

THE PRODUCT PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. ARCHITECTURAL MARKET

# Architectural PRODUCTS

JULY-AUGUST 2008

#### MARKET OF CHOICE

Products for Hotel & Hospitality

#### PROJECT DECONSTRUCTION

Hotel Vitale, San Francisco, Calif.

#### SPECIAL REPORT

Neocon Recap: The DNA of Design

## ACHIEVING LEED

What's involved in earning gold LEED certification? Bringing home 87 points was the braced aluminum clad Macallen Building, which was judged to perform 15.4% better than ASHRAE requirements. Turn inside for the key products, materials and systems behind the points. [PAGE 112]



## An Appetite for Mosaics

**CHALLENGE:** Create a unique mosaic mural to complement the Australian outback theme of a Northern California restaurant.

**CRITERIA:** Three entrepreneurial partners combined their talents and unique origins to bring the best in food, wine and Down Under atmosphere to the sunny hills of Northern California. Mangan's Mod Oz menu of modern Australian cuisine with Asian influences, wanted a décor that was eye-catching yet comfortable.

**INFLUENCES:** Chloe Warner, from the firm Redmond Aldrich Design, is one of the Bay Area's freshest designers. Known for her bold use of patterns, she redefined "Outback" by juxtaposing familiar materials with a modern design scheme. The woven light fixtures by New Zealander David Trubridge, the ostrich leather upholstery, and a dominating table made entirely from eucalyptus wood, all pay homage to the natural world of Australia and New Zealand, with a twist. But perhaps the most striking design element at the restaurant is the bar back, a beautiful glass tile mural inspired by a Maori necklace often worn

by Weinberg, the self-proclaimed "Kiwi" of the trio.

After Warner had ordered the mural, the dimensions of the restaurant were changed. In order to meet ADA standards, Andrew Lapitsky, project manager for Hasz Construction, had to give the bathroom at the restaurant at least 5 ft. of turning space to make it wheelchair accessible. The ensuing adjustment to the bathroom pushed the wall out further into the restaurant, where 44 in. is necessary for the exit path.

**SOLUTION:** Hakatai Enterprises helped Warner realize her vision for the 16-ft.-long x 5-ft.-tall mosaic mural that she designed for the veneer of the main bar.

The adjustment to the bathroom and exit path slightly altered the size and shape of the bar, but Lapitsky came up with a simple solution. Installers hand-cut the mesh in between the tiles and removed the entire length of the required amount, then turned the temporary setback into a design element by installing the removed portion of the mural onto the side wall of the bar visible to the restaurant.

Although the side wall wasn't originally intended to house the mural, the pattern transferred to the side panel in perfect continuity, and ended up being a desirable feature.

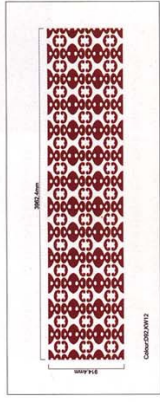
Even with the alterations, Lapitsky and a crew of three qualified installers were able to install the mural in only one day. "A crate arrived with the entire mural rolled up," said Lapitsky. "It was all pieced together on mesh with some paper on the face for protection. All we had to do was literally unroll it, put the adhesive on and put it right up ... it's a very striking piece."

Warner's creation plays a major role in the aesthetic appeal of South because the intricate mural's tile pattern is based on the traditional artwork of the Maori culture. The designer selected a simple palette of white and red ¼-in. x ¼-in. tiles from Hakatai's Classic series, then submitted a rendering to them with the desired measurements. Hakatai is able to turn any drawing, picture, or CAD drawing into a hand-made, hand-aligned mosaic mural masterpiece. The mural itself was fabricated in Hakatai's factory and delivered to the site rolled up like a carpet and ready to



The intricate mural's tile pattern is based on the traditional artwork of the Maori culture.

be installed. "People like patterns more if they can relate to them," said Warner. "It's the fun part of being a designer. I was looking for color and durability, and I wanted to offer the aesthetic of Australia and New Zealand without it being an Outback Steakhouse. It was a way of branding the restaurant without words. It gave the entire room a graphic presence and ended up being a very successful gesture." Visit [www.hakatai.com](http://www.hakatai.com) or [Circle 371](tel:371)



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