

## Program Summary:

A modern French Brasserie with Art Nouveau influences.

## Program Statement:

A historic French Quarter location is transformed into a new modern French Brasserie.

The project included a complete renovation of the historic restaurant including extensive structural repairs. No inch of space was left unutilized in this 1,700 sf restaurant. An existing masonry bearing wall was restructured to expand the first-floor kitchen by six feet. The second-floor attic was restructured to allow for the installation of a walk-in cooler at the second floor. The resulting interior renovation breathes new functionality and value into a compact space.

For the interiors, the design elements are Parisian-inspired with influences of Art Nouveau, rich jewel tones and generous florals to complement the refined French cuisine of the restaurant. The architecture firm worked closely with a collection of local artisans and craftspeople to include custom murals, mirrors, florals, brass and upholstery into a cohesive whole that is as transporting as the food.

# IA-225.01

Building Area: (sf)  
**1,700 sf**

Cost per Square Foot:  
**\$295 / sf**

Construction Cost  
**\$500,000**

Date of Completion:  
**November 2022**



# IA-225.02

## Exterior Façade

This historic French Quarter location has been occupied by several different businesses over its 140-year history. The existing slate roof was repaired. Exterior wall waterproofing and a new Vieux Carre Commission-approved paint scheme and awning gave the restaurant a breath of new life. New signage hints at the playful interior just behind the front door, with new-sourced historic brass pulls.

Left photo: Circa 2022  
Top right photo: Circa 1962  
Middle right photo: Circa 2019  
Bottom right photo: Circa 2022





# IA-225.03

## Dining Room

The goal of this project was to transport the diner into an authentic French culinary experience within the existing dining room footprint. As soon as a diner walks into the restaurant, they are welcomed with a playful, yet refined, dining environment.

The architect carefully placed mirrors on the back wall for the diner to catch a glimpse of the chef at work. The fuchsia velvet scalloped banquette and hand-painted mural provide a backdrop for a dynamic dining experience.

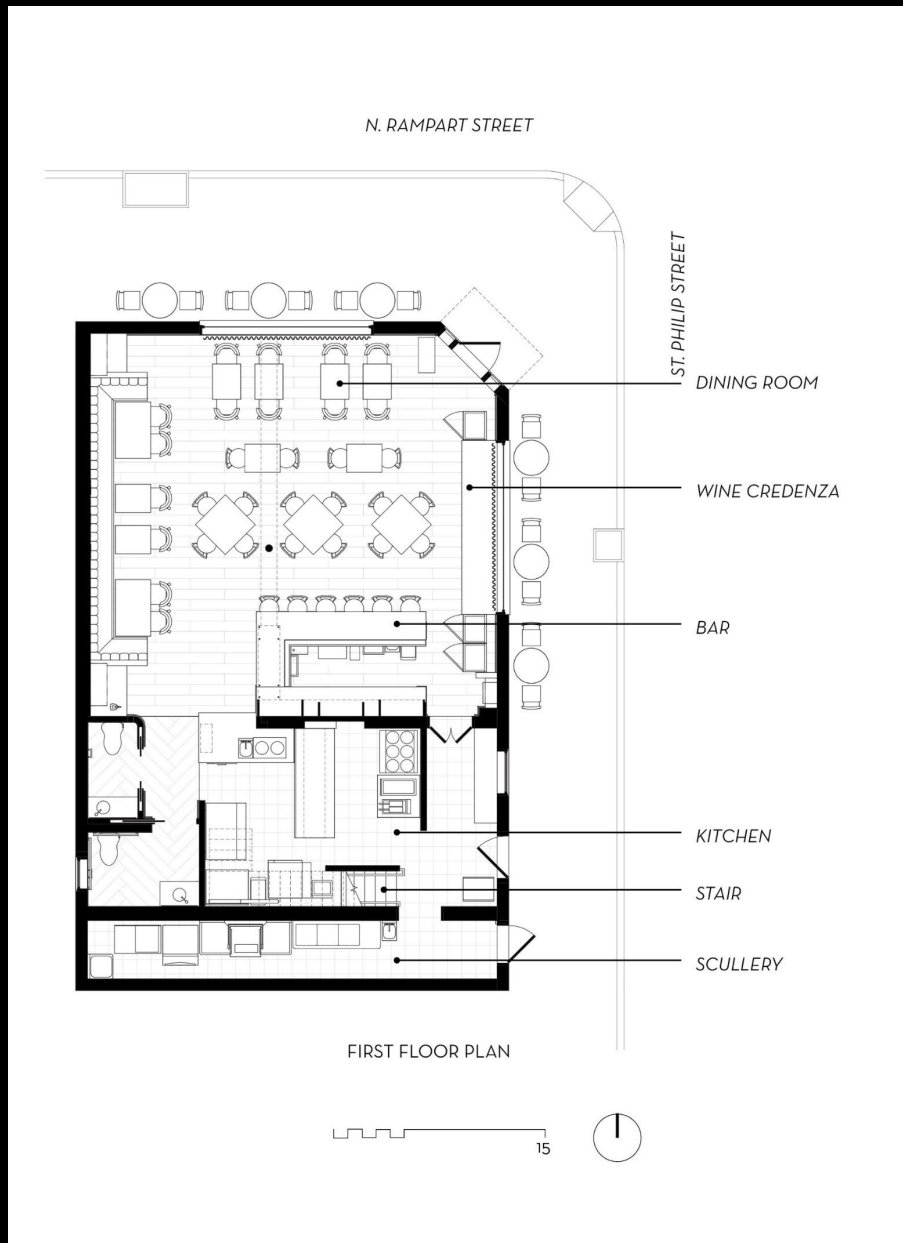
Photo: View of the dining room from the front door

# IA-225.04

## First Floor Plan

The existing major structural walls of the building were retained. The inefficiencies of the existing building were the small size of the kitchen and a non-code-compliant stair that led to the attic. To address both, the architect re-structured the existing triply-wythe masonry bearing wall at the west side of the kitchen to allow more space for food production.

Two existing restrooms were redesigned to be as efficient as possible. The stair to the second floor was demolished and replaced with a code-compliant stair up to the second-floor preparation and storage area.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



# IA-225.05

## Bar

Utilizing the existing bar, the architect refreshed the space by adding built-in glass storage, uplighting, and a custom curved curtain. The bar was refreshed with new paint, antique glass, sapele wood trim at the bar top edge, and a custom brass wine rack.

The curved curtain allows the client to have more room for storage and staging.



Top center photo: Bar after renovation  
Bottom right photo: Bar after renovation  
Bottom left photo: Bar before renovation





# IA-225.06

## Dining Room

It was important for the client to have a kitchen that allowed him to be a part of the dining room and the diner's experience. To accommodate this need, the architect restructured an existing load-bearing wall and added a stainless steel island countertop to create an open kitchen.

Diners interact freely with the chef throughout the dining experience, which makes this neighborhood restaurant one that locals and tourists alike want to return to.

Right and left photo: Kitchen view from dining room



# IA-225.07

## Kitchen

To accommodate the client's need for an open kitchen, six feet were added to the kitchen space. What was previously a small pass from the kitchen was redesigned as an open stainless steel island with ample overhead shelving and preparation space.

A new hanging expo shelf above a refrigerated island allows for an efficient transition from the hot line to the plating area in a kitchen area that is very small but efficient when compared to restaurants with similar seating capacity.

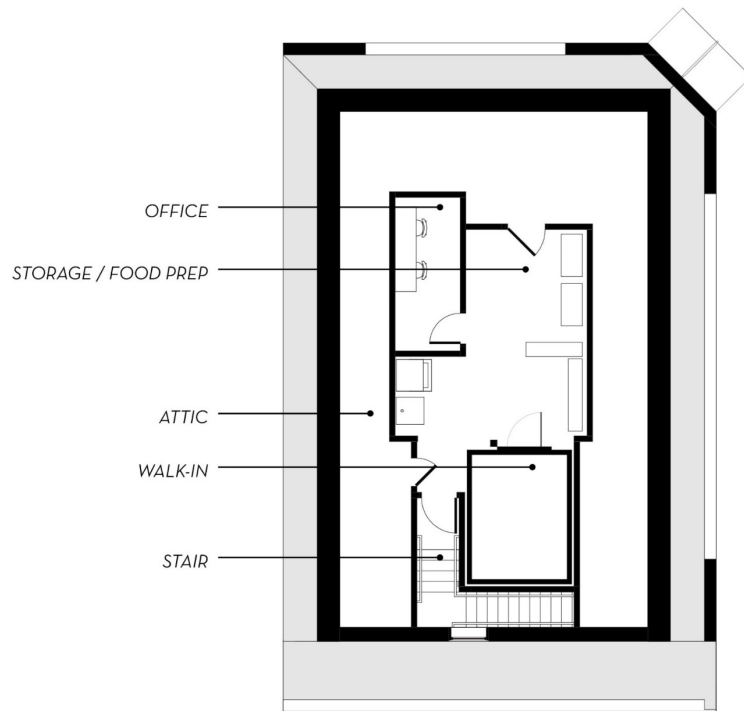
Right photo: Kitchen after renovation  
Left photo: Kitchen before renovation

# IA-225.08

## Second Floor Plan

Though the building had an existing second floor, consisting of a built-out attic, it did not fit the needs of the client's restaurant. With the building's limited square feet, every inch had to be thoughtfully considered and planned out.

Seeing the potential of a functionable upstairs, the architect restructured the second-floor framing in steel to allow for the installation of a new walk-in cooler. The stairs were rebuilt to be code compliant to allow for safe access to the kitchen below. The existing storage space was expanded to maximize the available square footage available for the restaurant.



MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN





# IA-225.09

## Restroom

Pulling influence from the client's recent trip to France, the design goal of the restrooms was to transport diners into an unexpected environment. Each of the restrooms has a unique character, incorporating dark green handmade tile with accent tile and hardware imported from East Asia. A custom-made red feather lamp creates a distinctive ambience in the primary restroom. Brass accents add to the refined character of the renovated restrooms.



Right photo: Bathroom view from dining room hallway  
Left top photo: Bathroom  
Left bottom photo: Hardware detail





# IA-225.10

## Dining Room

The existing dining space incorporated a gypsum board ceiling. To divide the dining spaces, the architect installed new acoustical ceiling assemblies, including new exposed wood coffered ceiling over the entry area.

To conceal the center beam that divides the dining the space, the architect wrapped the structural support with custom floral artwork. This spirited design intervention enhanced the French theme and added a playful texture to the space.



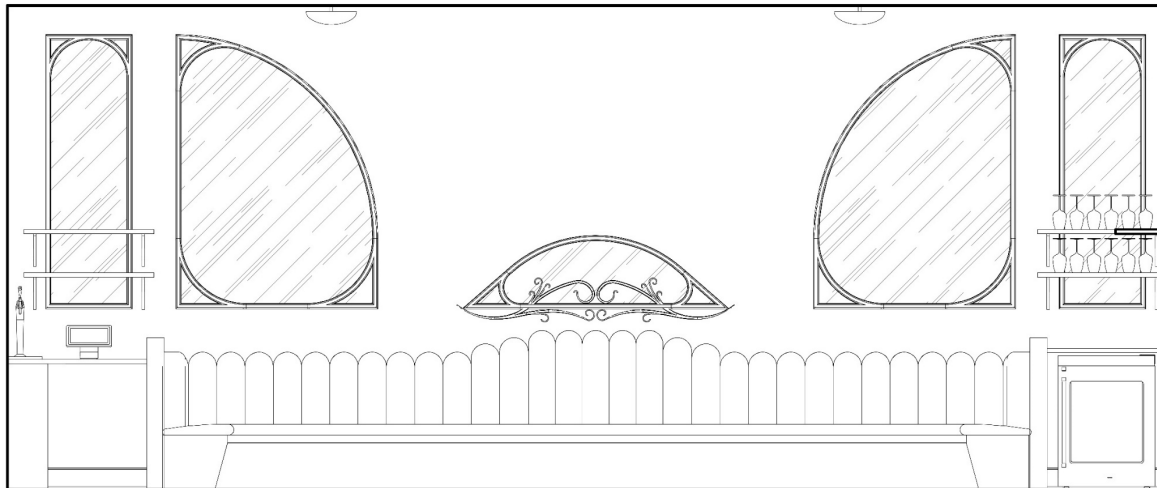
Top photo: Dining space after renovation  
Bottom photo: Dining space before renovation



# IA-225.11

## Banquette

Custom millwork was essential to get the restaurant to the client's desired 46 seat capacity. Using the early twentieth century Art Nouveau movement as an influence, the architect designed a playful scallop-backed banquette to provide visual focus and interest to the windowless rear wall of the building. Framing the banquette with a custom hand-painted mural and custom sapele-framed mirrors gives a larger sense of space to the otherwise small dining room. Custom glass and steel wine shelves frame either side of the banquette wall with carefully concealed service areas behind a custom sapele and rattan screen. Art Nouveau-inspired curves are reflected throughout.



Top photo: Banquette built  
Bottom drawing: Banquette plans