



Mi Chola, Aspen, Colorado

Design firm: Davis Ink

The scoop: For the 3,500-square-foot contemporary Mexican restaurant, Davis Krumins, president of Costa Mesa, California-based Davis Ink, was charged with a funky, “never-been-seen-before environment.” That equated to rustic, raw elements effortlessly mixed with modern touches and the “WTF elements” he has become known for. Highlights include hand-torched pine plywood panels, exposed rebar, handpainted street art, floating ropes, authentic railroad spikes (on ceiling panels and barnwood walls), geometric patterned wallpaper, and tufted seating set against a screen wall made of random metallic skulls, an altar of roses, candles, and artifacts framing a provocative “red lipstick” Madonna, along with a black and white “cholo” mural,” he explains.



Photo by ALEN LIN

Photo by BOBBY MCCLLENAHAN



Two Birds/One Stone at Freemark Abbey Winery, St. Helena, California

Design firms: BraytonHughes Design Studios; architecture by SB Architects

The scoop: The first order of business for the California-inspired yakitori restaurant from chefs Sang Yoon and Douglas Keane was to restore the historic century-old stone abbey the restaurant—along with a newly added multiuse events/market/tasting space—is housed in. “Every elevation had its own logic, but no two were the same,” says Bruce Wright, San Francisco-based SB Architects’ principal in charge of the project, of the rambling structure that had been touched by different hands over the years. Now twice its original size, more light punctuates the interiors thanks to two 6-foot-wide skylights running nearly the length of the ridge line in both spaces (augmented by a board-and-batten clerestory, which raised the roofline). In addition, BraytonHughes’ mix of stone, steel, and Douglas fir marries old and new, while a patio further enhances the indoor-outdoor feel.

Photo by JAY GRAHAM

