

night light

Lighting for the Hospitality Industry

SUMMER 2005

ultra sound

Chicago Nightlife Goes High-Tech

Big Apple Point of View • Big Easy Black Magic

tips



Fork Restaurant, Philadelphia



Lacroix at the Rittenhouse, Philadelphia

6 sweet spots

Designer Meg Rodgers, President of Marguerite Rodgers Ltd., offers her top picks for hospitality venues with a flair for lighting, including two restaurants she illuminated herself.



RODGERS

1. Casa Tua, Miami Beach.

"It has a great saturation of landscape lighting; you get the sense that you're not downtown. The quality and level of lighting inside feels very appropriate, so much so that the Bar/Lounge feels like it could be someone's great room."

2. Sensi, Bellagio Hotel, Las Vegas.

"The lighting was done in a way that makes the restaurant's granite walls sparkle. The enormous kitchen in the center of the space is enclosed with glass and backlit, giving importance to what is in the kitchen. It is very inviting and yet still feels comfortable and warm."

3. Hotel Oustau de Boumaniere, Provence, France.

"The lighting shows off the ancient building's beautiful architecture. The dining room has a beautiful fixture with up- and downlighting in its chandelier."

4. Fork Restaurant, Philadelphia.

"We designed an iron fixture with 12 lamps and 12 little shades and then a huge shade made out of watercolor paper (and painted by a local artist) that curves in and out around the fixture. A cable brings focused light onto the tables in the café area and over the bar to give guests their own light."

5. Morimoto, Philadelphia.

"The booths and glass partitions that run down the center change color all the time. The restaurant has a fun feeling. You could just be sitting there and then suddenly realize you're bathed in another color."

6. Lacroix at the Rittenhouse, Philadelphia.

"A round recessed light and a sign made of papyrus paper give you a warm glow when you first arrive. At the restaurant's entrance, we dropped a panel off the ceiling and then lit it from above, which gives a nice halo effect. The Venetian plaster columns are bathed with light from above, as well, to look luminous themselves."



Blue Water Grill, Chicago

chicago blue

Yabu Pushelberg's renowned design team helped translate

Manhattan's Blue Water Grill for a Second City palate when the popular surf-and-turf eatery recently opened a second location in Chicago's River North neighborhood.

After preserving the artsy and industrial feel of its new environs with watermarked steel, antique mirrors and sculpted wood panels, the firm worked with lighting consultant Isometrics Group, London, to illuminate the venue's brown, textured walls with streaks of light running at different angles throughout. The remaining challenge was to create an original fixture that would both illuminate the tables and preserve several pieces of marine-themed, sculptural acrylic artwork as the restaurant's focal point. Finished to match the ceiling's fishnet design so that they wouldn't be noticed, the thin pendants crafted by the firm offer both up- and downlighting.

"In an envelope of dark space, we have a restaurant full of artwork," explains Lizette Viloria, senior designer with Yabu Pushelberg. "That's what the restaurant's lighting scheme focuses on—making the artwork glow and stand out in its space. There is a lot of contrast."