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BRINGING PROVENCE & THE FRENCH RIVIERA TO CHELSEA - 'BANDOL' OPENS, WITH DESIGN BY KINNERSLEY KENT DESIGN

Bandol, a new restaurant on Chelsea's Hollywood Road, delivers the cuisine of rustic southern France from within a stunningly warm and contemporary environment - featuring copper, distressed oak, steel, concrete, brick, smoked glass and artful lighting, as well as a large central olive tree - designed by one of London's most prestigious and innovative design studios, Kinnersley Kent Design.

The intimate, 70-cover restaurant - measuring 200 sq m over two storeys - is made up of a ground floor bar and dining area, with a kitchen, customer toilets and back of house space on the lower-ground floor.



The main architectural intervention was the creation of an enlarged wall opening between the bar and the restaurant to ensure sightlines from the entrance right through the space from the moment customers enter. A secondary intervention involved the re-arrangement of the air-conditioning in the first half of the restaurant, which allowed for a half-metre gain in ceiling height. A virtue was made of the restaurant's slim footprint by the design of a series of intriguingly zoned spaces and continued visual interest, so that there is something new to catch the eye at every stage. Cleverly-positioned, 3m x 1m mirrors on the rear right-side wall also enhance the feeling of space.

Natural light from a 2.5 x 4m skylight in the roof of the existing ground floor rear extension was supplemented via a new, large rear-side window and a glazed door. Added greenery, in the form of a climbing ivy living wall on a delicate metal trellis, plus an external bamboo plant framed by the rear door, add to the outdoor feel.

The London Evening Standard newspaper, which reviewed the restaurant on opening, summarised the space as 'so beautiful, you'll want to steal the entire look for your home.'