



Design for Living

Edible Architecture

Dining out should satisfy all of the senses. Here are seven restaurants designed to deliver good taste all around — by Kathryn Loosli Pritchett

Part theater, part home-away-from-home, a successful restaurant design should combine elements that both entertain and put the customer at ease. “In all my restaurants, I like to create intimate yet exotic spaces,” says Pat Kuleto, the mastermind behind some of the Bay Area’s most dramatic restaurant looks, including Boulevard, Farallon, and Jardinière. This winter, he added two more showpieces to his resume: Waterbar and Epic Roasthouse.

Both are on the waterfront, between the Ferry Building and the ballpark, and both afford spectacular views of the Bay Bridge and Treasure Island. Such a landmark location demands bold designs, and showman Kuleto delivers with two opulent restaurants that evoke a San Francisco 1910 pump house and a water-distribution building, respectively.

A seafood restaurant, Waterbar features a floor-to-ceiling aquarium and a cascading raw-food bar. Louvered glass panels reminiscent of fish scales and a handblown

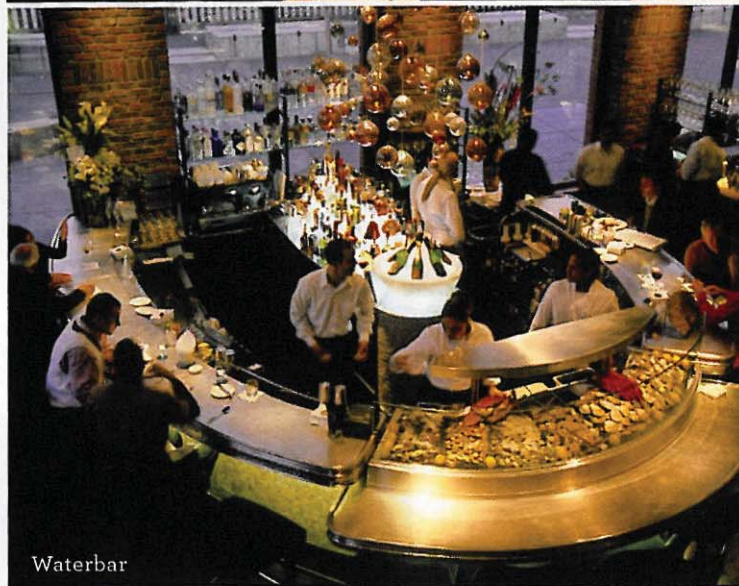
glass “caviar” chandelier create a luminescent aquatic impression. “So many of the elements are somewhat see-through, and this incredible translucency of design creates an amazing effect throughout the restaurant,” says Kuleto.

Across a shared plaza, Epic Roasthouse specializes in grilled and roasted preparations of meats and poultry. The restaurant’s bold, industrial design includes enormous wood beams, a seven-foot industrial flywheel, a custom-built wood-fired metal hearth, and walls of wine bottles



Epic Roasthouse





Waterbar

“So many of the elements are somewhat see-through, and this incredible translucency of design creates an amazing effect throughout the restaurant,” says Kuleto.

bisected by view-capturing windows. Edison lightbulbs, metal rivets, casters, and dramatic lighting fixtures fabricated from reclaimed gears enhance the grand-scale industrial design. “I always try to put drama in the design without being hokey,” says Kuleto.