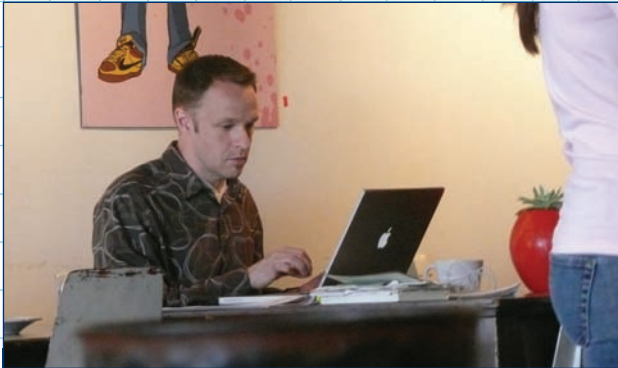


100° high  
87° low

Below: One appointment that couldn't be rescheduled—a meeting at Scottsdale's AZ88 with Modernphoenix.net founders and sponsors to discuss the 2008 Home Tour.



## Lux Coffeebar: Good Vibrations

Journal Entry for Peter J. Wolf  
Thursday, April 26, 2007

Dear Journal,  
Nine-something in the morning. It's a good thing I got here when I did. Not only did I get my usual parking space, I got my table, too—the one with the orange vinyl Eames chairs. As I write this, I can see small waves out of the corner of my eye—concentric rings, really—as they rise and fall in my coffee. It's like that scene in *Jurassic Park*, only in my case the T-Rex is an orange-yellow machine, hammering away at what's left of Central Avenue, just outside.

I've heard of more than one business along here retreating from the daily chaos of light rail construction, but Lux Coffeebar is thriving (had I gotten here a minute later, I'd be part of that line, now stretching nearly out the door). As near as I can tell (and let's face it: pretty much the only people who spend more time at Lux than I do are the people who are paid to be here—in other words, I'm no casual observer), the loyal Lux patrons have scarcely noticed the inconvenience. Indeed, if Central were closed off entirely, it would be only a minor irritant. A column of the bleary-eyed faithful would march like ants each morning, east on Turney Avenue, across the empty parking lot (past the rarely-seen-in-the-city wildflowers out back), and through a front door they know as well as their own.

And I would surely be among them. I used to think I came here for the coffee (easily the best in town, and roasted less than 50 feet from where I'm now seated), but there's more to it: I have, it seems, found my tribe. Half the people in line I know by name. Designers, architects, artists, writers, teachers, etc.—“creatives” is what I've heard them/us called. (I first heard the word used as a noun right here at Lux, now that I think about it.) In a city better known for trying too hard to be something it's not, Lux has an organic, rooted authenticity. Even when the building isn't shuddering from the construction work out front, this place has an unmistakable vibe. Plus, it has free WiFi.

**More: LUX Coffeebar, 4404 N. Central Ave., 602.266.6469**

## Have you seen the corner of Central Avenue & Palm Lane?

“What in the world are turrets doing on Central Avenue?” I hear it time and again from architects around the Valley. But 10 times out of 10, they follow up with: “But that's real brick. And they're taking their time building it. Sure ... I'd live in one.” They're talking about The Chateaux on Central and the style of building, which plays a bit of a mimic game with the neighboring historic districts, is taking a back seat to the quality of the building materials, the amenities (think private rooftop pools, private elevators, and basements), and favorable real estate comps (homes start in the mid-\$2 millions). Sound ostentatious? Consider that buildout is only 21 units, and each one—the smallest measures about 5,200 square feet—is being marketed as an “urban mansion,” so the buyer is extremely targeted and extremely necessary to downtown. Why? Once we got past our disappointment that the developer wasn't willing to knock off a few zero's for *Chateau de Desert Living*, we began to think: these residents will help Phoenix's central core feel more like downtowns in bigger cities, where the extremely rich neighbor the middle and lower classes, all living within a couple miles of each other. We all go to the same museums, shop at the same grocery store, and deal with the same light rail construction. Models for Chateaux on Central will be furnished by September 2007. **More: 602.254.2121; www.chateauxoncentral.com**

