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The Euro

The Euro shares one kitchen with three other restaurants in Brisbane—Angela Layton of Arkhefield architects explains how it all works

“**T**he whole building is owned by the Urbane group and consists of four venues—Urbane, Sub Urbane, the Laneway and The Euro. The menu for each restaurant is different and the atmosphere for each space needed to reflect that. While Urbane is a degustation, fine dining restaurant, The Euro is much more relaxed and worldly. While the name intentionally references a European bistro, we are always careful to make sure it has a local vernacular that won’t alienate the clientele. We wanted The Euro to feel like a part of the Brisbane landscape while having a European menu.

“There is a metal screen at the entrance of The Euro that was designed by Hannah Cutts, a graphic designer who runs Cutts Creative. She designed the branding for the whole building and the metal screen is a graphic representation of The Euro’s menu. There are representations of boars, crayfish, fowls, cows, squid, eggplants, cutlery, glasses and bottles. Hannah worked closely with the chef and they were very careful about what went into the screen. There is the potential for every item represented to be served to your table.

“The room has very clean lines and is a long, skinny space. The lighting consists of what is essentially a full ceiling chandelier. Pink, yellow and orange acrylic blades, backlit by downlights, run the entire length of the restaurant. The front door of The Euro consists of pink and yellow glass while the back wall is orange glass. The acrylic blades start with pink and yellow at one end and gradually change to orange at the other. It nicely links the front facade to the back.

“We added laser-cut acoustic panels to minimise noise. The Euro is in a heritage building and the walls are 130-year-old brick. The acoustic panels are reminiscent of a brick pattern in order to continue the same geometry.

“Even though the shell of the building is really quite modern, we wanted the furniture to be more traditional. We specifically used Thonet bentwood chairs to draw on The European influence. The tables are from Stylecraft and we stained the timber dark to match the chairs.

“There is one kitchen serving all four venues. The functionality for the wait staff was planned around the fact that the existing building is heritage. The columns and the dividing wall between Urbane and The Euro couldn’t be moved.

“The bathrooms in The Euro are fun and draw on the colouring of the glass that’s in the restaurant. The female bathroom is all orange—the ceilings, vanities, taps, everything. The male bathroom is all red. We even found a red urinal to complete the look. During the construction we worked closely with Drew Patten and Andrew Buchanan from the Urbane Group. They are fantastic guys to work with and we have a really good relationship with them. The Euro opened in 2009 and I had a coffee with Drew a few days ago. It was a satisfying and fun project on which to work.” ○

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