



Design Mind: *David Merrell*, president and creative director, AOO Events, Los Angeles, www.aooevents.com

Fashion Forward: For a Dream Foundation benefit at Bacara Resort in Santa Barbara, Calif., Merrell and his AOO dream team kept things spare and sophisticated, letting a couple of key focal points steal the show. The result was a stunning benefit themed around fashion designer Valentino.

Pure and Simple: Decorating on a 20-foot-high custom stage made of padded white suede panels, 5-foot-wide chandeliers and a full-room draping of white velvet. White calla lily centerpieces, clear Chameleon chairs and transparent chargers added to the pristine scene.

Tailor-made: More cost-effective and easier to transport than glass—not to mention quieter during dinner service—faux-antique mirror tabletops, accompanied by a matching stage treatment, were designed especially for the fashion-themed fête. Merrell and crew used mirrored plexiglass, acid, paint

and has met with great success.”

Pro Quote: “I think today’s theme events tap into looks that begin in the interior design industry. This is especially true of the events we do for the entertain-



ment industry. Fabrics, lighting, accessories—even the carpeting—all are pulled from the looks created by today’s top interior designers.” —*David Merrell* ▶