

Program Summary:

A restaurant design rooted in Thai and Filipino heritage integrates cultural, culinary, and material influences into a cohesive spatial and dining experience.

Program Statement:

Guided by the vision of a local restaurateur, the project integrates architectural and interior design strategies to create a space that reflects the owner's Thai and Filipino heritage. Cultural and culinary influences inform the building's form, spatial organization, and material expression. Working within the constraints of the existing rectilinear floor plan, the design team developed a flexible and cohesive framework that allows the restaurant to adapt and evolve over time.

Carefully programmed zones organize the dining experience, anchored by a central kitchen that serves as both a functional hub and a spatial mediator between the two culinary traditions. This arrangement establishes a deliberate sequence of spaces in which Thai and Filipino identities emerge both independently and in dialogue with one another, demonstrating how architecture can shape cultural experience through movement, proximity, and connection. The interior palette reinforces this concept through the use of traditional textures, ornamental woodwork, and rich contrasts of deep blue and gold. Together, these elements create visual depth while referencing the cultural influences that inform the restaurant's identity. The result is an immersive environment where architecture and interiors work in concert to express heritage, support function, and enrich the dining experience.

IA220.01

Building Area: (sf)
2,166 sf

Cost per Square Foot:
\$460

Construction Cost
\$1,000,000

Date of Completion:
2026

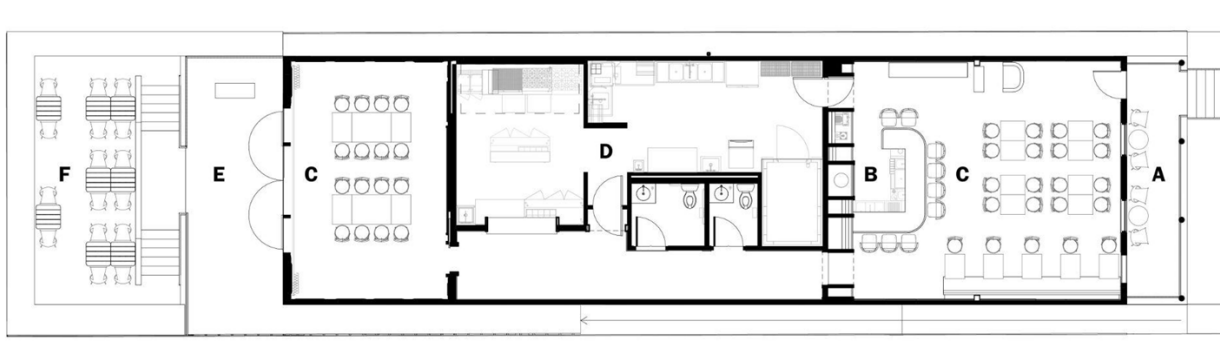
IA220.02

Taking inspiration from Thai and Filipino heritage—rooted in the owner's background—the design takes guests on a magical journey through every interior gesture and detail, such as this custom-made bar, which draws upon the silhouette of the traditional Thai headdress, Chada, a prominent symbol of Thai heritage.



IA220.03

Pictured here is the floor plan of a single-story building located in the Mid-City neighborhood. The design team carefully preserved the existing exterior façade and structure while reimagining the interior architecture and spatial layout to meet the client's vision and programmatic needs.



- A** FRONT PORCH
- B** BAR
- C** DINING
- D** KITCHEN
- E** BACK PORCH
- F** GARDEN

FLOOR PLAN



IA220.04

Given the site's uniquely rectilinear floor plan, the kitchen became a central anchor point in the design, serving as a defining element in the spatial programming and organizational flow for staff, while also allowing the distinct cuisines of both Thai and Filipino traditions (native to the owners) to be placed on opposing sides of the building—a decision that offers a flexible yet cohesive design strategy, enabling each identity to be experienced either on its own or together as one.



IA220.05

Inspired by the amber glow of the central bar, the exterior is wrapped in a darker paint scheme, enhancing the visibility of interior light from the street and evoking a temple-like architectural form.



IA220.06

Carrying forward the vision to incorporate traditional textures and ornamental woodwork, the design team also introduced a palette of deep blues and golds, predominantly in the form of traditional Thai clothing fabrics—such as Pateh (pah-teh), commonly worn in Thailand for their breathable, cooling material and polished look. This fabric also inspired the design team to reproduce the fabric for the seating banquette.





IA220.07

Even in the bathroom, small details such as this hand painted ceramic sink bowl and a delicate pink orchid, lend symbolic references to Thai culture.

IA220.07

Green felt acoustic panels line the ceiling, while dark green Miramichi by Benjamin Moore sets the backdrop and, when paired with the sconces, accentuates the decorative elements present on the walls. Both the wall mural and the bells are custom made in Thailand.



IA220.07

An all-new wood ceiling features newly painted coffers, ties the bar and ceiling together while cohesively balancing the golden hues of the bar with the warm earth tones above.





IA220.08

Indoor–outdoor connections hug the site with a wraparound garden and cozy patio setting featuring tropical plantings, extending the interior's sensorial dining experience.

IA220.09

With an exceptionally narrow, rectilinear floor plan, the design team employed a chef-led and collaborative design approach to resolve interior programmatic needs without altering the exterior architectural framework.

