



Laurie Smith Design Associates was asked to create a “sophisticated, fresh” atmosphere for a new 5,000 sf restaurant / bar located in a suburban strip center at the intersection of 2222 & Loop 360 in Austin. Though the owner’s concept was upscale in terms of food and service, the finish-out budget was a modest \$104 / sf. The multi-level design solution emphasized color, texture, light and architectural form.

9’ frameless glass entry doors, capped by a hemispherical transom, revealed curved watermelon-colored forms beyond (see floor plan on page 2). Inside, bleached cherry, stainless steel, leather and concrete complemented finely stuccoed beige walls. The exposed roof structure was painted deep purple. The storefront was removed from the bar area and plantation shutters installed in the lounge in order to screen views of the parking lot. Furring designed into the new bar wall incorporated high windows to admit natural light.

Generously proportioned marble steps, flanked by custom-designed railings, led to the lower level where a curving apricot wall created intimate dining areas. An expanse of 12-ft. ht. glass was set into deep furring opens dining areas to the greenbelt beyond. The main dining areas were bisected by a thick purple plane housing custom pocket doors that penetrated the building envelope, further uniting interior and exterior. Custom pendant fixtures provided 90% up-light and elegant fused-glass sconces added a warm glow. A programmable dimming system automatically created a variety of lighting moods throughout the day and evening. Photography by Patrick Wong.

*The project won local design awards from the Austin Chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and received a regional design award from the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Texas / Oklahoma Chapter. It was also featured in an exhibit entitled “Portrait of a City”, at the Dougherty Arts Center and another exhibit in conjunction with the Charles*

W. Moore Center For the Study of Place. *TEXAS MONTHLY* described the restaurant as “an architectural knockout”. The project was completed in 2000.

**FLOOR PLAN**  
NOT TO SCALE

