



Architect's Design Statement for GRAYZ

Architecturally, GRAYZ will be a reflection and mixture of styles and attitudes obscured, yet reflecting what we remember as the “classic lounge” in old New York, circa 1950s, when the Rockefeller family reigned supreme.

The redesign of this landmark building to suit the vision of Chef Gray Kunz —two hospitality entities in one location — should take 16-22 weeks. New structural elements are being added to support the new design.

Respecting the building architectural style and integrity, the interiors will pay homage to the building's grand old structure, but be designed with a contemporary look and feel to be of this time and period. The façade remains largely the same, with minor enhancements made to the building within the constraints of the Landmarks Preservation Committee of New York City.

A surprising and somewhat “speakeasy-like” entrance will echo the feeling and mood of the ground floor level bar and lounge, with herringbone pattern antique wood floors, luxurious natural tone leathers, handcrafted millwork on the main bar, shimmering mirrors and soft even lighting, all of which is accented by the flickering light of a fireplace. A blend of furniture styles such as demi-lune sofas, and pullman and high back chairs, form clusters of seating for intimate groups and diners. Stylish antique side tables of exaggerated height selected to honor the food, accompany the furniture groups.

A bi-level wine wall frames the atrium space (above, at the bar/lounge level, and below, in the private dining rooms) and acts as a screen device from the main bar and romantic “cave” below ground, on the private dining level. The waterfall is gone, which aside from changing the focus of the room, restores a dumbwaiter to use for all three floors of entertainment space. The atrium (main dining area), or “garden space,” will have the flexibility to accommodate large parties and special events which require high end theatrical lighting as well as audio and video for presentations and celebrations. Two areas — main dining and entry/reception room — provide maximum flexibility for private events.

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