



Dining 2014: The most stylish entrances

The best-looking new restaurants of the year



By Michele Parente | 2:23 p.m. Dec. 11, 2014



The colorful Puesto at The Headquarters, designed by Thomas Schoos. Alejandro Tanayo • U-T



They're chic, they're fashion able, they're trendy.



They're restaurant dining rooms.



High design was served up in 2014 as new places with fabulous spaces opened, including the U-T's Restaurant of the Year, [Juniper & Ivy](#). And while dazzling décor will never replace inspired cooking, restaurants are investing big bucks to lure customers in and provide a dining experience that goes beyond what's on the plate.



Here are some of the most stylish entrances of the year.



Puesto at The Headquarters

What happens when star designer Thomas Schoos is turned loose in an old jail? He unleashes a riot of color and texture, transforming a taquería into a hip and sexy multilevel party room. 780 W. Harbor Drive, downtown. (619) 233-8880 or [eatpuesto.com](#)



The waiters at Bottega Americano are a blur of activity as they prepare for the lunch crowd. — Photo by Rick Nocer

Bottega Americano

Another Schoos success story: The L.A.-based designer divvied up the 8,000-square-foot restaurant marketplace into distinct intimate areas that still allow you take in the big-city bustle of the overall space. 1195 Island Ave., East Village. (619) 255-7800 or [bottegaamerican.com](#)

Ironside Fish & Oyster

Part cruise ship, part Steampunk whistle-stop, and all designer Paul Basile, Ironside's \$1.8 million industrial interior is its most striking feature. Upping the cool factor is the wall of piranha heads and Basile's signature fold-up doors. 1654 India St., Little Italy. (619) 269-3033 or [ironsidefishandoyster.com](#)

