

INTERIOR DESIGN®

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summer fun





firm: ippolito fleitz group site: leipzig, germany



How do you reinvent something as basic as a pizzeria? For starters, try a new utensil. At the White Monkey Pizza Lab & Bar in Leipzig, Germany—expected to be the first in a chain launched by a restaurant and hotel behemoth, the Mövenpick Gruppe—diners are handed giant scissors for snipping through long rectangular pizzas ranging from the classic to the nontraditional. Nutella, anyone?

Next, introduce eye-catching furnishings and graphics. That's where *Interior Design* Hall of Fame members Peter Ippolito and Gunter Fleitz enter the picture.

Referencing the White Monkey in the establishment's name, the Ippolito Fleitz

Group employed cheeky simian shapes throughout the 3,300 square feet. One monkey presents bananas on a platter. Several are lamps, used both for lighting and as a way-finding aid for the restrooms.

Monkey business aside, references to pizza's native Italy dominate. Red, pink, and earthy tones recall sunny Tuscany, and ceramic tile nods to the flooring in classic trattorias. But that's relatively subtle compared to the splashy, slightly

From left: The White Monkey Pizza Lab & Bar's shell chairs and stools are by Hee Welling Studio. Custom wallpaper appears in the dining area.

monkeying around

ERIC LASHNITZ

WALKthrough



Clockwise from top left: Built-in shelving in powder-coated tubular steel and glass organizes the bar's bottles. Knut Bendik Humlevik and Rune Krjgaard designed the chairs facing the dining area's polyurethane-upholstered banquette. A lamp by Marcontonio Raimondi Molerba stands on the bar. The dining area's Hoyon Studio side table integrates a concrete monkey.

surreal murals, which combine images of Renaissance art with *dolce vita* photography. Think of a posse of Sandro Botticelli's Venuses bursting from an abstract "shell," composed of more Venuses, or of Michelangelo's David pensively observing a pinup-style bathing beauty as she steps out of a swimming pool, onto a record turntable.

"In a big space, an assertive collage is a conversation-starter," Ippolito notes. Fleitz adds, "Everything is totally familiar but, at the same time, not at all."

Pizzas are baked and salads tossed at an open preparation station in a corner. Filling the rest of the ground level, the 130 seats are configured to cater to families, solo diners, and everyone in between, thanks to a mix of banquettes, free-standing two-tops, and



WALKthrough

Clockwise from top left: Porcelain-tiled steps descend to the restrooms and kitchen. Pendant fixtures by Simon Legald light the women's restroom. On the ceiling over the bar and dining area, oak-veneered baffles improve acoustics. Another Raimondi Molerba lamp, with the bulb swapped for a toilet brush, sits in the corridor to the restrooms.



and spots at the bar, a sort of E shape in glossy black. Bar patrons can perch on the gray leather-covered seats of stools while sipping cocktails. They include three monkey-themed variations.

FROM FRONT HAY: SHELL CHAIRS (DINING), STOOLS (BAR). **ARCHITECTS PAPER:** CUSTOM WALLPAPER (DINING, RESTROOM). **NORR11:** SIDE CHAIRS (DINING). **ULTRAFABRICS:** BANQUETTE UPHOLSTERY. **PFLIEDERER**

HOLZWERKSTOFFE; EGGER GROUP; FUNDERMAX: TABLE-TOP SURFACING. **SELETTI:** LAMPS (BAR, HALL). **BD BARCELONA DESIGN:** SIDE TABLE (DINING). **IGUZZINI:** TRACK LIGHTING (DINING, BAR). **NORMANN COPENHAGEN:** PENDANT FIXTURES (RESTROOM). **KEUCO:** SOAP DISPENSER. **DEUTSCHE STEINZEUG CREMER & BREUER:** BACKSPASH TILE. **TORREMATO:** PENDANT FIXTURES (BAR). **THROUGHOUT FLORIM CERAMICHE:** FLOOR TILE. **DENDA ARCHITECTEN; MANN & SCHOTT ARCHITECTEN:** ARCHITECTS OF RECORD. **LICHTWERKE:** LIGHTING CONSULTANT. **KNOBLAUCH:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

