

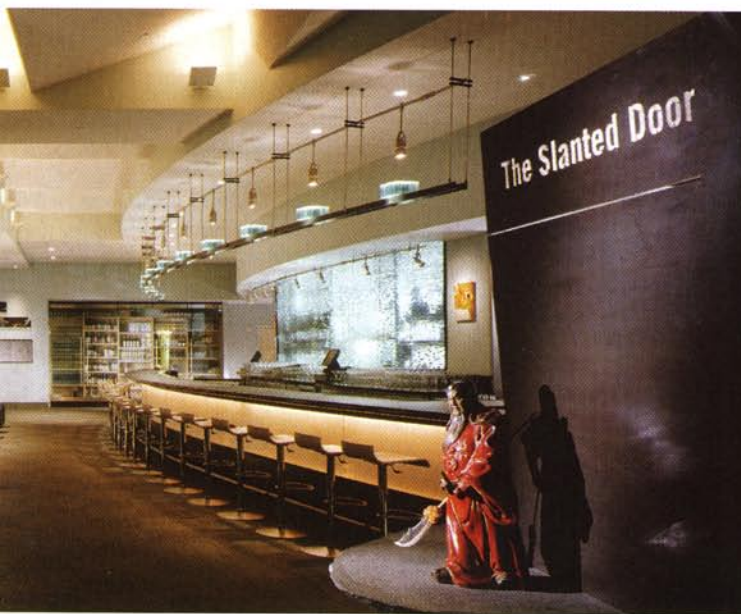
# sea and shore

The San Francisco Bay guides the design  
 of a Vietnamese restaurant

In this age of undulating Gehry-esque ceilings and airborne Calatrava forms, designing a restaurant called Slanted Door could seem to contain an architectural imperative—all skewed angles and off-kilter sight lines. But Olle Lundberg, principal of Lundberg Design in San Francisco, and his client, renowned Vietnamese chef-owner Charles Phan, weren't looking for clichés.

"Charles wanted us to find a way to respond to the food, which is about the integrity of the ingredients," Lundberg says. "He didn't want bamboo and red lacquer or anything predictable. He wanted something with a bit of a New York buzz to it, with more modern, cleaner lines."

The restaurant—located in the newly renovated Ferry Building Marketplace—had sweeping views of San Francisco Bay, so Lundberg channeled the twin muses of water and shoreline into a sleek, natural interior. The centerpiece is a U-shaped wall of stacked fractured glass enclosing the kitchen. Lundberg says it "looks like



Right: Slanted Door's main dining room. Opposite page, far right: Views of the bay provided design inspiration. Above: Behind the bar, a U-shaped wall made of stacked, fractured glass encloses the kitchen.



someone sliced through the wall of a glacier," but the blue light it refracts over the dining room, as well as the way its translucence blurs and liquefies the movement of the staff, also call to mind a huge aquarium. In the bar area, the flamed granite surface of the bar has a bull-nosed edge that mimics the lip of a surfboard. Overhead, the track lighting's intermittent bulbs shine through smaller piles of stacked fractured glass. "It throws light out in random patterns," Lundberg says, "which is not dissimilar to the effect of being surrounded by water, or to the reflections of a swimming pool."

To evoke the shoreline, Lundberg relied on what he calls "symbolic driftwood." His karmic discovery one day in Oakland helped: the East Bay Conservation Corps, which mills trees removed for street improvements or because they are diseased. A pile of cypress slabs became tabletops, their unfinished vertical edges suggesting a craggy shore. He also discovered some off-cuts of blue gum pine he transmuted into benches in the lounge.

Not wanting to ignore the industrial character of the building, Lundberg supported the sliced granite boulder of the host podium with two intersecting steel plates. The back plate is a sly reference—the only one—to the restaurant's name: it is tilted slightly forward. **hd**

Above: Private dining area. Opposite page: Tabletops made of cypress slabs help evoke the feeling of the shore.



Slanted Door Restaurant  
 San Francisco

Owners Charles Phan

Architecture/Interior Design Firm  
 Lundberg Design, San Francisco

Architecture/Interior Design Project  
 Team Olle Lundberg, principal and  
 owner; David Battenfield, project  
 architect; Wylie Price; Jeff Loehmann;  
 and Wain Owings

Contractor Terra Nova Industries, Inc.

Structural Engineer Murphy Burr  
 Curry, Inc.

Electrical/Plumbing/HVAC MHC  
 Engineers

Booths/Banquette Upholstery West  
 Coast Industries

Banquettes Lundberg Design

Booth/Banquette Fabric Maharam

Wood Seats Semolina Design

Bar Stools Ligne Roset

Chairs Wolfgang C.R. Mezger and  
 Davis Furniture

Floor Stone Currimbhoy Inc.

Stone Work True Stone Distributing

Table Wear Heath Ceramics