

# Hospitality Interiors

INTERIOR DESIGN FOR HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, BARS & CLUBS

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Photography by Seamus Payne

## M.Bird

Tampa, Florida

A unique new restaurant and bar has landed on the second floor of the historical Armature Works building in Tampa Heights. Named for Florida's state bird, the mockingbird, M.Bird is a collaboration between Armature Works developer, Dutch East Design; hospitality group, BE1 concepts, and Tampa-based restaurateur, Noel Cruz.

Dutch East Design's framing vision was to complement the historic Armature Works' structure with a nostalgic yet avant-garde design that establishes the venue's buzzing atmosphere and evokes the spirit and vibrancy of Brazilian Modernism.

At the core of the property's interior is an artful application of warm millwork, integrating the venue into the existing industrial structure. A palette of playful, geometric tiles and pavers also enhances this vibrant, contemporary feel.



M.Bird is divided into two areas – half of which is undercover and half open air. With a dramatic high roof on one side, the undercover space features exposed trusses clad in tropical hardwood and painted a lush green, indicative of Florida flora. The open area, meanwhile, receives shade from a series of umbrellas and palm trees that flank the central seating section.

Assorted tropical plants are positioned throughout the cocktail lounge to divide the larger floor plan into smaller, more intimate areas. While M.Bird's custom seating is predominantly at lounge and dining height throughout the space, a high-energy area facing the long terrazzo bar also serves as the venue's hub, outfitted with high top tables and tall upholstered benches.

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