

2007 WBA Remodeling Awards

Project Category:
Specialty Project

"A Trees for DeForest"



DEGNAN
DESIGN BUILDERS
INC.



We were commissioned to build a custom bar for a new, intimate boutique restaurant. We had successfully collaborated with the clients on a bathroom several years ago, and they were confident that we could transform their ideas into reality, while we were confident that their completed concept would be remarkable.

The restaurant, known as "Trees," was to have an upscale appearance and atmosphere yet evoke the warmth and natural beauty of the outdoors. Rustic is not the correct image; rather it is refined and elegant with bold colors and it required precision craftsmanship for the bar. Although early on we explored the possibility of building a white birch tree through the bar, the final concept is cleaner, more economical and inviting.



Pine half-log siding was chosen for the face of the bar wall under the counter, stained in five different tones for a naturally varied and weathered appearance. High back stools tie in with the light and dark colors of the logs. The same half-logs were reinforced with steel cross members and used behind the bar in front of a mirrored wall as the liquor shelving.



The bar top uses economical AC fir plywood as its base. After a disastrous experiment with real leaves, varied species and colors of silk leaves were embedded in the poured epoxy top. By layering certain leaves and pouring the epoxy in several stages, we were able to give the surface depth and give the appearance of the leaves gently floating in the epoxy top.

A path was needed to allow the staff access to the bar for beverages without disrupting those already seated at the bar. The epoxy bar top flows from the customer side of the restaurant to the staff side via a pass through window sized to accept serving trays.



Right: The finished bar uses silk leaves embedded in the poured epoxy.

Below: Experiments with real leaves were "shattering".



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Final Assessment & Results:

Our clients are thrilled with the both the bar's form and function; they say it exceeds their expectations and performs beautifully. Our success with this project could be gauged by listening to remarks made by our past clients and friends who have frequented the Trees Restaurant. Many have commented that "the food and atmosphere were excellent, and that bar was incredible." "How did you do that?" We have been approached about several projects similar to this one since its completion and we look forward to opportunities to build other custom installations.

Specifications of Note:

Pourable Epoxy: Progressive Epoxy
Logs: Meadow Valley