

At Vermilion

New York, New York, USA

Searl Lamaster Howe Architects



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A midtown Manhattan restaurant, originally built in the late 1990s was the venue for this Indian–Latin restaurateur. The original restaurant is composed of a 1000-square-metre bi-level space; this cost-effective renovation was developed to use the essential elements of the former restaurant, while reinventing the space for a different menu and a more contemporary venue.

Features of height and openness are emphasised: the bar on the first floor becomes the stage for the dining spaces above. Backlit glass columns, a large light fixture with a metal mesh shade, the decorative metal ‘curtain’ behind the bar, two-storey stair cables and a water curtain reinforce the verticality of the space.

The upper level provides three dining areas – two open and one private dining room, with glass partitions that separate it from the rest of the dining space. Venetian glass light fixtures were reinvented with new shades in the vaulted area of the second floor. The existing wood floor is refinished in grey stain along with metallic tile accents to create a stark palette that contrasts with the red walls and spicy cuisine. Two pools, one on each level, define the stair at the entrance and the dining areas above.

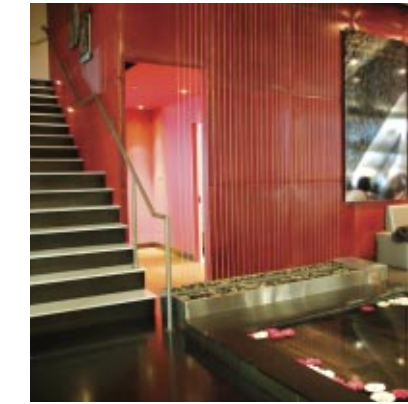
Acoustical ceilings are concealed by perforated metal to add shimmer to the space. Large photographs of fashion scenes are inserted throughout, reinforcing the owner’s vision of a contemporary, feminine rendition of Indian and Latin cultures.

- 1 First floor lounge – north bar with metal ribbon sculpture
- 2 Second floor – mezzanine dining room under the new aluminum ceiling
- 3 First floor entry – reflecting pool and rain curtain at stairs to dining
- 4 Second floor – private dining room with lit photo and new chandeliers
- 5 First floor – lounge seating with custom light boxes in background

Photography: Daniel Krieger and Christopher Duff



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