

bon appétit

To the Loo

Let's be honest here — a good restaurant bathroom colors your experience in a big way. These 13 places go above and beyond.

By Stephanie Citron



Some go for the food, some go for the bar, others go for the scene. But the restroom?

When considering everything that constitutes an epic dining experience, restrooms don't often make the list. But when you need to visit the loo in the middle of your meal, it's suddenly the most important part of the restaurant.

“In this age of the three essential elements of dining—food, service, and ambience—restaurants have such an opportunity to transform people into the experience with design. The restroom offers an extension of that visual experience on a more personal, private level,” says Jason French, chef and owner of Portland's Ned Ludd, a restaurant that looks like a vintage rustic kitchen.

More and more, savvy restaurateurs want to make every aspect of their place buzz-worthy, and creating memorable restrooms has become the next big thing. Jono Fried, chief creative officer of Boca Cincinnati (which has six differently themed restrooms) maintains that providing a spectacular washroom adds “one more fun level of discovery in an already exciting restaurant. It's a place where you can get the biggest impact because there's just such little expectation.”

We've combed the country to find extraordinary restroom experiences that are as enticing as the menu, thanks to cutting-edge design, hide-and-seek adventures, spellbinding optical illusions, and mind-blowing views.