

HOSPITALITY LIGHTING

SUMMER 2010

tips



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Girl & the Goat Debuts in Chicago

A hotly anticipated new restaurant, Girl & the Goat, joined Chicago's dynamic dining scene in July. The funky spot, showcasing the talents of season four "Top Chef" winner Stephanie Izard, will focus on local ingredients and comfort-style foods with Mediterranean flavors.

The 145-seat West Loop restaurant was envisioned and developed by Chicago-based 555 Intl.'s design team, led by Karen Herold, Vice President of Design, and James Geir, President and founder. From the furniture to the lighting fixtures, the design embodies a contemporary yet rustic vibe.

The firm focused on creating a "comfortable and refined dining experience" that complemented the overall concept and cuisine developed by the celebrity chef. "When we began conceptualizing and designing the restaurant, it was essential that we captured the spirit of Stephanie's personality in each of the key design elements of the space," Geir adds.

To the right of the main entrance area, reclaimed wood beams create a raised platform dining area to add some visual depth to the environment. The clean and polished lines of the lighting fixtures in this space create a nice juxtaposition against old wood beams on the ceilings that add personality. Antique Belgian fixtures light the VIP French oak dining tables for a clear view of the state-of-the-art open kitchen, allowing guests to interact with the Top Chef herself. At the main bar, a beautiful European oak bar greets guests along with reclaimed jar lights that hang over it, which also illuminate the antique, refurbished fireboxes behind the bar. Cage-like pendants light the restrooms, which provide indirect lighting to the outside hallway through a grill-patterned opening located above the doors.

"The design of Girl & the Goat reflects 555's commitment to innovative hospitality design that reflects the spirit and personality of each of our clients," says Geir. "Everything is designed, fabricated and installed specifically per project, which sets us apart from other major design firms."

Other high-profile projects in the works for 555 Intl. include the Hard Rock Hotel Casino Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic and La Cave nightclub at the Wynn Las Vegas.

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