



Marque IV Hobart

Interior designer and furniture maker Simon Ancher transformed a traditional Greek cafe into a cigar lounge-inspired restaurant on a Hobart pier.

“I started doing the refit for Mark IV in 2004. Although I’m based in Launceston, I’d worked with Jim Reid (part of the consortium of Hobart’s Fish Frenzy, Marque IV and nextdoor’s T42) when I refitted aspects of T42, so it was a natural progression.

Jim and I had a special trip to Melbourne to check out the nightspots and cafes. I found that to create a sophisticated venue, the trick is to make it timeless. With Marque IV, the brief was to create a cigar lounge atmosphere for fine dining. So I added a subtle reference to the 1930s and ’40s, which won’t date quickly.

Before Marque IV, the site was a Greek restaurant with a food court. The floor tiles created a hard surface and the floor-to-ceiling glass from both sides of the pier made the room bright, exposed and loud. Converting this space

into a cosy, intimate and stylish restaurant was a challenge.

We addressed the light overexposure by using a double layer of sheer curtains, which allowed light to come through but dramatically reduced the unwanted glare. We also ripped up the tiles and put down a dark brown carpet with a red fleck. That immediately helped to quieten everything down and the rich blackwood timber in the room added a luscious look.

The most striking feature is the white marble that covers all horizontal surfaces. The highly polished finish is a striking counterpoint to the blackwood timber on all the structural elements like room dividers and bench seats. The finish is also highly practical as it is an easy surface to wipe clean after drinks have been placed there.

Overall, brown and bronze were the main tones of the

Marque IV

Elizabeth Street Pier
Hobart, Tasmania
Phone: (03) 6224 4428
Fax: (03) 6224 4429
Web: marqueiv.com.au

Simon Ancher Design

125 Elphin Road
Newstead, Tasmania
Phone: 0415 366 983

restaurant, so the colours of the blackwood timber and dark red carpet almost absorbs the light at night.

Another challenge of the refit was incorporating four round Greek columns, which created a rectilinear break-up of the space. When looking at the floorplan, we decided to create individual private spaces, so we used the centrally-located columns as

points of reference. To make it more interesting, we made some columns square and others rectangular.

Designing these spaces was quite tricky because the view on both sides of the restaurant was beautiful, so we didn’t want to enclose everything. We divided up the space with little nooks, such as a bookshelf and high-backed benches. We also used the same sheer curtains to lower the ceiling, which didn’t obstruct the view. Once guests are sitting down, they are out of everyone’s line of sight. But as soon as they stand up, they can see over the top and still get those beautiful water views.

The restaurant opened in July 2005 and we’ve had some great reviews. And another bonus for me was that a few of my furniture commissions have come out of the Marque IV refit.” □