



This project involved the renovation of the historic two-story, 1875 J.P. Schneider Building into an upscale restaurant and music venue. The City of Austin owns the building and partially restored it in 2001 with the intention of finding a tenant to bring it back to life. The interior was left completely open and unfinished with no MEP infrastructure.

Our project included structural reinforcement of the second floor; a new stair for additional egress; retrofitting of existing historical doors to create an accessible entrance with wheelchair ramp; LULA elevator; design of a small exterior bar building (which has not been built) and an outdoor courtyard to expand seating capacity. An abandoned basement was resurrected in order to house a walk-in cooler, elevator equipment room, and storage. Rest rooms, a large bar, and a stage with an exotic sound system were designed for the second floor; with the kitchen, scullery, smaller bar, and main dining area on the first floor.

Since the building is a National Historic Landmark, we had to be extremely careful to protect the original building fabric while providing all infrastructure required by a contemporary restaurant. The project was reviewed by the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission, the Texas Historical Commission and the National Parks Department. Because the Texas Historical Commission did not want anything to be attached to the historic brick, the new stair was designed to float in the space, supported by concrete piers beneath the floor. Because of old fire damage, missing flooring was replaced with reclaimed long leaf pine from a building in Missouri. The millwork, bar faces and tables & chairs were made from East Texas 'sinker' pine that was the approximate age of the J.P. Schneider Store.

*The project received a Preservation Merit Award from the Heritage Society of Austin, a statewide hospitality design excellence award, a regional sustainable design excellence award and it was published in the Austin Design Guide and 'luxe magazine. It was also featured in the UPtown DOWNtown commercial project tour as part of "Austin x Design" month in 2011. Jett Butler was responsible for graphic design & signage on the project and Emily Little served as a historical consultant. (All photos are by Pete Gasper, unless otherwise noted)*



BEFORE



*Photo by Jett Butler*



AFTER



*Photo by Jett Butler*



