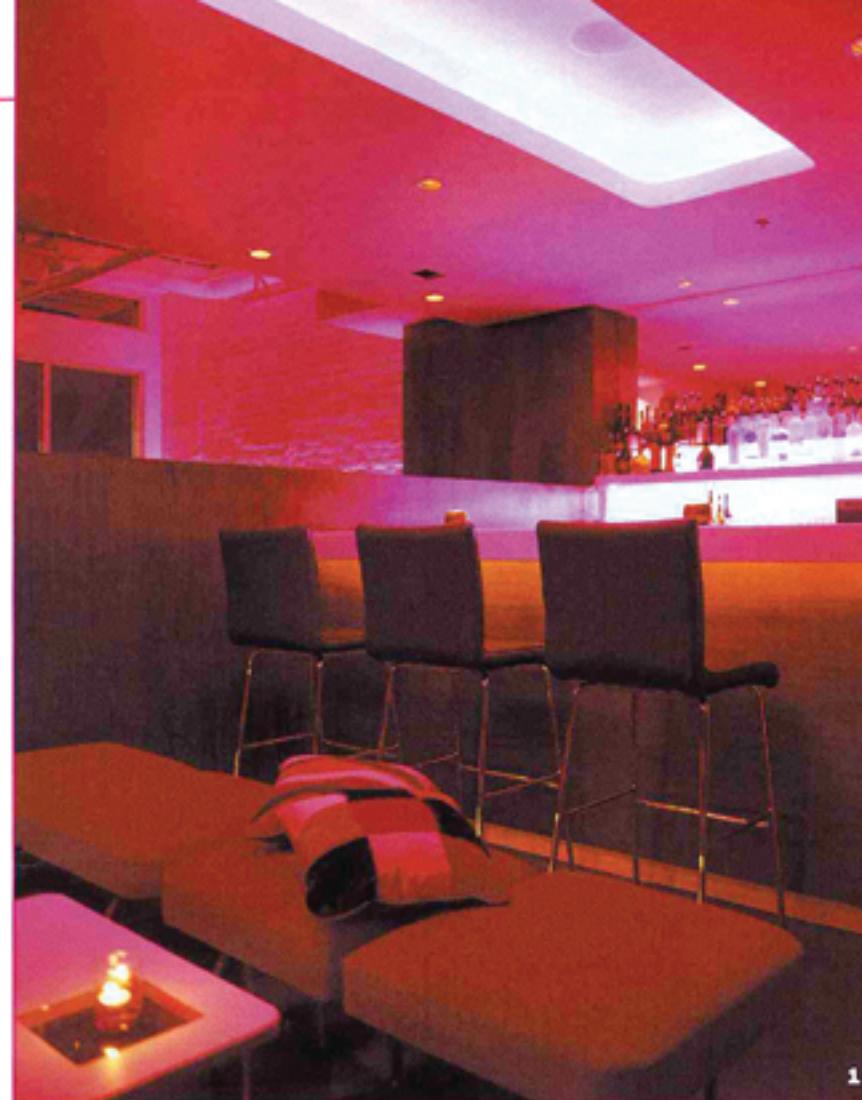


Everybody has a story about a four-table hole-in-the-wall serving up mouthwatering morsels that rival the cuisine of larger noosheries. Two small tasty serveys in Vancouver also offer up plenty of style.

When Tangerine opened in the trend-conscious Kitsilano neighbourhood, it was designed to function as a lounge. "That didn't work very well," says designer David Nicolay, principal of Evoke International Design. "We [members of his family are owners] didn't know much about the neighbourhood when we first moved here. It isn't really a late-night hangout type of neighbourhood. But people do like to go out for dinner."

That was five years ago. Two years into operations and the lounge made way for a hip take on a basement lounge cum restaurant. "The theme is still food, but the room is more like a modern room in Europe or Asia," says Nicolay.

Clean modernism predominates with only the design motif (citrus slices in moss green and taupe) of the fabric-covered light fixtures and minimal hits of orange to give any nod to the restaurant's name. A banquette running the length of the room provides maximum seating while maintaining the clean aesthetic. At night, mirrored tiles embedded in the mosaic tiled panels near the entryway add a shimmer to the glow from the orange Christmas lights strung over the row of windows above the banquette. The windows are also the connecting point between the outdoor patio and the interior restaurant space.



1. Afterglow lives up to its name as pink light infuses the room.

2. Graphic elements juice up Tangerine's aesthetic by day, but an orange glow animates it at night.

By Janet Collins Photos by Janis Nicolay

Simple arrangements of tables and chairs fill the room between the banquette and the bar. Stools at the bar are covered with the same creamy grey leather-look fabric as those at the high tables near the front entrance. The biggest hits of colour come from a lime green wall located between the bar and the kitchen, and graphic detail that runs the length of the hall from the entrance to the back of the establishment. Almost nondescript by day, the room springs to life at night when light from the tabletop candles sparkles onto the mirrored tiles of the mosaic panels.

Another room that takes on added life at night is the aptly named Afterglow. Originally a take-out operation positioned behind the hugely popular Glowbal Grill & Satay Bar (see Canadian Interiors, November/December 2002), Afterglow currently functions as a multi-functional space, thanks to a renovation last year. In addition to being Glowbal's back door, the room can now hold 30 to 40 people for cocktails, or work as overflow waiting space when Glowbal is running at capacity.

COLOUR VANCOUVER'S DINING SCENE PINK AND TANGERINE

Two small restaurants in Vancouver offer inviting ambience along with their tasty cuisine.

During the renovation, Nicolay and his design team incorporated an area that had been devoted to Glowbal's underused private dining room to help establish a better transition between Glowbal and Afterglow, while opening up Afterglow's potential to function as a private room when needed. The space may be small, but an L-shaped bench allows plenty of seating configuration options for patrons.

Although the street side of Afterglow is essentially a wall of street level windows, the illusion of privacy is maintained for those inside by the application of a graphic motif. From the outside, only shadows of those inside can be seen. No ordinary shadows these, but ones infused with deep pink neon.

"The biggest challenge of this space was getting the right quality of light," says Nicolay. "All of the surfaces are painted white, so the only source of colour is the light." When approached via the hallway that links Glowbal to Afterglow, the renovated Afterglow emanates as a pink glow. C

