

[DESIGN]
TRENDS

NO RESERVATIONS

ONE OF DC'S HOTTEST RESTAURANT DESIGNERS, GRIZ DWIGHT, SHOWS HOW HIS OPEN AND CHIC AESTHETIC CAN BE CARRIED INTO YOUR HOME.

By Jennifer Barger | Photography by Greg Poole

Wallcoverings made of recycled tires, pendant lights fashioned from delicate baskets and handcrafted wood-and-metal bar stools that seem stolen from a Brooklyn brownstone are featured in the sizzling DC restaurants that Griz Dwight designs. The principal and founder of GrizForm Architects (grizform.com) is behind the good looks of must-dine spots like Doi Moi (doimoidc.com), Founding Farmers Tysons (wearfoundingfarmers.com) and the jet-set update of The Donovan hotel's rooftop bar (donovanhoteldc.com). "I love doing restaurants because you can push the boundaries designwise," says Dwight. "You go out to escape your home, but I've been hearing a lot of people say [that they] wished their house looked like this."

Dwight's firm just completed its first residential project, a colonial-meets-mod Wesley Heights house. He believes many of the elements that make restaurant design exciting—ambient lighting, oversize art, dramatic upholstered pieces—can elevate personal living spaces too. "We try to give our restaurants character and soul, and that's also great in the home," says Dwight. Plus, the open floor plans, suite-and-bee-hive kitchens and edgy furnishings used in many eateries translate perfectly into urban lofts and spacious suburban manses. "I think that's one of the biggest things we explored in [the new project]—how to get flow and light in," says Dwight. "In a lot of homes, that's such a missed opportunity."

Here are several ways Dwight thinks restaurant designs can be adapted for residential style—no hard-to-get reservations required.

HOME SCHOOL Restaurant designer Griz Dwight sits on the porch of his first residential design project, which is in Wesley Heights.

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ROLL WITH THE SUMMER PUNCHES "This bar cart has nice *Mad Men* lines," says Dwight. "In a restaurant, you'd wheel it tableside for craft cocktail-making. At home, roll it to whichever room the party is in." \$895, *Restoration Hardware*, 1222 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202.625.2771, restorationhardware.com

LIGHT THE NIGHT "At Doi Moi, we used several different kinds of pendant lights. And like these Hennepin Made glass sets they're functional and statement-making," says Dwight. \$996 for set of three, *Room & Board*, 1840 14th St. NW, 202.729.8300, roomandboard.com



STRONG STATEMENT "We're moving toward brighter colors—more oranges, reds, almost sunshine colors. I think they make you feel good," says Dwight. \$3,455, *Baker, Cady's Alley*, 3330 M St. NW, 202.342.7080, bakerfurniture.com



FLIGHTS OF FANCY "We find local art that speaks to us, then use it in our restaurants," says Dwight. "I love Faryn Davis' resin pieces, many with birds, that we commissioned for Founding Farmers at Tysons. Art is something you can put in your house that's really personal." \$300, *fernworks.org*

SEAT OF POWER "We love vibrancy, and these chairs from Mara Home are very similar to ones we used at the new Bonchon [navyyarddc.bonchon.com] in Navy Yard." \$210, 2213 14th St. NW, 202.232.4526, mara-home.com



REGALLY COVERED "Wallpaper like this pattern from Farrow & Ball adds fun to spaces like powder rooms or guest bedrooms," says Dwight. "You shouldn't be afraid to go to extremes with it either." \$225 per roll, 5221 Wisconsin Ave. NW, 202.479.6780, farrow-ball.com



BRING THE FAMILY "With upholstery, you want it to be plush and comfortable, a feeling of being pampered," says Dwight. "If you use durable fabrics like the ones on Minotti Studio's Aston Cord sofa that are [perfect for sunrooms and outdoor kitchens], they'll also stand up to diners or your family." From \$8,012, *Contemporaria*, 3303 Cady's Alley NW, 202.338.0193, contemporaria.com