

**Sean Meenan** does too damn much.

Luckily he does a lot of it with the environment in mind. And kids. And artists. And architectural students. And Brooklyn. And corn-worshippers.

To list every title Meenan has been associated with would look a little something like this: restaurateur, entrepreneur, environmental activist, artist, worldwide traveler, businessman, photographer, film producer, writer, former NY Metro Light Heavyweight boxing champion, [pause to breathe...] *and* Ray Ban model. But it hardly tells the tale.

Meenan is a born New Yorker – fifth generation. When you think about all those years of NYC energy coursing through his veins, it starts to make sense how one guy can do so much...and how a commitment to the community can weigh so heavily. That community (and family, and neighborhood) vibe is what makes Meenan's two New York restaurants the undeniable successes they are. Café Habana in Manhattan is an environmentally conscious, cozy Nolita restaurant serving up Mexican/Cuban cuisine to lined-up regulars, tourists and celebrities alike. In Ft. Greene, Brooklyn, Habana Outpost takes things a step further as New York's first solar-powered restaurant and marketplace. Secured by a strong neighborhood presence, the courtyard there brings artists, environmentalists and families together to spend time with one another in an eco-wonderland featuring elements like a human-powered bike blender, rainwater harvesting to flush the toilets, furniture made of recycled materials, and utensils, plates and cups made of potatoes, sugarcane and corn. Even the front door is recycled, having originally guarded the entryway of a Latin American monastery. (Hell, let's take that all the way – even his 1965 Lincoln convertible is converted to run on his restaurants' discarded cooking oil...)

Meenan's visionary outlook extends well beyond the food and drink game. He had the insight to act as the original investor for the now thriving ETSY.com, a for the people by the people website for the people to buy and sell all things handmade. On the opposite end of the marketplace, Meenan is a partner, investor and brand consultant to The Elder Statesman, a cashmere clothing company for the fancier people to go crazy over at Maxfield, Barney's, and overseas. But wait...there's more! He's the founder and operator of Urban Studio Brooklyn (USBK), NYC's only inter-collegiate architectural design/build program, which has been featured in top trade publications. And on top of *that*, Meenan also created Habana Works, a non-profit charity organization that heads programs promoting environmentalism and urban study in Brooklyn.

Then there's all this other stuff... Meenan sits on the board for the Greenwich Village Youth Council, speaks on environmental issues at colleges and on tv and radio, shoots a yearly *Habana Girls* calendar to raise funds for his non-profit, and he created and wrote a children's coloring book proudly called (and celebrating) *Alternative Heroes*. And in his free time (yeah, we use that term *loosely* to say the least) Meenan has traveled the world; climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro; celebrated Haiti's Bicentennial while promoting its film festival in Jacmel; motorcycled through Cambodia; modeled in a worldwide Ray Ban campaign; competed in a demolition derby; and then brings it back home, making homemade wine alongside one of NYC's last real artisan butchers, Momo the Butcher.

What's next, though...? Looking out on the year ahead, Meenan's on the move to bring Habana to the west coast. Café Habana Malibu is set to open its doors this Spring, with a Habana Outpost in Venice not far behind. Sit tight, California – the famous corn is coming...