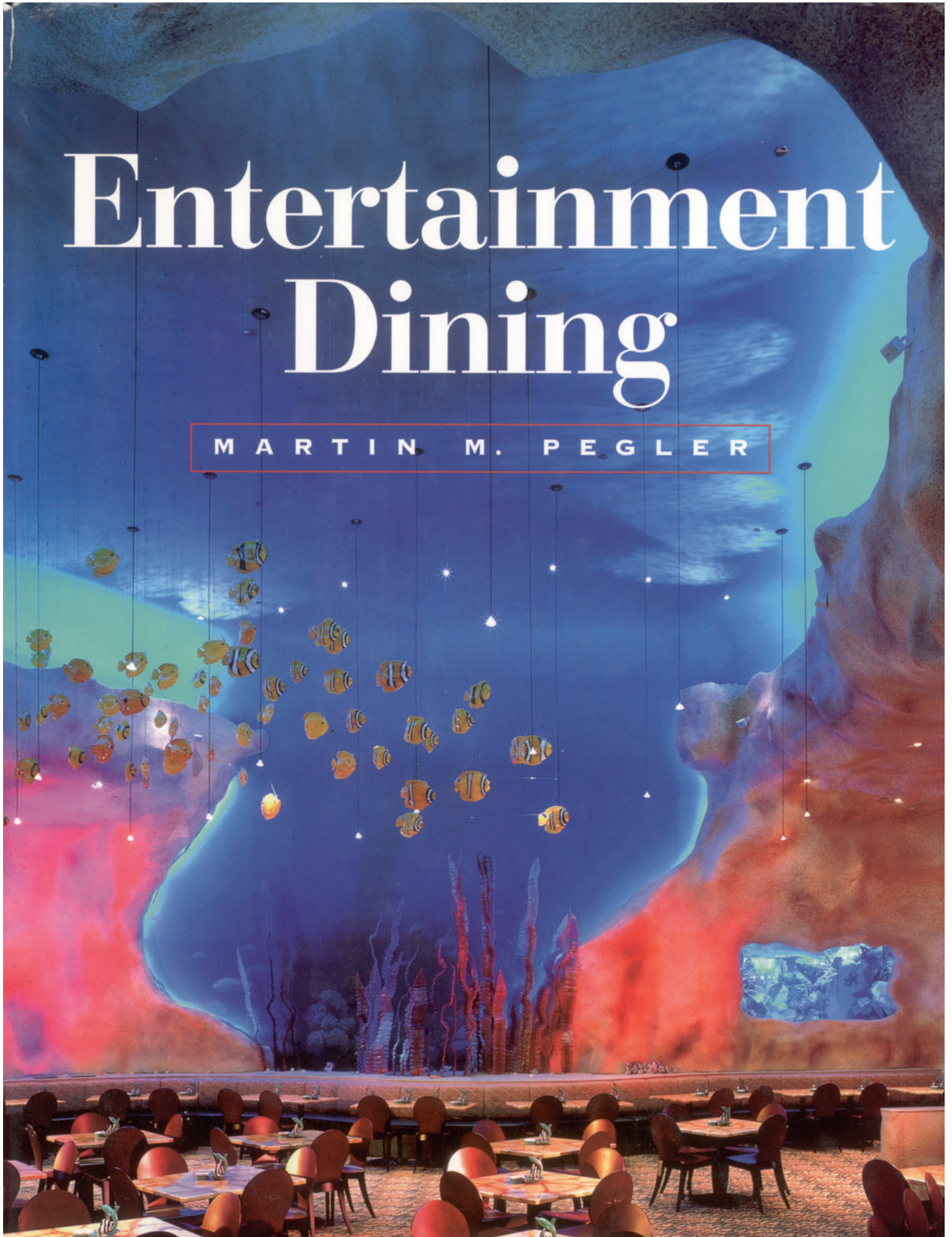


Entertainment Dining

MARTIN M. PEGLER



SUSANNA FOO

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Design:

Marguerite Rodgers Ltd., Philadelphia, PA

Photographer:

Matt Wargo

The scents of green reed plants, small trees and flowers combined with the sound of dripping water sets the relaxing ambiance for the 23 ft by 105 ft Susanna Foo Chinese restaurant in Philadelphia. Located in an upscale shopping area, the design by Marguerite Rodgers makes use of mirrors and water to "reflect and refract light from unrevealed sources." With a palette of earthtones, wood, stone and glass, the space takes on "the peaceful mood of natural beauty and serenity."

The space, originally a dark and oppressive steakhouse, was completely gutted. Custom booths and banquettes were designed to maximize seating and provide









comfort in the long and narrow space. The earthy palette appears in the quiet, patterned, low pile carpet laid on the floor and a dozen silk lanterns create “a glowing necklace of light” that encircles the room.

The focal point in the restaurant is the private dining area which can accommodate 14 guests. This is The Empress Den and it is located at the end of the dining room and it is “shrouded by sheer, luminous curtains and richly decorated with intricate wood grill work, upholstered walls and a large, glowing lantern.”

The ivory toned walls not only help to open up the space but they seem to emanate an opalescent hue. Diffused natural light streams through the plantation-style shutters on the windows during the daylight hours. At night, the soft glow of the lanterns combined with the subtle lighting plan takes over and integrates the architecture.

Working closely with the chef/owner, Susanna Foo and her husband, Marguerite Rodgers incorporated Chinese art and artifacts, calligraphy, scrolls, textiles and furniture from the owners’ extensive personal collection into the decor of the room.