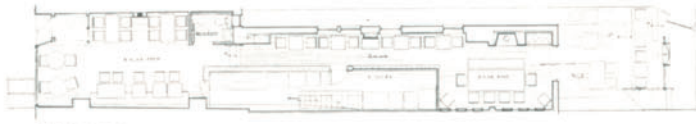




# Cafes & Bistros

MARTIN M. PEGLER



# Roscoe's Kodiak Cafe

*Manayunk, PA*

**W**orking closely with the owners, Marguerite Rodgers re-configured the historical building shell into a setting reminiscent of a 19th century neighborhood eating house in Kodiak, Alaska. The stark white walls, the whitewashed antique bar, and a large wintry landscape all reinforce “the open, white vistas of the Alaskan wilderness.” A hand forged, metal bear paw pull on the door is the Cafe’s first welcoming gesture.

A unique feature of the restaurant is a cozy dining area with a rustic wooden kitchen table that can accommodate a party of eight to ten. This room is enhanced by a fireplace, a serving niche with Mercer tiles, and a full view into the cafe’s open kitchen.

In the main dining room, the tables are topped with faux leather and edged with nail heads. The table bases, designed by Rodgers and produced by her staff, are made of old railroad ties. Restored old wooden chairs serve as seating along with a moss green, velvet banquette. The floors are covered with wide wood planks and the ceiling is intricately coffered.

Throughout the Cafe, Alaskan artifacts—found by the owners during archaeological digs off the Bering Sea—adorn the walls. With the subtle ambience, the designer has recreated the spirit of the place where the husband/wife owners met over a decade ago and where their menu features Alaskan fish and wild game.

As a fun touch, blackboard slates—salvaged from an old school house—are hung in the “outhouse” and guests are encouraged to inscribe their messages next to the owner’s daily thoughts and quotes.

**DESIGN:** Marguerite Rodgers Ltd., Philadelphia, PA

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Matt Wardo

