

Designer Diner

Vancouver's Evoke International Design gives good room.

In terms of restaurant design in Vancouver, the cookie cutter, it seemed, was not reserved just for the pastry chef. Then, David Nicolay and graphic designer Robert Edmonds (below left) joined forces six years ago to launch their groundbreaking restaurant Tangerine. Now, with their new firm Evoke International Design, they're responsible for just about every modern room in the city. Some of our favourites:

• **TANGERINE** 1685 Yew St. (604-739-4677).

The Concept: Kits beach casual eatery with clean lines and clean flavours.

The Crowd: Design-savvy folks who know the difference between Matthew, Luke and Fred Perry.

What to Eat: Organic banana pancakes at brunch; warm, pan-Asian flavours after dark.

Look Here: Cool tile work and Evoke's custom-made light fixtures.

• **AFTERGLOW** 1082 Hamilton St. (604-602-0835).

The Concept: A sexy, warm lounge that glows pink from the street. Adjoins Glowbal Grill & Satay Bar, also designed by Evoke.

The Crowd: Stylish 30-somethings with a smattering from decades on either side.

What to Drink: For her, tall Pimm's No. 1 and ginger ale with cucumber garnish; for him, a classic martini.

Look Here: Evoke's first foray into furniture design: pint-sized cocktail tables.



Nicolay (left) and Edmonds at Tangerine



Afterglow



Soupspoons

• **CRUSH CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE** 1180 Granville St. (604-684-0355).

The Concept: More of a nightclub than a wine bar, catering to a well-behaved crowd. Even the DJ wears a suit.

The Crowd: Blissed-out champagne supernovas.

What to Drink: Tiny bubbles.

Look Here: The sofas and ottomans commissioned from local maker Bombast can be rearranged nightly to simulate little living rooms. You may want to move right in.

• **SOUPSPoons** 680 W. Broadway (604-328-7687) and three other locations.

The Concept: Contemporary London luncheonette with a French accent. Evoke also designed the chain's swank corporate identity.

The Crowd: Taste-conscious lunch breakers of all ages looking for soup without politics.

What to Eat: Lemon grass chicken soup and a croque monsieur.

Look Here: The long, communal table brings conviviality to fast food. Soup, sandwich and a phone number: How's that for a lunch combo? ■