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RODE Architects completes design of Hit Wicket in Cambridge; First cricket-themed sports bar in U.S.; Built by Stack + Co.

August 22, 2013 - Retail

RODE Architects, an emerging design firm specializing in architecture for the urban environment, has completed design work for Hit Wicket, a first-of-its-kind cricket-themed restaurant and bar in the U.S. Located at 1172 Cambridge St. in the Inman Sq. neighborhood, Hit Wicket seats 100 patrons and provides an authentic cricket atmosphere that features popular food from major cricket-playing nations. Hit Wicket is a cricket terminology used to declare a batsman "out" when his bat or body hits the wickets when trying to strike a ball.

Designed by RODE and built by Boston-based construction manager Stack + Co., the space features a large dining room with dark walnut floors and leather-upholstered banquettes, creating a genial pub atmosphere that reflects the culture of this historic game. To capture the dynamic movement and forms of the sport, RODE added an angular main bar and high seating table shaped out of solid maple to emulate the wood used in cricket bats.

Tapping into the features of a cricket field, two large televisions face one another and frame the room like a centerfield pitch, allowing patrons to watch live cricket matches and other sports. Interactive cricket informatics and memorabilia, including jerseys, cricket bats and balls, and autographed photos of famous players line the walls.

The menu, printed on small cricket bats, is inspired by the many countries where the sport is most popular, such as India, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Britain, South Africa and the West Indies. Additional areas in the restaurant are used to demonstrate cricket equipment for those both familiar with, and new to the game.

Initially hired to build out the front-of-house restaurant and bar, Stack provided additional construction services when unforeseen issues with existing plumbing, electrical, and ventilation systems were discovered in the kitchen.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540