INSPIRATION

Design to **energize** and **activate** surroundings.

Connect back to a city’s **culture**, **history**, and **community**.

Create ceilings that make a **dramatic visual impact** on any space.

APPLICATION

Design ceilings that are symbolic of the food being served.

Incorporate undulating ceilings with reflective materials.
Designers are reinterpreting traditional food production means into restaurant spatial design, playing with the duality of eastern tradition and western representation.

Shanghai-based Lukstudio has reinterpreted a traditional Chinese food noodle-drying rack with a metal grid structure and hanging wires for the **Noodle Rack** in Changsha, China. Lukstudio’s intention was to create a “journey of discovery” in the 50-square-metre space, with a series of reflective metal wires suspended from the high ceiling of the dining area. In between these loops, lighting hangs at varying levels, creating the feeling of dining under a noodle rack. The original walls are stripped down to the structural blocks and a rack-like metal grid structure sits in front, acting as a see-through box enclosing the dining area.
LUMINOUS

Architects are incorporating reflective ceiling soffits, allowing for dramatic, highly individualized restaurant interiors.

The Light Cave, a restaurant/bar refurbishment in Tokyo by Moriyuki Ochiai, directs light through a long, narrow, cave-like space, with overhead reflective panels and gleaming aluminum waves. The shimmering effect of the light shards at both the front and back of the space are amplified by the metal waves and timber lattice, creating unique light patterns around the interior of the restaurant. The undulating ceiling also creates the illusion of a larger dining space.
INSPIRATION

Achieve **SIMPLICITY** in design.

**Strive for TIMELESS** and luxurious interiors.

**Re-invent** the past.

**Merge** OLD and **CONTEMPORARY**.

APPLICATION

Design restaurant interiors that represent the surrounding area’s past and future.

**Incorporate traditional design motifs into restaurant finish materials.**
RE-USE

Many interior designers draw inspiration from the culture in which a cuisine originates, while also protecting and showcasing historic architecture.

**Taglio**, designed by RGAstudio, is located on the ground floor of a typical Milanese block of flats. The idea was to create a multi-functional space where a restaurant, a food shop, a bar and a café could coexist. The walls have been stripped of their thick plasterwork, thus revealing the old, brick, load-bearing structures beneath. Fastened to them, poles of Kotò wood connected by iron joints form a dense framework that reminds us of security scaffolding.
CELEBRATION OF THE PAST
Designers are looking to creating dining spaces that are in essence “timeless”, recognizing and celebrating a culture’s past and future.

Green-painted paneling, shiny white tiles and marble slabs line the walls of the Michel Restaurant by Finnish architect Joanna Laajisto. Aiming to create a casual and comfortable interior, Laajisto referenced kiosks that were built in the Finnish capital in the 1940s and 50s, featuring wooden interiors and slatted paneling. The design boasts a lighter color palette including pistachio green, white and natural wood, using materials intended to appear “light and fresh”. The intimate atmosphere suits breakfast, lunch, dinner and cocktails.
INSPIRATION
A need for design that connects to the individual CHARACTER of a neighborhood.

Promotion of LOCAL TALENT.

Provide SYNERGY between classic craft and contemporary design.

To strive for CUSTOMIZABLE design.

APPLICATION
Incorporate local art into interior design of restaurants.

Design to create optical illusions within restaurant interiors.
OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

Designers are perfecting the art of using color and patterns to create optical illusions in restaurant interiors, establishing lively, inviting spaces.

Graphic wallpaper by Eley Kishimoto creates the illusion of a three-dimensional grid across the walls and floors of the **Southerden Patisserie and Café** in south-east London. Kishimoto covered all surfaces in a tessellating yellow and black pattern named Venice. Black squares set into the center of the yellow grid outline allow the background to visually recede, giving the illusion of three-dimensionality. The space is dressed with monochrome furniture and shelving units, and wall-mounted vitrines with thick black frames display sample cakes and a selection of ornaments. The space is not only a dining hall, but also hosts a series of weekend workshops and classes.
COMMUNITY

Restaurant designs are increasingly reflecting their communities by featuring local art and photography, while providing engaging gathering spaces.

Glitch Bar, designed by Rama Estudio, utilizes an abandoned mid-century home in Quito, Ecuador. Designed to optimize resources and reuse existing structure, the interior looks as if it were “patched together,” with repairs to areas that had deteriorated and exposing hidden materials. Many of the elements that were removed from the house in the process of demolition have come back within the new space: windows that were welded together becoming doors, and brick walls now forming the sub-floor area parking. The only new design element throughout is art, referencing urban graffiti and colorful patterns by graphic designers.
INSPIRATION

**Activate and shape SENSORY EXPERIENCE.**

**Promote idea of EVOLVING architecture.**

**Strive for INDIVIDUALIZED design that boasts a MULTI-COLORED and jumbled aesthetic.**

**A renewed interest in TEXTURE.**

APPLICATION

**Incorporate reflective white surfaces into restaurant interiors**

**Experiment with texture and material finishes.**

IMAGE COURTESY OF KENGO KUMA & ASSOCIATES; PHOTOGRAPHY @ ERIETA ATTALI
WHITE

Many architects are introducing stark white interiors to allow the occupants and food to become the color and contrast.

In AKZ Architectura’s new Orang+Utan vegetarian café, the interior is completely covered with white tiles. Situated on an old Kiev street populated with Soviet-era buildings, the restaurant acts as a “bright spot” in the area, with the predominantly white design standing out through the cafe’s small black-framed window and glazed door. The white tiles are applied to the walls and ceilings using dark-colored grout, and metal cages are suspended from the roof for storage. A single white table runs along the edge of the restaurant with tile-clad leg supports, and the name of the cafe is spelled out in white neon letters above the eating area.
TEXTURE

Architects are beginning to experiment with interior finish materials resulting in highly individualized design, where form becomes invisible, and only materiality and various colors appear as if floating in the air.

Tufts of brightly colored electrical cabling adorn the walls and furniture of Tetchan Bar, a cafe by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma located in Tokyo. Tangles of rainbow-hued wires drape down the walls, over table-tops and chair backs, and around light-fittings of the upper level, contrasting the white and transparent details made from plastic to the street-level bar. The wire design is mostly made of recycled LAN cables (the shaggy, woolly look), and melted acrylic byproduct pieces.

IMAGES COURTESY OF KENGO KUMA & ASSOCIATES; PHOTOGRAPHY @ ERIETA ATTALI
THANK YOU
ALL PHOTOS AND CONTENT USED WITH PERMISSION

DESIGNERS FEATURED:

- Plasma Nodo
- Lukstudio
- Moriyuki Ochiai Architects
- Joanna Laajisto
- RgaStudio
- Rama Estudio
- Eley Kishimoto
- Kengo Kuma & Associates
- AKZ Architcutura