

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

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GLEN & COMPANY'S GABRIEL KREUTHER



ALSATIAN TOUCHES IN THE BAR CHAIRS AT GABRIEL KREUTHER

DESIGN WITH A STORY TO TELL

The key to good hosting is to get further than surface deep, which is why Glen & Company get it so right with their daring yet deeply personal designs.

Glen Coben brought Glen & Company to life in 2000,

expanding his already impressive career in the architecture and design field to include several hospitality projects with which you are undoubtedly familiar. From that moment on he and his small but highly specialized team have been creating spaces of wonder throughout the New York hospitality scene and beyond. The thing to remember about this firm though, is that their vision is anything but superficial. "We're process geeks," joked Coben, while discussing a number of high profile restaurant developments. It's true that everything from the furniture height to the air flow system to the entrance door weight is intricately thought through to create seamless perfection. As Coben knowingly pointed out, "if these minor details aren't in place the aesthetic design and use of a space will never reach its true potential."



GLEN COBEN



CARBONE'S COZY ATMOSPHERE



MODERN MEETS RUSTIC AT KREUTHER



GLEN & COMPANY'S DESIGN AT THE ARCHER HOTEL

Coben did a tour of the “five boroughs” city with Carbone creators Mario Carbone, Rich Torrisi, and Jeff Zalaznick, eating in Italian-American restaurants all over, before coming up with their Greenwich Village red-sauce space with a twist. The four debated endlessly over the wall colour, with Carbone, Torrisi, and Zalaznick vying for red, before agreeing to Coben’s blue, which mirrors the unexpectedness of the cuisine. In Gabriel Kreuther all of the design choices were inspired by chef Gabriel’s career and Alsatian heritage. One of the most striking details is the back bar panels, created using a method unique to the Alsace region, where clay is flecked with acid markings before being fired. As Coben said, “We took the copper acid dropping technique, and we reinterpreted it.”

It’s easy to see that these beautiful spaces are born from true collaboration, or as Coben put it, “a non-stop conversation.” These interwoven stories are the fire that fuels every diverse project. So, what interesting plans have Coben and his team got coming up next? It’s clear that complacency is definitely not an option, with Coben expressing a desire to steer Glen & Company’s expertise into unknown waters. Whatever the future holds for this exciting firm, let’s just hope that there’s many more happy endings to come.

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Those with their finger on the pulse will have noticed that this intense attention to detail is one of the only things linking one project to the next. Coben explained “I think it’s important to say that aside from being a designer or aside from being an architect, I’m a storyteller. So, the story is the project.” The inspiration for a space always comes from the client, while Coben and his team work their magic and mold a dream into a tangible thing of beauty. One of the best examples of this design disparity is Glen & Company’s work on Carbone and Gabriel Kreuther, two New York restaurants with very different tales to tell.



BLUE WALLS

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