

Speakeasy Style

Inspired by the owner's grandmother, a new L.A. restaurant channels Old Hollywood glamour

Hollywood is notorious for rehashing stale ideas. But outside of the studios, old ideas are getting a fresh treatment. Ralph Gentile Architects put a new spin on Old Hollywood at the neighborhood's new Sadie Kitchen and Lounge. From tin ceilings to chandeliers to wood paneling, the architecture was meticulously thought-out to create a speakeasy-style atmosphere.

In fact, the woman after whom the restaurant was named has a bit of a speakeasy history herself. "Sadie was a real person, the grandmother of the current owners," principal architect Ralph Gentile says. "She had a chocolate shop across the street that many speculated was a front for a speakeasy during prohibition."

Described as part Betty Crocker and part Ma Barker, Sadie, whose warmth and coziness was combined with 1920s-era Hollywood glamour, embodies the spirit of the restaurant, even today. Ralph Gentile Architects was so intent on maintaining that vintage character that they repiped the old espresso machine from the previous restaurant, famous '90s hangout Café Les Deux, so that it dispenses beer and wine. But unlike Les Deux, which "had a bad reputation in the neighborhood," according to Gentile, Sadie recreates its namesake's welcoming spirit.

The design and layout of the restaurant, which consists of three experiences—a parlor, a center bar, and a patio—attempts to give the restaurant what Gentile describes as an old, but industrial look. "The



parlor ceiling tiles are made of actual tin with original vintage pattern molds. The only difference is that the material starts as a micro-perforated sheet metal backed with sound-absorbing fiberglass so as to control the acoustics in the bar area." The bar sconces also evoke the 19th century, as does the bar's wood paneling, which protects the stained oak bar against damage from furniture and guests. Outside on the patio, the uplighted stone wall surround and string lights overhead create a cozy bistro environment. "The patio is away from the hustle," Gentile says. "It feels like a little sanctuary." Speakeasy style and homespun comfort? That's just how Grandma Sadie would have liked it.

— Jordan Mainzer

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Patrons can enjoy the patio at Sadie Kitchen and Lounge even when temperatures dip thanks to Calcana's patio heaters. "Architect Ralph Gentile wanted ideal comfort for patrons and was impressed with our patio heaters since they are the only product on the market that can modulate the heat output remotely to match the weather and desires of the patrons," John Vancak, president at Calcana Group of Companies, says. "Also, he didn't want anything to distract from an evening of

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