



*Lychee Lounge*

## LYCHEE LOUNGE

**The destination ::** Brisbane

**The designers ::** Freelance designers Nic Brunner, Carmel Haugh, Remo Vallance and owner Elie Moubarak.

**The vision ::** "We wanted to create a sensory delight," says Moubarak. "We also knew we had to cater for Brisbane's West End market, which is geared towards a young arts scene. The venue had to be personable, ensuring every customer felt like it was their own watering hole."

**The reality check ::** "Our vision grew as the project travelled to the build and install stage. It's rare for a design to be complete in the conceptual stage, though."

**The execution ::** "Lighting was the most important factor in achieving our vision – in fact, I believe lighting is the single most important thing in any bar."

**The result ::** "Lychee Lounge is a totally harmonious space. It's beautiful but unpretentious, and offers a high standard of product, service and atmosphere."

### DESIGN DETAILS

**The decor ::** The glitzy gold instantly lets you know that you're someplace special.

**The details ::** Check out the light fittings – there's even a chandelier crafted from Barbie doll heads.

**The damage ::** Around \$5,000 per square metre.

**See it firsthand ::** Lychee Lounge, 2/94 Boundary Street, West End, Brisbane. Call +61 7 3846 0544 or visit [www.lycheelounge.com.au](http://www.lycheelounge.com.au).

# BARBS

WHAT MAKES A BAR OOZE STYLE?  
**KAREN FITTALL**  
STEPS INTO  
SOME OF THE  
BEST DESIGNER  
DRINKING DENS.

# STAR



“ We created booths, screened lounges and a communal table. I don't like bars that are open, it's all about intimacy. ”

## BELLOTA

**The destination ::** Auckland

**The designer ::** Andrew Lister

**The vision ::** “The client wanted to create a vibrant venue that could be used as an extension to the SKYCITY Grand Hotel, which had no bar facilities,” says Lister. “They also wanted it to be a tapas bar, so people could sample celebrity chef Peter Gordon's food without having to book weeks ahead to eat in a more formal surrounding.”

**The reality check ::** “The space was pretty small, so a couple of things had to be changed design-wise due to logistical reasons. We also made the decision to open up the wall, which faces the street, so that passers-by could catch a glimpse of the energy inside.”

**The execution ::** “We created four or five different types of seating – booths for larger groups, screened lounges for smaller ones and a communal table for couples and singles. I don't like bars that are open, it's all about intimacy.”

**The result ::** “This is a stylish, comfortable venue with an ambience that was previously unavailable in Auckland's central city area.”

### DESIGN DETAILS

**The decor ::** The use of stone, wood, granite, marble, steel and leather have resulted in a bar that's bursting with natural materials and finishes.

**The details ::** To bestow the bar with that all-important intimate vibe, Lister boxed clever, employing a series of timber slatted screens to divide what was already a small space into a collection of nooks. However, because the screens are transparent, you still get a sense of space but are afforded a splash of privacy at the same time.

**The damage ::** Don't ask – the client's lips are sealed.

**Find out more ::** Visit [www.andrewlisterarchitect.com](http://www.andrewlisterarchitect.com)

**See it firsthand ::** Bellota, 91 Federal Street, Auckland. Call +64 9 363 6301 or visit [www.bellota.co.nz](http://www.bellota.co.nz).