

Bottega Restaurant Redesign

Photography by Richard Melanson



The Bottega Restaurant bar was moved back adjacent to the entrance. Six large, drum-shaped hanging lamps produce a warm glow through patterned fabric.



New double-sided banquette seating anchors the room and incorporates 'furniture' at the front for the hosts and at the rear for waiters.



Existing sconces were replaced with new ones more appropriate to the wood panels that survive from when the 'shop' (bottega in Italian) housed Gus Meyer.

By Philip Morris



Remodeling a celebrated local restaurant is not to be taken lightly, but Hatcher Design Associates of Birmingham made sure moves with recent alterations at Bottega in its landmark Highland Avenue building.

Moving the bar from the back to front made obvious sense to the designers and clients Frank and Pardis Stitt. A double-sided banquette was added to anchor the center of the dining space. "Down the center between the banquettes is a surface for large floral arrangements that become part of the design," says interior designer Rebecca Hatcher.

A very large chandelier was replaced with custom-designed, drum-shaped lighting fixtures that improve overall illumination. These are wrapped with fabric and finished on top since they are visible from the mezzanine seating area. New wall sconces more in keeping with the original architectural wood paneling replaced old ones. "Lighting is an inexact science," says Hatcher. "You don't know the effect until it is installed, but everyone loves the overall glow."



Guests are welcomed at the maitre d' station and either seated or directed to the adjacent bar. The mezzanine seating area is visible in this view.