

BERGEN

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BERGEN EATS

by Debbie Bolla

CHAKRA, PARAMUS

Designed by Rudy Fabiano, Fabiano Designs, Montclair

- This romantic eatery exemplifies what architect Rudy Fabiano calls “escapist architecture. The idea was to transform the space into something adventurous,” he says. “We wanted bring in a bit of the mysterious night playfulness of the East.” To that end, unusual seating lends a Zen-like vibe. Canopy beds swathed in light, airy fabric surround tight-knit, U-shaped banquettes with plush pillows. “Veils are popular in Eastern culture and they’re sexy,” says Fabiano. “We translated that idea with the canopy beds.”
- This location was formerly “a chain-like restaurant,” Fabiano notes, adding that putting in brick walls “changed the whole mood of the space.” He chose weathered bricks that gave the room a softly modern feel.
- Plants add to the ambience while acting as dividers. Palm trees reaching 12 feet fit comfortably in the loft-like space with soaring ceilings. Fabiano selected the desert plants because they naturally create an oasis-like feel.
- “When designing a restaurant that seeks to offer a special experience, you have to understand the importance of lighting and showcasing the people inside,” explains Fabiano. So illumination is purposely dimmed and low. “We put spotlights over tables so it would be very flattering,” the designer notes. Candles are scattered throughout the space as well.

continued

Tempting SPACES

3 TOP BERGEN DINING SPOTS FOR THOSE WITH AN APPETITE FOR FINE DESIGN

LET'S ADMIT IT: The food is only one element we seek in dining out. Yes, we want delicious, fulfilling fare, but sometimes what we really crave is a refuge—the chance to enjoy conversation in surroundings more lush and intimate than our own. And it's the eatery's design, perhaps even more than its cuisine, that sets the tone for an evening escape. With that in mind, we spoke to the designers behind three of the county's top eateries to learn their ingredients for good restaurant design. Here's a peek behind the scenes.