

# INTERIOR DESIGN<sup>®</sup>



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*new york: in the swim*

A film still of *The Karate Kid*'s Mr. Miyagi—"wax on, wax off"—presides over the microscopic Japanese-inflected Chez Sardine by Andrew Wilkinson Architect. As project architect, designer Robert Glass was asked to fit a walk-in refrigerator into the 600-square-foot West Village space. "No way," he said. But the chef declared he didn't mind if it was like a phone booth. And it is.

Chez Sardine's banquettes hide storage bins for supplies, as is also the case at the Butterfly. Designed with Studio Rosignolo to feature the American classics of Michelin-starred chef Michael White and the cocktails of progressive mixologist Eben Freeman—he of the vodka steeped with chunks of slate for a "riverbed" flavor—the TriBeCa space is 980 square feet with a typically narrow footprint. That meant reducing the depth of the bar to accommodate a row of two-tops. Franco Rosignolo, skilled at book-matching Italian marble, did the same with the marbling of the plastic laminate on these tables' tops, so it flows from one to the next.

Lunchroom chic rules at MoMA PS1's modest café, M. Wells Dinette, the reincarnation of the late, lamented M. Wells diner nearby in Long Island City. The museum version recalls the original's Quebecois cuisine and quilted steel walls, but Solid principal Guy Reziciner went further, the proximity to contemporary art pushing him toward experimentation. About half the patrons sit in institutional chairs at school-style tables. They all face the same direction, naturally, toward an open kitchen situated squarely at the head of the class.

You don't have to be a small firm to think small, as it turns out. For the Genes@Barneys café at Barneys New York on the Upper East Side, one of *Interior Design*'s top 100 Giants, Yabu Pushelberg, relied on a single minimalist space-saving gesture: enclosing the 712 square feet in clear glass, then bolting 30 swivel stools around one high table with a multimedia touch-screen top. "There was lots of conversation about how to integrate technology into the store," Hall of Fame member Glenn Pushelberg explains. So the tabletop takes food orders placed with a fingertip—like some 22nd-century Automat.

—Craig Kellogg



**Clockwise from top:** The touch-screen table at Yabu Pushelberg's Genes@Barneys café on the Upper East Side. A still from *The Karate Kid* at Andrew Wilkinson Architect's Chez Sardine in the West Village. Storage concealed beneath a banquette at the Butterfly. Its tabletops, clad in plastic laminate, by Studio Rosignolo.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: EVAN DJIAN; HENRY HARGREAVES; MELISSA HO 4121