

AIA Ohio Design Awards

Mita's

Mita's is a new, 130-seat restaurant located in downtown Cincinnati's vibrant business district. Named after Chef Jose Salazar's Columbian grandmother, his "Mita," the restaurant features old and new world Spanish and Latin American cuisine. The building's concrete shell with 25-foot windows is a stark contrast to the transformation created by the warm, eclectic design of Mita's which combines Moorish patterns, reclaimed wood and rich fabrics throughout the space. Strategically designed screens and custom millwork create a variety of seating areas and styles, supporting the eclectic intent of the space.

The screens were developed using traditional Moorish patterns. Custom-fabricated from cut metal panels, the screens provide privacy at the dining level while gradually increasing in openness as the screen continues upward. The structural concrete columns anchor the curvilinear, floating banquettes housed in rich woods, Moroccan blue and saffron-toned fabrics. The lighting design, inspired by 19th Century Moroccan lanterns, features hand-polished crystals, traditional cast brass, small amber beads and perforated, Moorish patterned metal. The reclaimed oak wood floor was sourced in the US from carefully dismantled barns, warehouses and boxcars mainly built in the first decade of the 19th century. Custom-designed Moorish patterned tile work embellishes the concrete columns featured along the street-side and within the private dining area. The bar display creates an intriguing juxtaposition between the warm, curvilinear wood and glossy tiles with that of the industrial polished concrete bar tops. The amber-toned velvet curtain track system partitions the private dining to the adjacent open display kitchen where the Moorish tile and warm wood tones filter throughout.