Amber Heard

Being a hot blonde is not always easy, according to actress Amber Heard. "I fit the certain build and character that has very limited options in this industry." After coming of age as a hot blonde in Hidden Fences, Pineapple Express and Zombieland (where she succeeded in being both hot and a zombie, much in Jesse Eisenberg's character's confusion), the 24-year-old has matured, along with her craft, playing more developed parts like Nic Cage's anti-hero and-estrogen�needlessly-masculine counterpart in Drive. "I enjoy the effrontery of being able to talk about how much I love guns and cars." But on a serious note, she adds, "Usually women like that are written to be either sexy and innocuous or sensible and weak—I love that I was able to make a strong character real."

Things get really real (and sent the Internet into a tizzy) when she attended GLAAD's 25th Anniversary party last December. Now, she does not renege her bisexuality but instead just chooses not to discuss it. "I don't label myself one way or another," she says. "What that means practically is none of our business, but professionally, her gender, accomplished performance as Johnny Depp's love interest in the upcoming adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's The Rum Diary shows Heard transitioning from mainstream ingenue to an actress in her own right. "I've made it a struggle and cut out a battle for myself to find roles I can do a little more with." ROSSY SCHULIN

Ball-Nogues Studio

L.A. architecture firm Ball-Nogues has built its reputation on experimental, innovative, and sometimes controversial projects. The firm's portfolio includes projects such as "Pyramid of Light," a glass pyramid that sits atop the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, and "Pavilion of Light," a series of light installations that have been exhibited around the world. The firm's approach to architecture is often described as "radical" and "avant-garde," and they have been praised for their ability to push the boundaries of what is possible in the field of architecture.

Their latest project, "Featherwood Edge," is an intervention at MOCA's Pacific Design Center. "We wanted to create an experience that was immersive and interactive," says Ball, who notes that the project is not just about building, but also about creating a new kind of narrative experience for the visitor."Their projects are a testament to the power of design and creativity in transforming our built environment. They never shy away from challenging the status quo and pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the field of architecture. "They always think outside the box and their work is often ahead of its time. They are true innovators in the field."

FRANKLIN MENDOZ