Ain’t Life Grand

Orchids & Onions celebrates the standouts and stinkers.

THE PARTY
San Diego’s creative set came out to toast (and roast) all things architectural at the San Diego Architectural Foundation’s 2011 Orchids & Onions Awards Ceremony.

THE SCENE
Emcee Grant Barrett kept things moving along in an articulate and amusing fashion—but one would expect nothing less from the host of NPR’s A Way With Words. Meanwhile, design darlings Bells & Whistles revamped an Orchid-worthy Horton Plaza space, and Hold It Contemporary Home decked out the VIP lounge, where Stone brew was free-flowing.

BEST IN SHOW
The night belonged to designer Paul Basili, whose several awards included the Grand Orchid for his inspiring work on Arsalan Tafazoli’s Craft & Commerce in Little Italy. The duo has proved that if you design it, they will come. In droves. —The Editor