caesars and said, "I want to talk." I told them about my idea, and they said, "Let's see what we can do."

How long ago did that process get started?

Four years ago. It's a huge project, because you needed lots of pieces to get together. I worked very long and hard on it for a year, and then it looked like the project was maybe not happening. But I didn't stop working. I kept a team of architects and I still worked all that year, and the project reinvented itself a year later. It was great because it was just me and two people, playing with this paper. So I would change the club 20,000 times the way I wanted it, and at the end of the day it was perfect.

Not a lot of people getting in the way, just your vision right to the paper?

Yes. I rarely have people getting in my way. *(laughs)* I don't take that very well.

Is it fair to say you're bringing a bit of the L.A. vibe to Las Vegas? (Draï closed his rooftop club at Hollywood's W Hotel in October.)

No. I more brought Vegas to L.A. when I did it than the other way. Vegas is very unique, the way it is. Imagine, you can have six months a year in this club at night.

I've noticed a lot of the clubs you've been involved with have this semicircular shape with everything pointed in one direction.

It's a center of energy that you need to create. The round is natural. They've been doing that since the Romans, you know? I didn't invent anything; it's just the way it is. It just gives you a more cozy feeling, with more people and more closeness to the party. I was very careful about the second level. (too). Most of the clubs you go to, the second level is too high. People disappear. People in that level will feel very part of it.

Just keeping that intimacy.

And it's a big club. We're at capacity. The trick is to make it big, but not make it too big.

