

Figure Serves Up 21st Century Design with Culinary Intrigue

Interior designer Thomas Schoos has opened his latest venue: Figure Restaurant in La Quinta. Schoos, the designer of famous spots like Tao Nightclub & Asian Bistro in Las Vegas, created a design that was clearly influenced by the post-century modern styles of nearby Palm Springs. French for fig and rhyming with intrigue, Figure's style brings together a great mix of textures for guests to visually enjoy along with the seasonal, organic Mediterranean menu.

Nena Farrell





Desert Driftwood

Designed by Thomas Schoos



A dramatic contrast of textures is the collection of monolithic desert driftwood pieces that stand inside the front door, bringing a great component of Figue's local environment into the restaurant's experience.



Cozy Encounters

Designed by Thomas Schoos



Figure has seating areas that encourage socializing and mingling, such as the lounges or sharing tables, or more private spots for romantic encounters. These spaces include a mix of small side tables with varied shapes and prints that could even be additional seating.



Slanted Angles

Designed by Thomas Schoos



On top of the driftwood pieces, another dramatic gesture through design can be found in the bar area. Schoos has literally put two large kitchen tables over the ends of the bar. This design created slanted angles that break the formality of a bar area, giving customers plenty of room to spread out and demonstrating that eating at the bar is totally encouraged.



Clean Lines

Designed by Thomas Schoos



“I love the practicality and clean lines of mid-century modernism,” explains Schoos, “but if you are too strict about it, the uniformity can be off-putting. I wanted Figure to be a place where people love to mingle and hang out.” Schoos’ design encourages those aspects, with an added sense of entertainment and fun thrown into the mix.



Space Age

Designed by Thomas Schoos



A special touch to the lounge area is an explosion of light fixtures, hanging in random patterns above the seats. Most of the fixtures pay homage to the mid-century era or "space age," but their variety goes beyond what any usual modernist would choose. These lights serve as an exhibit of retro embellishments, a bold exhibit of form over function that strays away from the modernist style.



A Chevron Charcuterie Bar

Designed by Thomas Schoos



Having a drink or ordering items from the charcuterie bar comes with an additional visual experience. The unusual covering on the bar front, and other surfaces at the restaurant, is made of a sensuous pattern of alternating rustic wooden boards with polished green onyx in a herringbone pattern. The mix of textures can be seen as a summary of the restaurant's design philosophy.



Decidedly Post-Modern

Designed by Thomas Schoos



Schoos explains that the idea behind Figue's design was to create an environment that is both comfortable and visually stimulating, with artistic interest and no sense of feeling stuffy or formal. While clearly a homage to mid-century modern design in Palm Springs, Schoos brings a fusion of shapes, colors and textures that is decidedly post-modern.