

RETAIL STORE OF THE YEAR



Chain Store Age celebrates the winners of its 32nd annual Retail Store of the Year design competition, which recognizes the best in retail and restaurant design from around the world, as well as achievements in sustainability and in-store digital innovation.

In addition to the overall Store of the Year, awards were given in 24 individual retail categories. In a nod to the quality of the entries, the judges also awarded honorable mention awards in select categories.

The winning projects were selected by a panel of judges that included Eric Daniel, North American creative director, Fitch; Debra Hazel, shopping center/retail consultant, Debra Hazel Communications; Diana Revkin, managing director, retail, TPG Architecture; Nicole Tricarico, interior designer, Tricarico Architecture and Design; Parke Wellman, divisional VP store environment, Helzberg Diamonds; and Eric Zambrano, senior store design manager, retail development, Guess?.

All the award winners are profiled in this special section (all placed first except where noted). For additional photos and information, go to chainstoreage.com.



RETAIL STORE OF THE YEAR

Liverpool

Boca del Rio, Veracruz

Design: FRCH Design Worldwide, Cincinnati

Liverpool, Mexico's leading department store retailer, was awarded top honors in *Chain Store Age's* 32nd annual Retail Store of the Year design competition. The company's store in the new, upscale beach community of Boca del Rio, Veracruz, was named best overall entry and also placed first in the department store category.

Featuring the latest fashions and dining experiences, Liverpool is a lifestyle destination and social oasis for the surrounding community. A place to unwind as well as shop, the sun-drenched space celebrates its natural surroundings while also incorporating modern, clean finishes and other contemporary touches. The organic feel of the overall design is echoed in the store's iconic round ceiling architecture and dramatic escalator well.



The façade includes a triple-high glass wall that allows sunlight to pour into the building. The light filters through architectural screens in the heart of the store, producing a playful pattern of movement and shadow throughout the day. The layering of lines and bending of forms simulates the motion of wind and water.

Unique accents, including coral-shaped display and wall accents, ceiling textures and floor patterns, reference the water theme throughout the store.

The lighting supports and differentiates Liverpool's numerous departments, combining with the architecture to give each one a distinct personality and feel. Mega-sized outpost displays are used at arrival and transitional points within the overall space to introduce the latest and greatest trends, positioning Liverpool at the forefront of fashion.

Photo: Dohn Studio, Cincinnati

■ Sustainable Store of the Year

Walgreens

Evanston, Ill.

Design: Camburas & Theodore Ltd., Des Plaines, Ill.



Photo: Padgett & Company, Chicago

Walgreens breaks new ground with its store in Evanston, Ill., which stands as the first net-zero energy retail store in the United States. The 14,000-sq.-ft. space combines a variety of renewable energy technologies, including two wind turbines and 850 solar panels, to generate as much energy as possible. Eight geothermal wells burrowed deep into the ground help heat and cool the building, whose roof was oriented to maximize the amount of solar energy generated on site. The store also utilizes such energy-saving systems and techniques as all-LED lighting, daylight harvesting passive shading, window glazing, all-natural refrigeration and energy-efficient building materials. With its array of energy-generating and energy-saving technologies, Walgreens Evanston is expected to produce energy equal to or greater than it consumes, an environmental milestone for a retailer.



■ In-Store Digital Innovation

Build-A-Bear Workshop

Garden City, N.Y.

Design (digital experiences):

Infusion, Toronto

Build-A-Bear Workshop's new store concept enhances the brand's signature experience with innovative interactive technology to appeal to today's digital-savvy children. The 2,700-sq.-ft. space has been created as a series of interactive stations that personalize the stuffed animal-making process and offers visitors a different experience with each visit. At one station, guests can customize their stuffed animals with personality attributes displayed as emoticons on an interactive table; at another, they can use a touchscreen to load current music and other sounds onto a chip to further personalize the animals. The format includes technology platforms that allow for continuous updating of the store.



- Soft Lines
(up to 5,000 sq. ft.)
- Fitting Room
- Exterior

Sperry Top-Sider

Natick, Mass.
Design: Callison, Seattle



Photo: Callison, Seattle

Sperry Top-Sider debuts an immersive retail experience that reflects the authenticity of its brand heritage. The 1,800-sq.-ft. space was crafted to bring to mind a Nantucket beach cottage, one filled with simple materials, modern details, abstract nautical references and eclectic objects that appear to be collected over time. The theme is integrated throughout, from the porch-like storefront to the outside shower-styled fitting room to the driftwood pieces and model sailboats on display. Residential pendant lights that recall seaside cabins accent the store.



Photo: Interbrand, New York City, N.Y.

- Soft Lines
(up to 5,000 sq. ft.)
Honorable Mention

Volcom

New York City
Design: Interbrand Design
Forum, Dayton, Ohio

With a floor plan, materials and fixtures selected for "skateability," Volcom is authentic to the core. The design of the 2,000-sq.-ft. shop celebrates the brand's action sports heritage and anti-establishment attitude. Mannequins are topped with old-fashioned TV heads, with screens showing digital content. Logo-shaped ramps in the corners and steps in the central area highlight merchandise, while allowing customers to show off skate tricks.



Photo: Andes Photography, Portland, Ore.

■ Soft Lines
 (5,000 to 10,000 sq. ft.)
 Tie

Nike

Seattle
 Design: Nike, Beaverton, Ore.

The design of Nike in University Village, Seattle, replicates a classic Fieldhouse, with the intent reinforced by the use of reclaimed bleacher board, rubber gym flooring and recycled gym lockers. Decorative javelins hang from the ceiling and a wall treatment of runners' bib numbers is near the fitting rooms. Reflecting Nike's commitment to the environment, sustainable elements are incorporated throughout the 6,275-sq.-ft. space.

■ Soft Lines
 (5,000 to 10,000 sq. ft.)
 Tie

Barbour

Chicago
 Design: RGLA Solutions,
 Schiller Park, Ill.

Legendary British brand Barbour highlights its complete range of products in its two-story, 7,000-sq.-ft. Chicago flagship. The design references the rich history of Barbour, celebrating its expertise in making motorcycle-inspired jackets, while also paying tribute to its classic English countryside heritage. Brick walls and simulated factory glass windows provide the backdrop for a vintage motorcycle garage on the first floor. Upstairs, the ambience and decor recall a British country lifestyle experience. Large-format graphics help support the transition between the two levels.



Photo: Charlie Mayer Photography, Chicago



Photo: Jose Martinez, H&M, New York City

■ Soft Lines
(over 10,000 sq. ft.)

H&M

New York City

Design: H&M, Copenhagen

Fast-fashion leader H&M brings its brand to the heart of New York City, Times Square, with an ultra-modern, high-tech megastore that aims to entertain and engage shoppers throughout its multi-levels. With a design theme of a New Year's Eve fashion party, the 42,000-sq.-ft. store pulses with energy, activity and excitement. Visual highlights include an illuminated carousel in the children's department, mannequins suspended in mid-air and a giant LED screen framed in a "glitterwall" of polished stainless steel panels.

■ Soft Lines
(over 10,000 sq. ft.)
Honorable Mention
■ Fitting Room

David's Bridal

London

Design: David's Bridal Design and Construction, Conshohocken, Pa.

David's Bridal enters the European market with an inviting, ultra-feminine store design that creates an enhanced bridal-dress shopping experience. The 11,625-sq.-ft. space, at Westfield Stratford City in London, is highlighted with custom chandeliers whose texture and shape is inspired by wedding gowns. An elegant curved staircase provides circulation to and from the upper level. The spacious fitting room area is designed to accommodate the entire bridal party, while keeping all eyes focused on the star of the event: the bride.



Photo: Jonathan Banks Photography, London



■ **Hard Lines**
(up to 5,000 sq. ft.)

Cannondale

Carle Place, N.Y.

Design: Bergmeyer Associates, Boston

Celebrating a passion for cycling, Cannondale's new prototype redefines the bike retail model. The bold design creates a distinctive, customer-centric environment, with a lounge, repair shop and informational kiosks that educate shoppers about products and the cycling lifestyle. Departments are categorized by use and demographic. The clean lines and uncomplicated forms of the fixtures ensure products are highlighted. A neutral palette of grays and metal tones, with pops of the brand's signature green hue, enhance the overall look.



■ **Hard Lines**
(up to 5,000 sq. ft.)
Honorable Mention

AT&T

Atlanta

Design: Callison, Seattle

AT&T is aiming to transform its store experience nationwide with its "Store of the Future" concept, which humanizes the technology and experience of shopping for mobile devices and service. The overall look of the 4,000-sq.-ft. space is modern, comfortable

and inviting, enhanced by the use of warm reclaimed teak wood finishes juxtaposed with crisp white modern fixtures. Immersive product experiences and engaging merchandising displays are woven through the store, along with integrated video technology. The design draws from the best of AT&T's Chicago flagship, scaling the experience down into a much smaller footprint.

■ Hard Lines
(5,000 to 10,000 sq. ft.)
Cashwrap

Real Madrid Official Store

Madrid
Design: sanzpont (arquitectura), Barcelona



An innovative, cutting-edge design informs Real Madrid Official Store, a one-stop shopping destination for themed goods and gear of the world-renowned Real Madrid football club. The design concept of the 5,831-sq.-ft. store is based on the club's famed home stadium in Madrid. The walls are lined with images that transport shoppers to the center of the field, with LEDs integrated in the images to create the effects of taking a photo with a flash. The LEDs are synchronized with the in-store multimedia system, and activated when a goal happens in the media wall screens. The central marquee of the stadium is reinterpreted as the cashwrap, accompanied by a media wall and a panel lined with club victories.

■ Hard Lines
(over 10,000 sq. ft.)

Pirch

Glendale, Calif.
Design: Fitch, Columbus, Ohio

Pirch offers a new way to shop for premium kitchen appliances, bath fixtures and other select home products, combining a curated selection with product expertise in a highly experiential space. The high-end, modern residential context of the design supports the “exploration process,” allowing customers to experience products before they begin choosing them. The 24,000-sq.-ft. space features 30 working vignettes, and three working “labs,” including a kitchen area where, with advance reservation, shoppers can cook side by side with the in-house chef.



Photo: Mark Steele Photography, Columbus, Ohio



■ Department Store
Honorable Mention

Lord & Taylor

Boca Raton, Fla.
Design: HBC Planning & Design,
New York City, Toronto;
BHDP, Cincinnati

Venturing outside its Northern home base to sunny Florida, Lord & Taylor marries its New York DNA with local Boca Raton ambience, creating a sophisticated environment that mirrors the product on display. The brand's old-world tradition is modernized with a sleek white palette. Mosaic tile, beech wood slat-ceilings, lacquered columns and heirloom-patterned weathered wood flooring add to the ambience in the 80,000-sq.-ft. space.



Photo: Pruk Dejkhamhang

■ Discount Store

Hyper-mart

Xiangtan, China
Design: rkd retail/iQ, Bangkok

A simple, straightforward design enhanced by oversized feature graphics distinguish Hyper-mart. All design efforts in the 118,661-sq.-ft. store, which is illuminated with 100% LED technology, were undertaken to communicate product dominance, price and an in-stock position. The design ensures clear circulation, with easy orientation and exposure to all offers.

■ Drug Store

Walgreens

Boston

Design: HPA Design Inc.,
Wrentham, Mass.

Taking over a historic location on the Freedom Trail in Boston, Walgreens offers downtown shoppers a unique, 24-hour drug store experience. In addition to state-of-the-art beauty and pharmacy departments, the 27,707-sq.-ft. flagship houses a nail bar, an extensive prepared foods area, a juice and smoothie bar, a sushi station and an outdoor cafe with patio seating. Great care was taken to preserve the building's historic presence. Contractors refurbished and polished the marble and limestone walls, and installed custom wood cabinetry and stone and ceramic tile floors. An old bank vault within the building was refurbished with new millwork and cabinetry. Large windows on all sides let natural daylight fill the space.



■ Convenience Store

My Goods

Denver

Design: King Retail Solutions, Eugene, Ore.

Local Denver style and attitude along with splashes of technology help make for a memorable environment at My Goods, a 2,500-sq.-ft. convenience store on the grounds of Denver International Airport. The



high-impact design includes a center-store focal display with a computer-controlled LED chandelier with color/pulse lighting changes, and a digital screen highlighting local outdoor mountain conditions. Cultured stone adds warmth, texture and mountain charm. The cafe offers seating near a fireplace.

Photo: Steven R. Haning Photo Design, Portland, Ore.

■ Supermarket
(up to 40,000 sq. ft.)

Whole Foods Market

Detroit

Design consultant: JGA, Southfield, Mich.



Photo: Nicole Reedy, Jann Hubbert, Whole Foods Market

Sustainable and local in its approach, Whole Foods Market Detroit is a celebration of the Motown City and its residents. The look and feel of the 25,580-sq.-ft. store creates an instant connection with neighborhood shoppers, enhanced by the use of such local decor elements as antique Detroit signs refabricated by a local artist, checkout lights adorned with Motown 45-LP records and a tile mural of Detroit. Other elements recognize the artistic nature of graffiti and the city's industrial heritage. In keeping with Whole Foods' commitment to being environmentally responsible, all building and decor materials were selected with an eye toward sustainability and reuse.

■ Supermarket
(over 40,000 sq. ft.)

Freson Bros. Fresh Market

Stony Plain, Alberta

Design: Shook Kelley, Los Angeles

Freson Bros. Fresh Market's new prototype captures the essence of the family-owned regional brand. The design establishes distinct areas, including a market hall, where a high-ceiling entrance hall focuses on the brand's farm fresh, rural Alberta origins. The meat department draws on the evocative imagery of an old-fashioned butcher's counter, while farmers market stalls inspired the format of the prepared foods area. The welcoming, community feel of the supermarket is reflected in an open dining area, with a fireplace and furniture crafted by an Albertan carpenter.



Photo: Lawrence Anderson Photography, Los Angeles

■ Supermarket
(over 40,000 sq. ft.)
Honorable Mention

H-E-B Grocery

Austin, Texas

Design: HEB Design and Construction, San Antonio

Community-focused amenities and an open design help define H-E-B's new store in Austin, Texas. The 82,000-sq.-ft. supermarket has an open and contemporary look. It is the chain's most sustainable location to date, and is nearly entirely day-lit by the use of north/south-facing glazing and roof-top monitors. At night, the store is illuminated via 100% LED fixtures. The location features the company's first in-store restaurant, and also an outdoor patio area with fountain, bar and pergola.



■ Fast Food/Casual Dining

Café Barista

Guatemala City, Guatemala
Design: Interbrand Design Forum,
Dayton, Ohio

Café Barista celebrates its coffee credentials and heritage in a modern environment that feels handcrafted, natural and cozy. Natural, raw and textured materials, including reclaimed wood planks and burlap coffee bean bags, along with the work of local rural artisans, enhance the ambience. The 1,700-sq.-ft. space boasts a variety of seating options, while large sliding windows allow easy access to the inviting outside patio.



Photo: Alejandro de Leon Photography, Guatemala City, Guatemala

■ Fast Food/Casual Dining
Honorable Mention

Starbucks

Montreal
Design: Aedifica, Montreal,
in partnership with Starbucks
Canada Store Design

Starbucks' 100th store in Quebec is designed to reflect the heritage of its landmark neighborhood — Westmount Square in Montreal — in a contemporary fashion. Inspired by the traditional coffee house, the store was built as a coffeehouse within a house. As with all Starbucks stores in Canada since 2010, the store was designed to LEED specifications and incorporates local recycled and reclaimed materials, including the rustic wood featured on the walls, ceiling and bar.



Photo: Peter Ford, Montreal

■ Food Court Restaurant

Kung Pao Wok

Richmond Centre Dining Terrace
Richmond, British Columbia
Design: Dialogue 38, Toronto

A magnificent custom mosaic wall of a Chinese red dragon flying through a bright blue sky makes for a memorable first impression at Kung Pao Wok. Brilliantly lit push-through acrylic letters highlight the logo. The design maintains traditional Chinese symbolism throughout the space, from striking graphics and bold colors to the illuminated red clouds on the counter face, which symbolize good fortune in traditional Chinese culture.





Photo: Dan Forer, Miami

■ Restaurant

FIU Restaurant Management Lab

North Miami, Fla.

Design: Echeverria Design Group, Coral Gables, Fla.

A state-of-the-art restaurant and teaching lab is combined in FIU Restaurant Management Lab, located on the grounds of Florida International University's Biscayne Bay Campus. A 22-ft.-high wine tower consisting of contrasting dark wood curves that wrap around an acrylic shell highlights the 4,955-sq.-ft. dining space. Fiber-optic and crystal chandeliers with color-changing LED lights add atmosphere. Cameras, monitors and audio/visual technology are provided in all areas for training and live demonstrations worldwide.

■ Restaurant
Honorable Mention

New Generation

Toronto

Design: Dialogue 38, Toronto

Designed to appeal to a neighborhood demographic of students and young professionals, New Generation welcomes patrons with an interior that is simple but thoughtful. Natural wood finishes enhance the warm, moody atmosphere. A glowing feature wall, visible through the front window, catches the interest of passersby. On another other wall, a mural references Japanese pop art.



Photo: Eric Lau, Toronto

■ Specialty Food

DFS Wine & Cigars

Cotai, Macau, China

Design: rkd retail/iQ, Bangkok

Simple architecture, expert detail and premium materials convey a sense of luxury positioning, merchandise dominance and presentation innovation at DFS Wine & Cigars, in the Four Seasons, Macau. A refined signage system communicates the origins of the wine and cigars, and helps shoppers orient themselves and select their own merchandise. A walk-in, climate-controlled room in the rear of the 1,621-sq.-ft. shop is reserved for superior vintage assortments.



Photo: rkd retail/iQ, Bangkok

■ Specialty Food

Honorable Mention

Papa Murphy's

Austin, Texas

Design: Tesser, San Francisco

Papa Murphy's brings customers up-close to its signature personalized pizza-making process with a new prototype that engages the senses. With its open design and clean lines, the 1,200-sq.-ft. space emphasizes that the take 'n' bake pizzas are fresh meals that customers can tailor to their own tastes and dietary needs. The design showcases the pizza creation process within sight of the customer without interrupting employees' workflow.



Photo: Kelly Cameron, Georgetown, Texas

■ Specialty Food

Honorable Mention

Maybury

Dubai

Design: Brand Creative, Dubai

An eclectic blend of modern contemporary and art deco decor make Maybury engaging and appealing. With its wicker baskets and wooden shelving, the 9,687-sq.-ft. store offers an upscale market atmosphere that encourages browsing. The standout elements include a custom-designed wrought-iron stair rail, with copper lighting fixtures and carved-wood birds — a nod to the Maybury logo — floating above.





Photo: Skies Fall, Racine, Wis.

■ Single Unit
(up to 5,000 sq. ft.)

Jockey Bra

Schaumburg, Ill.
Design: JGA, Southfield, Mich.

A test concept, Jockey Bra offers shoppers a totally new bra-shopping experience. The 1,770-sq.-ft. store is designed to bring the brand's revolutionary new fitting process to life. The environment is fresh, soothing and luxurious, and leverages Jockey's brand colorations into background materials and finishes. From digital screens to visual prompts to prints, graphics are used prominently throughout the space to help educate about the new fitting approach.

■ Single Unit
(over 5,000 sq. ft.)

Kid's Cavern

Macau, China
Design: Callison, Seattle

A wildly playful design creates a fantasy wonderland drawn from every child's imagination at Kid's Cavern. The 35,000-sq.-ft. store, which sells everything from toys to candy to children's wear, is a one-of-a-kind destination, with a spinning chandelier composed of 600 cast-resin lollipops. A recessed "river" of color-changing LEDs cut through the ceiling, with colorful custom lights, some cloud-shaped, visually separating departments. With signage minimized to keep attention focused on the fantasy experience, visual cues, including a multicolor tile pathway and twinkling lights, are used to guide customers through the store.



Photo: Callison, Seattle



■ Showroom

Timberland

New York City

Design: Leonard Ostroff

Design Associates, Montreal

Timberland's rich New England heritage and dedication to quality craftsmanship are brought to life in the brand's ruggedly stylish new showroom. True to Timberland's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, the 7,000-sq.-ft. space was built using reclaimed and repurposed materials, including wood from reclaimed snow fences and ceiling beams from old barns. Other eco-conscious features include the use of LED lighting and ceramic tile with 70% recycled content.



■ Showroom

Honorable Mention

Virginia Tile

Chicago

Design: JGA, Southfield, Mich.

A fresh, contemporary approach allows Virginia Tile to transition from a typical showroom to more of a design studio concept. Neutral but well-articulated floors, walls, ceilings and fixtures mark the design, which puts the product front and center. A series of linear floating walls help present the breadth of merchandise and serve as effective ways to zone product choices in the 7,727-sq.-ft. space. Samples are displayed on pull-out vertical panels, sliding slab fixtures and/or "print" drawers, providing just the right level of reveal for visiting designers and their clients.

Photo: Laszlo Regos Photography, Berkley, Mich.



Photo: Callison, Seattle

■ Service
(up to 10,000 sq. ft.)

Sterling Bank

Portland, Ore.
Design: Callison, Seattle

Local roots are balanced with a modern feel to create a comfortable and inviting environment at Sterling Bank. A large-scale graphic of Oregon trees draws customers into the 2,955-sq.-ft. space, which is based around the concept of a Great Room, an open, accessible space that unifies a variety of functions and allows for social interactions. In keeping with the theme, the fixtures have a residential feel, with simple detailing and natural, textural finishes that connect to the region. Clefted slate, natural raw wood and tonal/patterned carpeting enhance the feel.

■ Service
(up to 10,000 sq. ft.)
Honorable Mention

American Express Centurion Lounge

Las Vegas
Design: Big Red Rooster,
Columbus, Ohio

Iconic design furnishings and multi-sensory elements are juxtaposed to create a modern, memorable space for American Express Centurion Lounge, McCarran Airport, Las Vegas. The environment transports guests away and provides a peaceful respite from the terminal's hectic atmosphere. The design embodies American Express' service commitment. Each element was curated with the consumer experience in mind.



Photo: Michael Houghton, STUDIOOHIO, Columbus, Ohio

■ Service
(over 10,000 sq. ft.)

The Red Door

New York City
Design: TPG Architecture,
New York City

The Red Door's new multi-level space was conceived as a modern women's "club," but one that maintains the classic American history of the brand as a place where woman can be pampered and spend time. The materials are an eclectic textural mix of both modern and traditional finishes. A large brass beveled wall is a tribute to Elizabeth Arden's vintage packaging, with inspiration taken from powder compacts and lipstick cases. A sleek black marble staircase and glossy red paneling on the elevator shaft make for an enticing transition between the first level, home to beauty retail and express nail and spa services, to the full-service beauty salon and spa on the level below.



Photo: Eric Laignel Photography

■ Pop-Up

Jack Daniel's Sinatra Select

Las Vegas
Design: Fitch, Columbus, Ohio



Photo: Mark Steele Photography, Columbus, Ohio

A pop-up installation creates awareness for Sinatra Select, a premium limited-edition whiskey honoring Frank Sinatra. Located at McCarran Airport, Las Vegas, the installation is comprised of three sleek-looking modules — for tasting, viewing and listening — that stand outside the Duty Free Store. The centerpiece creates a lounge and features iconic Sinatra imagery, while the listening unit has copper-screen sound domes that share the story between the product and Sinatra Select playlist. The installation is designed to drive people inside the store for purchase.



Photo: Benjamin Hill Photography, Houston

■ In-Store Shop
(up to 20,000 sq. ft.)

adidas Originals Collective (Footaction)

Houston
Design: Big Red Rooster, Columbus, Ohio

Branded from the inside out, adidas Original Collective offers a flagship-like experience within the Footaction environment. The 1,500-sq.-ft. in-store shop embodies the brand's positioning, with custom lighting, clean wood elements, industrial metal fixtures and fine leather accessories bringing life to the Collective's urban-influenced environment. Street culture-inspired art and found objects enhance the personality of the tech-savvy space.

■ In-Store Shop
(over 20,000 sq. ft.)

Menswear, Lord & Taylor

New York City
Design: HBC Planning & Design, New York City, Toronto;
Highland Associates, New York City

Lord & Taylor puts the spotlight on menswear, with a modern flair that reflects the retailer's growth within the men's sector and its deeper dive into the contemporary market. At the same time, the design pays homage to the brand's heritage, with details that speak to its DNA. The existing classic architecture has been reused, but with a layer of modern materials and finishes.





■ Exterior (In-line)

White House/ Black Market

Toronto

Design: Chico's FAS, Fort Meyers, Fla.

White House/Black Market makes its international debut, at Yorkdale Centre, Toronto, with a storefront that conveys a strong brand identity to a new audience. To balance the drama of the 30-ft. façade with the intimacy of the inside space, interior finishes and details were pulled directly onto the storefront. A mix of materials, including white Carrera marble, custom-polished chrome details and striped fabric awnings, make for an inviting — and memorable — welcome.

■ Exterior (Freestanding)

JaBistro

Toronto

Design: Dialogue 38, Toronto

A playfully illuminated sign of a football fish lures patrons into JaBistro, a modern Japanese bistro in Toronto. The fish, the brand's mascot, is set against a black background, making it all the more effective. The rusted corten steel cladding used on the façade is repeated inside on the ceiling above the banquettes and calls to mind the rusted metal cladding seen on industrial transport ships.

