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The rumors are true: One of Miami's most celebrated (and notorious) personalities is working the night shift yet again. "As soon as I thought I was out, they pulled me back in," jokes Chris Paciello, the 1990s South Beach club impresario and former Morgans Hotel Group go-to nightlife expert. After opening his very exclusive gym-spa-wellness center Anatomy at 1220, last year, it seemed Paciello's nocturnal days were behind him. (It turns out he had signed a two-year noncompete agreement after selling his shares of Story, the Miami Beach mega-club that burst open with a bang in 2012.) Apparently, fate had a backup plan, when Mio Danilovic, a peer in the nightlife industry and friend of Paciello's, became an Anatomy member, and the duo started a fun dialogue of what-if.

Those conversations went nowhere until some months ago, when, while lunching in South Beach, Paciello saw a maintenance worker walk out of the building where Les Bains and Chaos once ruled the velvet-rope nights of years back. Paciello made an inquiry as to whether the space was available, and, although Washington Avenue has not exactly been a hotbed of cool nightlife lately, he, Danilovic and Paciello's brother Keith (the venue's third co-owner) soon found themselves signing a lease. Just like that, plans for Rockwell began in earnest.

"I don't know if I'm the luckiest guy in the world or what, but a month

later, a big article came out about the rejuvenation of Washington Avenue," says Paciello. "There's a lot going on and I'm sure that the area is [poised] to make a big comeback."

Paciello certainly hopes Rockwell is just the beginning of that renaissance. The open-format club is an intimate space populated with what both Paciello and Danilovic deem the "right crowd" of patrons. (Yes, a strict door policy applies, and entry, although complimentary, is entirely up to the doorman's discretion.) In terms of vibe, the venue is the direct result of what a club today should and shouldn't be. "No digital walls, no big flash," says Danilovic. "We didn't want any of that." To achieve their desired aesthetic, the co-owners tapped designer François Frossard (the man responsible for once-legendary night spots like Privé, Opium and SET) to create a look marked by dark leather, mirrors, innovative lighting and plenty of conversation-worthy artwork.

"We're attaching personality, that personal touch. People can come in and connect with me, Chris and the people working here—that's very rare these days," says Danilovic. To which Paciello adds: "In the Miami of the '90s, you knew who the club owner was. That's been lost and I hope we can change that. Plus, I just love to throw a good party." *Table service from \$1,500, 743 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, 305.793.3882, rockwellmiami.com*