

hospitality design

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perfect taste

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dining in style

BARR
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From fine dining experiences to casual takeaway joints and those in between, restaurants and bars are increasingly an incubator for design experimentation, where kitsch and whimsy meet refined sophistication. We have gathered 30 standout venues from across the globe—traveling to the likes of South Africa, Europe, Thailand, and across the U.S.—that showcase the power of great taste.

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Photos courtesy of the respective firms, unless noted



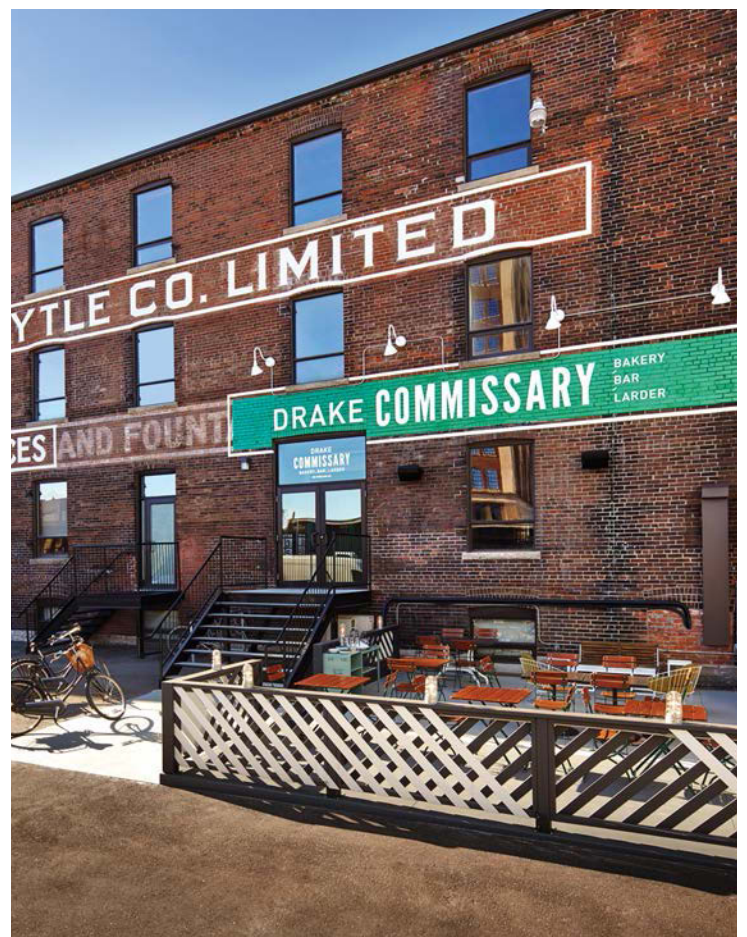
Drake Commissary, Toronto

Design firm: **+tongtong**

The scoop: It's the use of electric green accompanied by a rich material palette "inspired by industrial machinery and fixtures," notes +tongtong founder John Tong, that excites the senses upon arriving to the Drake Commissary. The Toronto-based restaurant is all about "quality, craft, and service," he continues, fusing food production with the tasting experience. Being a kitchen, bakery, larder, and bar, it was imperative that the space be organized to cater to customer choices. A long wooden drop ceiling leads patrons from grab-and-go baked goods at the cafeteria-styled bakery to the bar and main dining area, where a teal-toned banquette with a playful bread loaf motif referenced in the upholstery wraps around the room. The "Photoautomat" picture booth is another surprising yet welcome twist.

Drawing inspiration from the industrial roots of its location in the Junction Triangle neighborhood, temporary and permanent art installations—selected by Drake's in-house art curator Mia Nielsen—line the space. Most notable is the permanent 35-foot-tall digital mural "Ancient Hills" by Alex McLeod, which provides a colorful phantasmagoric backdrop to the dining room. The art, explains Tong, gives each venue of the brand its own identity, but also makes it "distinctly Drake."





Photos by COLIN FAULKNER