

MANZANILLO



ROBERT REIFF/GETTY IMAGES; EVERETT COLLECTION (BELOW)

Moviegoers who remember Bo Derek (below) in "10," the 1979 comedy filmed here, arrive, as she did, in search of golden beaches.

IT STILL RATES A 10

Sunny and beautiful and lovingly pursued, even after 500 years and a movie kiss

By Claudia R. Capos

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT



As our bellman Rafael drove us through the cobble streets and past the splashing fountains of Las Hadas, an exclusive Moorish-style resort, he confided the details of a memorable visit several years ago.

"She sat right next to me, where you are, on the front seat of the golf cart," Rafael said. "She still looked as beautiful as ever."

"Have you ever washed that leg?" I said, glancing down at his white-uniformed thigh, resting not more than a few inches from mine. He didn't answer, but broke into a smile.

The woman who captured Rafael's heart was the actress Bo Derek. She returned to Manzanillo in 2004 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the filming of the movie "10" at Las Hadas. The 1979 romantic comedy directed by Blake Edwards was a box-office hit. The movie made superstars of Derek, who played the

alluring Jenny Miles, and Dudley Moore, who depicted the bumbling George Webber, a 42-year-old songwriter who became obsessed with Jenny's beauty.

Vacationers who remember "10" still come to Manzanillo in search of beautiful people, romantic sunsets, and exotic adventure. With the Pacific surf lapping at its feet, Manzanillo enjoys the same temperate climate and mountainous seaside setting of other world-famous destinations along Mexico's Gold Coast, including Puerto Vallarta to the north and Acapulco to the south. Its sun-kissed beaches have been featured in "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." More recently, the horror sequel "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" and a remake of "McHale's Navy" were filmed here.

During our afternoon jaunt around the gleaming white spiral towers and bougainvillea-draped walls of Las Hadas, Rafael took us to Room 420 where Jenny and George had their tryst. We lounged on the spacious bed in the master suite and watched a few minutes of "10," which runs continually on a closed-circuit television channel. Then we stepped outside to admire the suite's clois-

MANZANILLO, Page M4

MÉRIDA

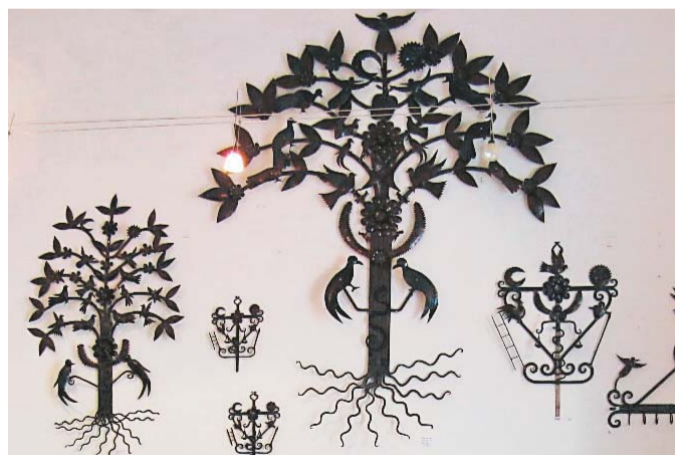


By Ann Wilson Lloyd

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

In this colonial city, step into a gallery and art lies at your feet. Nearly every building in Mérida's historic center retains original 19th-century mosaic floor tiles, arranged like intricate Art Nouveau carpets. Rugs would have quickly moldered in the Yucatán's tropical climate, but heat and humidity did not stop citizens here from living the Belle Époque to the hilt.

Mérida's trove of European-influenced period architecture dates from the 1500s, and many once-abandoned buildings are being lovingly brought back as galleries and museums. The city's history, its cleanliness and safety, and its location as a nexus be-



Expatriate and native, art lives here

From left: works by Cuban artist Douglas Argüelles Cruz at La Luz Galería; ironwork from Chiapas at Galería Tataya; and Barbara McClatchie's Gallery In La'Kech in the front parlor of her house.



MICHAEL LLOYD FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE (FAR LEFT); ANN WILSON LLOYD FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

tween Cuba, Latin America, and Miami are engendering a lively international art scene.

Add art to your Yucatán itinerary, and you'll mingle with Mérida's sophisticated but friendly gallery crowd, see interesting work not yet available up north, and enter the city's most delightfully restored edifices.

"I wanted a community space — a place for locals as well as Mérida's diverse expats," said Louis E. V. Nevaer, whose Casa Frederick Catherwood opened in March in a restored French-style townhouse. Nearly 450 people attended its opening, Nevaer said, "including expat Argentines, Catalans, Canadians,

MÉRIDA, Page M5

INSIDE

CHICHÉN ITZÁ Wonderful and ancient mysteries. M3 REAL DEALS Come, bail out from stress. M5

EXPLORE NEW ENGLAND

SPRINGFIELD Italians boast it's truly delicious here. M6 HIKE-IN CABINS Go rough and remote. M6