



## Firefly

Photography  
Tyrone Branigan

With no less than two Sydney Theatre Company theatres and the Sydney Dance Company in close proximity – not to mention the Harbour just metres away – the dramatic metaphor was irresistible, if not unavoidable.

Firefly sits on the Walsh Bay broadwalk which is itself a social stage for people promenading in this newly rehabilitated and gentrified former marine industrial precinct. Firefly is essentially an external café/wine bar with the customer area spilling out from a compact service area which is partially separated by a feature screen of polished stainless steel and copper. This alludes in part to the louvres on the surrounding apartment buildings and partly to the batten screens typical of the early 20th Century wharves in Walsh Bay. This screen reflects the changing light from day to night and enhances the theatricality of Firefly.

The fact that after closing time all the props (as the architects call them) – tables, cocktail tables, chairs, bollards, cushions and candles – get packed up and stored away behind glass bi-fold doors only adds to the sense of theatre.

A glass canopy projects out to cover the dining area which is stepped down over two shallow platforms. The upper dining level is defined by illuminated bollards, while the lower, more informal area is separated from the broadwalk by stainless steel balustrades.

As the name suggests, the night-time experience in particular has a magical quality to it generated by the candle-lit tables and restrained artificial light bouncing gently off the polished surfaces. The overall effect is a delicious sense of fluent connection between interior and exterior while creating the sense of intimacy and private space necessary for wining and dining.

Ultimately, Firefly indulges the most common form of theatricality – observing and being observed, alternately as a player and spectator in social life. With its subtle lines of separation, Firefly gives its patrons the option of intimacy or participation.

Project Team Architects Arnold Lane  
Builder Belcon Constructions

### Tiling

Flooring is 'Fontainbleau' stone in antique finish from Nefiko. Bar tiling is Bisazza glass mosaic from Fred Pazotti. Nefiko Marble (61 2) 8338 8668 Fred Pazotti (61 2) 92371850

### Veneers

'NAV' in colour 'Bordo Fineline' from New Age Veneers. New Age Veneers (61 2) 9987 4033

### Lighting

The external floor lights in the custom bollards are Modus 'Moonscape'. JSB Lighting (61 2) 9571 8800

### Chairs

'Linea' stained to match the veneer. Thonet (61 2) 9332 1600

### Tables

Custom-designed with New Age Veneer 'Bordo Fineline' tops and stainless steel edges by Metafab.



New Age Veneers (61 2) 9987 4033  
Metafab (61 2) 9531 7700

### Stools

'Caterpillar' upholstered in 'Majilite Destiny'. Origin Didier (61 2) 9429 5777

### Signage

Lettergraphics (61 2) 9534 5455