



## Bopping in Beijing

(Where the world's best movers will shake their stuff this month)

Call the tune:  
At **Sòng Music Bar & Kitchen**.

'round  
**MID-NIGHT**

**T**he Scene No longer Shanghai's poor clubbing cousin, Beijing now has an array of trendy and innovatively designed nightclubs. At **Richy**, hip-hop DJ Laurie spins as the crowd sips Chivas and green tea (Beijing's "gin and juice") and reclines on Missoni cushions (6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang). A glass elevator delivers guests to the swanky **iUltra Lounge**, which adds a sandy rooftop bar with cabanas in summer (8 Chaoyang Xi Lu, Chaoyang). The undulating wooden walls of **Sòng Music Bar &**

**Kitchen**, inspired by southern China's terraced rice fields, give it concert hall acoustics (9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang), while the seriously hip **ChinaDoll 3.3** lounge and nightclub, brainchild of actress-producer Ai Wan, has just reopened in a vast space filled with contemporary art (Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang). **When to Go** Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from midnight until around 5 A.M. **The Local's Take** "The clubs are like a mini United Nations—you never know whom you're going to meet." —Chen Yu, 29, entrepreneur

## Bye, Rhode Island! Salaam, Qatar!

(Questions for Roger Mandle, former president of the Rhode Island School of Design and now executive director of the Qatar Museums Authority)

exit  
**INTERVIEW**

You lived in Providence for 15 years. What will you miss most about the city? "RISD has spawned a community of artists and designers, and I enjoyed the atmosphere they created. Many restaurants were started by RISD alumni—my favorite is **New Rivers** [7 Steeple St.; 401-751-0350; entrées, \$15-\$27]." **Which pieces do you wish you could take with you from the RISD Museum of Art?** "I love the sixteenth-century Dutch mannerist Joachim Wtewael. His paintings are filled with writhing figures in exaggerated colors and costumes." **What are your plans for the new Museum of Islamic Art?** "The museum, designed by I. M. Pei, opens in November and will be a magnet for the region—the collections are ex-



traordinary. We'll have an amazing educational program catering to everyone from scholars to children." **What is your favorite piece in the museum's collection?** "A simple bowl with a blond glaze inscribed in Arabic with the words *What is worth doing is worth doing well*." **What are you looking forward to doing in Qatar?** "Visiting natural and historical attractions such as **Al-Jassasiya**, a site with prehistoric rock carvings on the northeastern coast, and **Al-Rakiyat** fort in northwestern Qatar, as well as Doha's recently reconstructed **Souk Waqif**, a great place to absorb the flavor of the country." **What's next?** "The **National Museum** expansion, designed by Jean Nouvel. It will represent the history of the region—its cultures, tribes, and natural resources."

## The Road from Kathmandu



"It started out as a little adventure." So begins *In the Land of No Right Angles*, the story of Alex, a college student abroad in Kathmandu who befriends a Nepali girl, Maya, and follows her from a decrepit village to the capital and, finally,

the notorious red-light district of Mumbai (Knopf, \$14). We spoke with novelist Daphne Beal, who lives in New York and has been visiting Nepal and India since 1990. **Did you meet people like Maya in Nepal?** "I knew several women in Kathmandu trying to make it out of their villages. But not until AIDS became a big deal was prostitution talked about. After I left Nepal, I saw Mary Ellen Mark's incredible photo book *Falkland Road* [a Mumbai red-light strip], and I was stunned because there were so many Nepali faces." **Alex also meets some very glamorous people in Mumbai. What did you make of the divide between rich and poor there?** "Initially I lived modestly, in a guesthouse. A friend, the writer Suketu Mehta, said, 'Daphne, this is no city to be a puritan in. Embrace the paradox: Have tea at the Taj.' So I drank tea and ate chocolate cake, and I got sick—despite eating at food stalls and being fine. I didn't become inured to the poverty, but I began to understand how people tune it out."

under  
**COVER**

**Where would you recommend visitors go in Kathmandu?** "**Kathmandu Guest House**, a perennial favorite, has a beautiful garden, and there was always a monkey outside my window [977-1-470-0004; ktmgh.com; doubles, \$4-\$120]. **Dwarika's Hotel** is also lovely—posh, with old Nepalese wood carvings and the best food in town [977-1-447-9488; dwarikas.com; doubles, \$180]. And visit the **Patan Museum**, in a palace south of the city [patanmuseum.gov.np]."**Nepal has seen much upheaval since your first visit—most recently the abolition of the monarchy. What's the mood now?** "Hopeful. Without the albatross of the monarchy and with the Maoists now in parliament, Nepal stands a chance of facing its demons head-on and rebuilding itself in a way that represents its citizens."