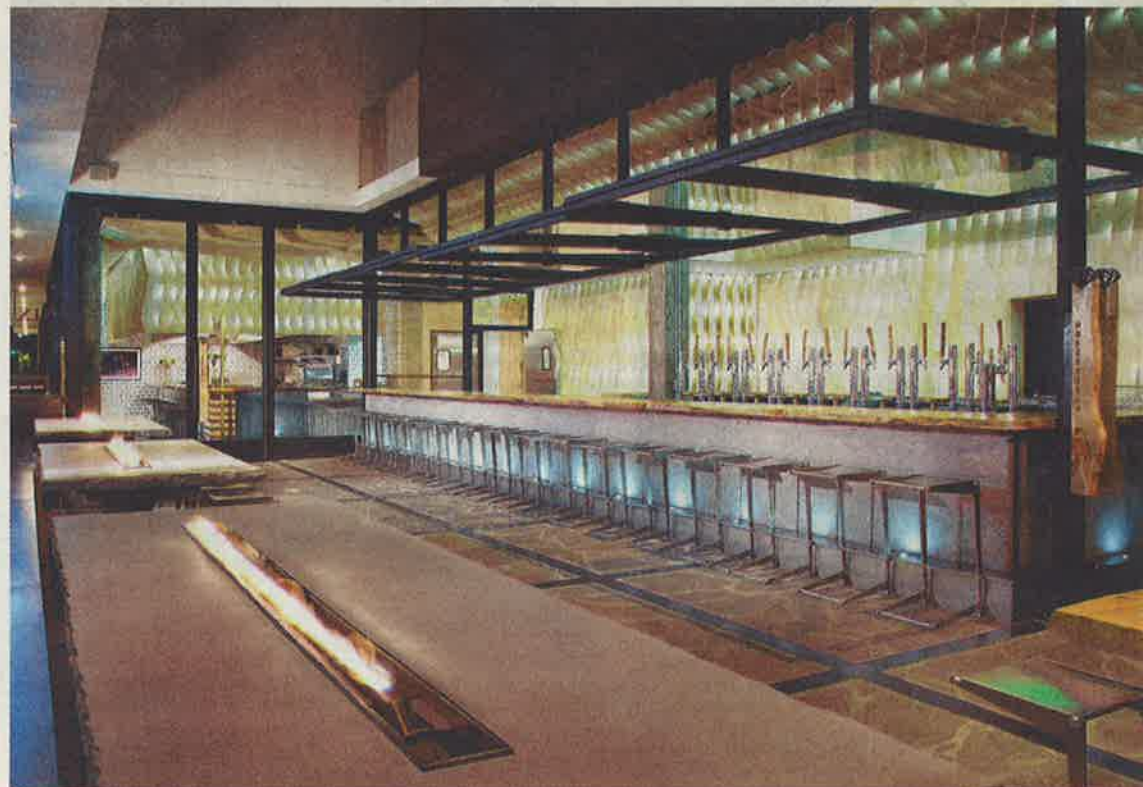


## DINING



ZACK BENSON PHOTOS

Craft & Commerce reopened in 2016 after a remodel that combined “the more hunterly aspects of Teddy Roosevelt with the literary drive of Ernest Hemingway.”



Underbelly ramen bar opened in 2014 in the North Parker mixed-use development.

## A FEAST FOR THE EYES

EIGHT APPETIZING RESTAURANT DESIGNS FROM BASILE STUDIO

BY PAM KRAGEN

Over the past decade, San Diego has become home to dozens of quirky, trendy restaurants that look good enough to eat.

Many of these culinary jewels come from the creative brain trust at Basile Studio. The 23-year-old design business is a one-stop shop that imagines, fabricates and installs its work at projects that are perennial winners of the San Diego Architectural Foundation's Orchid awards.

Here are eight of founder Paul Basile's favorite projects from the past few years.

**1. Craft and Commerce & False Idol**  
675 West Beech St., Little Italy. (619) 269-2202 or [craft-commerce.com](http://craft-commerce.com)

“When the new ground-floor space became available next to the original Craft & Commerce, our client decided to expand their Little Italy institution,” Basile says. “By combining the more hunterly aspects of Teddy Roosevelt with the



### DID YOU KNOW?

Raised in Detroit, Paul Basile is a fourth-generation builder who discovered design at age 10, watching a neighbor build modernist solar panels.

literary drive of Ernest Hemingway, we created a narrative that established our design's historical foundation where museum-quality taxidermy mixes with our client's large book collection. The expansion opened up enough space for our client to create a new world-class tiki bar, and its secret entrance is through the new Craft & Commerce working freezer, where you move from the freezing cold into a tropical oasis in just a few illicit steps." Opened in 2016.

## 2. North Park Beer Co.

3038 University Ave., North Park. (619) 255-2946 or northparkbeerco.com

"Originally a department store, the 8,600-square-foot space has been re-imagined as a community gathering place and craft beer mecca," Basile says. "Taking cues from the neighborhood's Arts and Crafts architectural aesthetic and the building's 1946 midcentury original shell, the design's standout feature is the Irving Gill-inspired, 43-foot stained white oak back bar, complete with hammered copper detailing, etched backlit mirrors, custom taps, and capped with wood tambour." Opened in 2016.

## 3. Kindred

1503 30th St., South Park. (619) 546-9653 or barkindred.com

"French Gothic details meet heavy-metal influences at this edgy vegan restaurant," Basile says. "Nearly every feature was custom-made for Kindred, including an LED backlit, mirrored, coffered ceiling; 10-foot arched flip windows; and a 900-pound, black, four-eyed wolf sculpture. But our take on the 19th-century French tête-à-tête (a classic S-shaped couch design that's used here for six one-person tables) rocks us just as much as the heavy metal." Opened in 2016.

## 4. Soda & Swine

Liberty Station, 2750 Dewey Road, No. 104, Liberty Station. (619) 501-9989 or sodaandswine.com

"Located in the historic Point Loma development previously used as a naval training base, our design for Soda & Swine Liberty Station balances references to the structure's history with a sense of family-friendly playfulness, epitomized by our 20-foot custom foosball table topped with brass and stainless-steel tube light fixture," Basile says. Opened in 2015.

## 5. Ironside Fish & Oyster

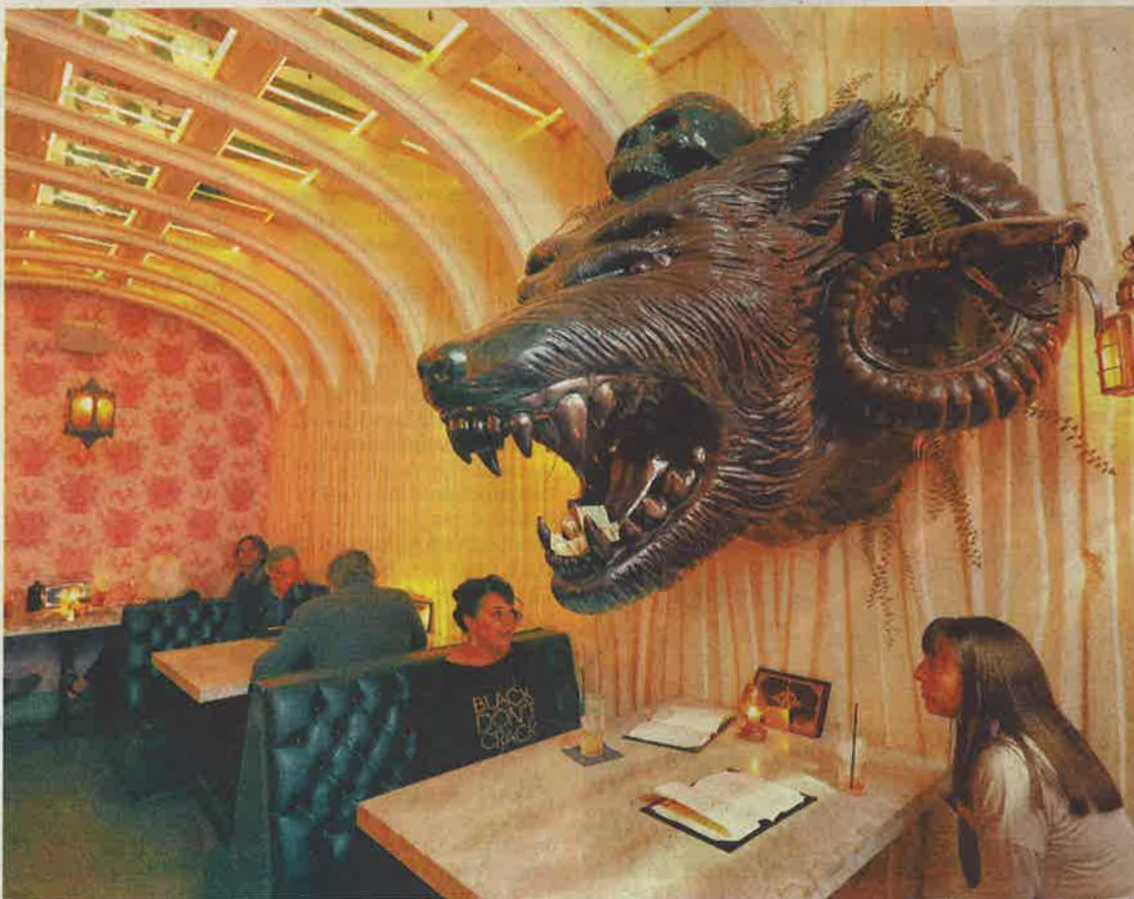
1654 India St., Little Italy. (619) 269-3033 or ironsidefishandoyster.com

"Ironside's nautical design concept is a celebration of San



LYUDMILA ZOTOVA

Soda & Swine's Liberty Station location features a 20-foot custom foosball table.



U-T FILE

A large wolf sculpture overlooks the main dining area at Kindred on 30th Street in South Park.

Diego's history as a major U.S. seaport and fishing capital. A huge 1920s-era warehouse, originally home to Ironside Metal Works, provided a rich architectural canvas with which to work. We created four separate-yet-connected eating areas, each offering a new visual at every turn. With our design of the "Lovebird" plasma-cut swiveling seats, we hoped to encourage unexpected social interactions." Opened in 2014.

## 6. Underbelly

3000 Upas St., North Park. (619) 487-9909 or godblessunderbelly.com

"Underbelly North Park's design installation seamlessly blends into the minimalist aesthetic of its home at the North Park, a new mixed-use development in San Diego. Taken as a whole, the LED-backlit radiata pine panels, arranged in an intricate overlapping grid system, become a graphic representation guiding diners to and from the ramen and yakitori bars." Opened in 2014.

## 7. Polite Provisions

4696 30th St., North Park. (619) 677-3784 or politeprovisions.com

"When approached by our client with the concept of an intellectually stimulating, 1930s pharmacy- and soda-fountain-inspired bar in San Diego's University Heights neighborhood, we immediately went to work on reinforcing the site's neglected 1920 structure. Numerous custom details lend themselves to its vintage vibe, including the custom state-of-the-art 46-tap system that serves beer, wine, spirits and coffee." Opened in 2013.

## 8. Tajima Ramen

901 E St., East Village (619) 431-5820 or tajimasandiego.com

"Our design is our visual interpretation of Tajima's values: tradition and authenticity in a modern context. We achieved this by fusing traditional Japanese elements with modern overtures. The wallpaper's modern black background heightens the overlaid Japanese motif, while the bar and communal dining tables feature Carrara marble and blackened cedar interlocking in a repeating pattern inspired by classic Japanese woodworking techniques. Our favorite feature has to be the exterior storefront of the kitchen, which creates a series of peekaboo windows that offer a glimpse into the chef's artistry in action." Opened in 2016.

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