

CO CO. SALA

Washington, DC

Size

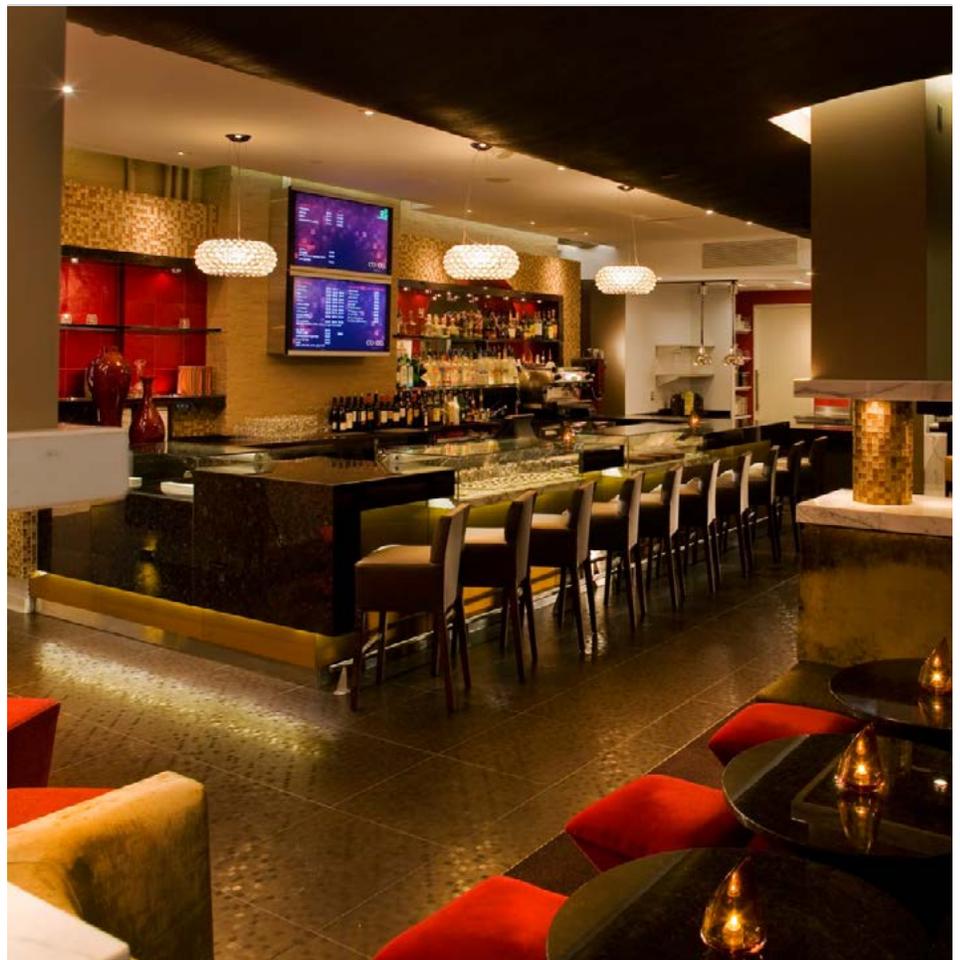
5,000 square feet

Project Highlights

Sophisticated, multi-faceted, jewelry box inspired design; Undulating walls and ceilings to emulate flow of chocolate; Climate controlled display cases and chocolate room; Backlit onyx hostess stand; Centralized bar

Services Provided

Full service interior design and architecture; Environmental graphic design





Co Co Sala, a 130-seat restaurant in Washington, DC, was designed to meet specific aesthetic and functional requirements. The client asked IA to create a space that would showcase high quality chocolates and elegant confections, and could seamlessly transition from a daytime café to a nighttime lounge. The solution is a sophisticated, jewelry box-inspired design, with glass cases containing stunning sugar and chocolate sculptures displayed along the wall like artwork.

A centralized bar wraps around an existing brick wall and divides the 5,000 square foot space into two distinct areas. The pastry bar, a carry-out station by day, becomes a full cocktail bar with ten seats at night. On the other side of the brick wall a 14-seat cocktail bar comes alive during lounge and dinner hours. Each bar is adjacent to a dining area. A lounge furnished with velvet banquette seating is next to the daytime bar; intimate dining tables enhance the nighttime cocktail bar area. A dramatic “chocolate wave wall” made of dark wood that undulates from the ceiling accents both areas. Guests arriving during the day enter at the café side, at night they move through a second entrance delineated by a backlit onyx hostess stand. Co Co Sala also features a five-seat bar with a view through a 12-ft by 6-ft retractable glass window (that opens for special events and classes) into a temperature and humidity controlled chocolate room.



Italian reef glass, iridescent fold mosaic tiles, gold leaf gilding and other reflective materials throughout the design create a sparkling jewel effect and enhance a palette of rich red, gold and chocolate brown tones. Biofuel-enabled flames to illuminate glass boxes and provide light in the lounge and behind the hostess stand.