

ARCHITECT GLEN COBEN IN THE NEWS

• GLEN & COMPANY

Coben completes grill drill

New York-based architect Glen Coben of Glen & Company has designed the 110-seat E&E Grill House, at 233 West 49th Street in the Pearl Hotel.

Recently opened this past July by restaurateurs Eric Perlmutter and Edward Bergman, the restaurant design alludes to a mid-century modern ethos, with light woods, brightly-hued fabrics and a series of conversation zones.

“A traditional steakhouse is a den of testosterone, an old boys club,” quips Coben. “But these restaurateurs had the insight to envision something more contemporary, with just a hint of nostalgia, to appeal to a much broader base.”

At the front of the restaurant is an inviting barista and cocktail bar in pale woods with well-spaced seating. Moving midway into the geometric space is a series of step-up booths highlighted by colorful fabric cushions that reinforce an upbeat, informal ambience.

The back room, rimmed by voluptuous banquettes with festive patterns in red and orange, provides sophisticated seating options in a setting expertly orchestrated to accommodate a variety of guest uses, from sophisticated business transactions to intimate dining and even family gatherings. Come winter, the restaurant’s working fireplace will add another inviting design element.

“The long angled space and low ceilings required an aesthetic that would be inviting, yet provide a New York gestalt consistent with the excitement of a hip hotel restaurant in Midtown Manhattan,” added Coben. “Somewhere in there, we have channeled the greats like Richard Neutra and John Lautner to evoke 1950s and 1960s- style comfort and accessibility.”

