



Beautiful art need not just be for the rich, but can be found in a public garden, or a common marketplace. It rubs away the rough edges of our daily existence and makes us more caring and mindful of what is worthwhile around us. Built spaces and thoughtful landscaping are never just for our comfort, but to make the world a place where each person, living creature and beautiful object finds its rightful space.

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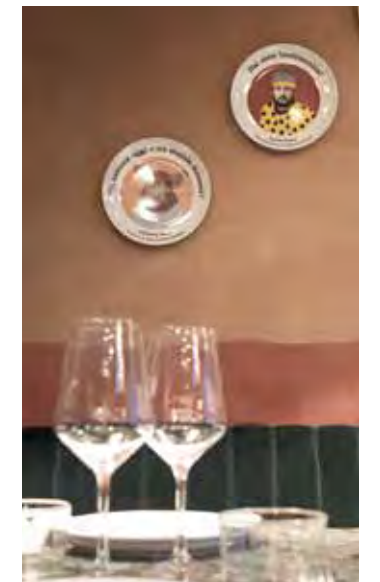
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 photography : santi caleca

ROST milan, italy

commission :
 vudafieri-saverino partners,
 milan, italy

Situated in the heart of Milan's

new food district, Porta Venezia, the restaurant covers a 65 sq. m. ground floor-space that was previously a shop for automobile parts. The gastro theme of the restaurant rediscovers traditional Italian dishes: poor meat cuts, forgotten foods and peculiar vegetables. It is this concept that has been translated into the interior design.



The restaurant is conceived as a cozy place that balances tradition and modernity simply, and without frills or artifice. The original seminato in porphyry floor has been preserved complimented by the warm tones of the interiors, dominated by 'Marsala' red, a color that harks back to the fundamental relationship between wine and land. The use of material is reduced to basic lime, brass and oak.

The entrance area displays the restaurant's major players: it is a wall of fame consisting of 16 ceramic plates, each representing a sustainable producer that the restaurant works with, whose space arrangement draws the Ø of Rost. On the opposite side, the bar counter stands out for its long solid oak top and the vertical covering, made up of natural brass profiles of different section.

Further in, the space consists of two rooms: the main one, which gravitates around the bar counter, and a smaller one, overlooking the open kitchen. With their lime frescoes, the walls are characterized by two shades, the darker

of which creates a sort of irregular boiserie. The same colors are used in the ceramic cladding of the kitchen and in the adjacent room. The décor comes in Milanese style: materials like marble, brass, velvet and leather characterize the setting, in contrast with the lime walls and the floor.

Wood and brass are developing materials, which change with use and the passage of time, in a constant path that clearly represents Rost values. A large suspended brass and glass bottle rack floats above the bar. The chandelier in the smaller room, designed by Tiziano Vudafieri, assembling headlamps of cars of different ages, is a tribute to the history of the car parts shop that previously occupied the space. if

SPICA milan, italy

commission : vudafieri-saverino partners, milan, italy



The restaurant is situated in an existing industrial building with big windows overlooking the road and an inner courtyard. Six windows face the street: fully openable, they animate and lend brightness to the rooms, creating continuity between inside and outside. Each of them is matched with a coloured curtain, a prelude to the chromatic universe that is a hallmark of the interior.

At the entrance, customers are greeted by an impressive 8-metre-long bar inspired by the Milanese bars of the 1960s, with its antiquated glass background, powdered brass top and long suspended bottle rack for the cocktail station. The adjacent lounge area consists of four round tables, designed by the architects, finished in the same way as the bar. The armchairs, like the stools in the cocktail bar, were created by an Indian company and are a tribute to Franco Albini, recalling the forms of his famous Luisa chair.

The restaurant celebrates the food travels of celebrity chefs Ritu Dalmia and Viviana Varese, offering a gastronomic journey through four geographical areas (Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Europe and America).

The space has an unusual mix of Asian suggestions and homage to the masters of 20th century Milanese design. The result is a lively and colorful restaurant that reflects the vibrant atmosphere of Porta Venezia and its dynamic and young public.

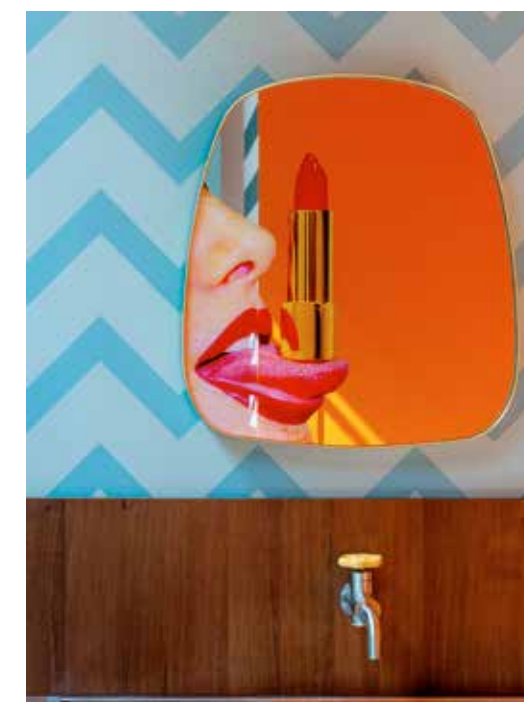
In their references to Milanese tradition, Vudafieri-Saverino Partners have combined the freedom and radical design of Ettore Sottsass, with his deep passion for India, and the elegance and rigour of the modern movement of Franco Albini. Two distinct worlds that interact harmoniously in the restaurant and are reflected respectively in the architecture and in the furnishings.

The homage to Sottsass is immediately evident in the radically free style of portals, which defines the architecture of the restaurant and marks out the spaces. In contrast to the neutral framing of the ceilings, these elements are characterized by a wallpaper with colored patterns and fluorescent geometric inserts.

The furnishings are clearly reminiscent of the great Milanese masters of the '50s and '60s, especially Franco Albini, who was the inspiration for some of the furniture. Walnut laminate and black painted iron structures with brass details house ornaments evocative of the places, memories and experiences of the chef's travels.

Another reference to the Asian world is the space layout which follows the rules of the Vastu architectural doctrine. Spica rooms thus face on to the cardinal points recommended by Vastu, so as to create spaces able to radiate well-being and harmony.

Spica retains evident signs of the past, such as the seeded floor (integrated with cement in the missing parts) and a wall with its natural appearance retained, and the layers of time evident.



The big lamps in the dining room designed by Andrea Anastasio invoke the shapes of typical Indian agricultural implements, while the furniture used as a service station creates a charming corner with the wooden floor and plants on gravel, giving the feeling of being in a garden.

Columns and walls are decorated with the works of Jaco Sieberhagenc. The South African artist has created a series of shapes in laser-cut, black-painted metal, which give an ironic representation of the symbols of Italian culture, from fashion to design, from industry to gastronomy.

The bathroom is also distinguished by its fresh and colourful atmosphere, with the long washbasin with single sink and laminate shell and the iconic Seletti mirrors. if

