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The sun, wind, water
and earth influence the way we
design and work, as do our history
and traditional knowledge systems.

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ir FOCUS : RESTAURANTS ir INDUSTRY FORUM : CARPETS ir PERSONALITY : PROF. CHARANJIT S. SHAH
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LIÒN, ROME

COLLIDANIELARCHITETTO, Italy

Design brief and aim

To give the neighborhood a restaurant and cocktail bar that would headline the regeneration of the area including the construction of the Palazzo Navona hotel and the redevelopment of via del Melone.

How this was accomplished

Five minutes between the Pantheon and Piazza Navona is Liòn restaurant and bar, part of a historical building from the Rationalist era. The two-storey space features Art Deco elements such as geometric motifs, chequered floors, mosaic pillars and brass fixtures to sophisticated effect.

Soft lights, mirrored surfaces and a pleasant terrace envelope the restaurant. The space unfolds on two levels: a ground floor restaurant is completely projected on the outside through large windows outlined by a thick travertine frame, a signature element of Rationalist

architecture. The basement, accessible via a marble staircase with brass details, houses the service rooms, the kitchen and the wine cellar.

Dynamic elements characterize the interiors, from the subtle and arched friezes that envelop the space, to the deep three-dimensional lozenge screen of the lacquered ottoman, the colorful boiserie, and the curved supports that cradle the bottle holder suspended on the counter.

Custom-designed furniture, where form and function intertwine, such as the cutlery drawers or the menu compartments decorated with metallic details, are distinguished by their pop aesthetic, in which the circle remains the protagonist.

Slender metal structures frame colorful transparent elements, such as discs suspended above the black marble tables



or the lozenge elements of the bottle rack above the counter, giving rise to a formal vocabulary with a contemporary flavor. The use of colored tinted glass for the architectural decorative elements is a contemporary reinterpretation of the leaded glass quintessential to the early 20th century.

Large, mosaic-covered columns pierce the long, turquoise glass counter on a thick milled brass top, where bar tenders mix their cocktails.

Happily ever after

This universe of materials, colors and geometries offer customers an engaging experience between design and cuisine.