



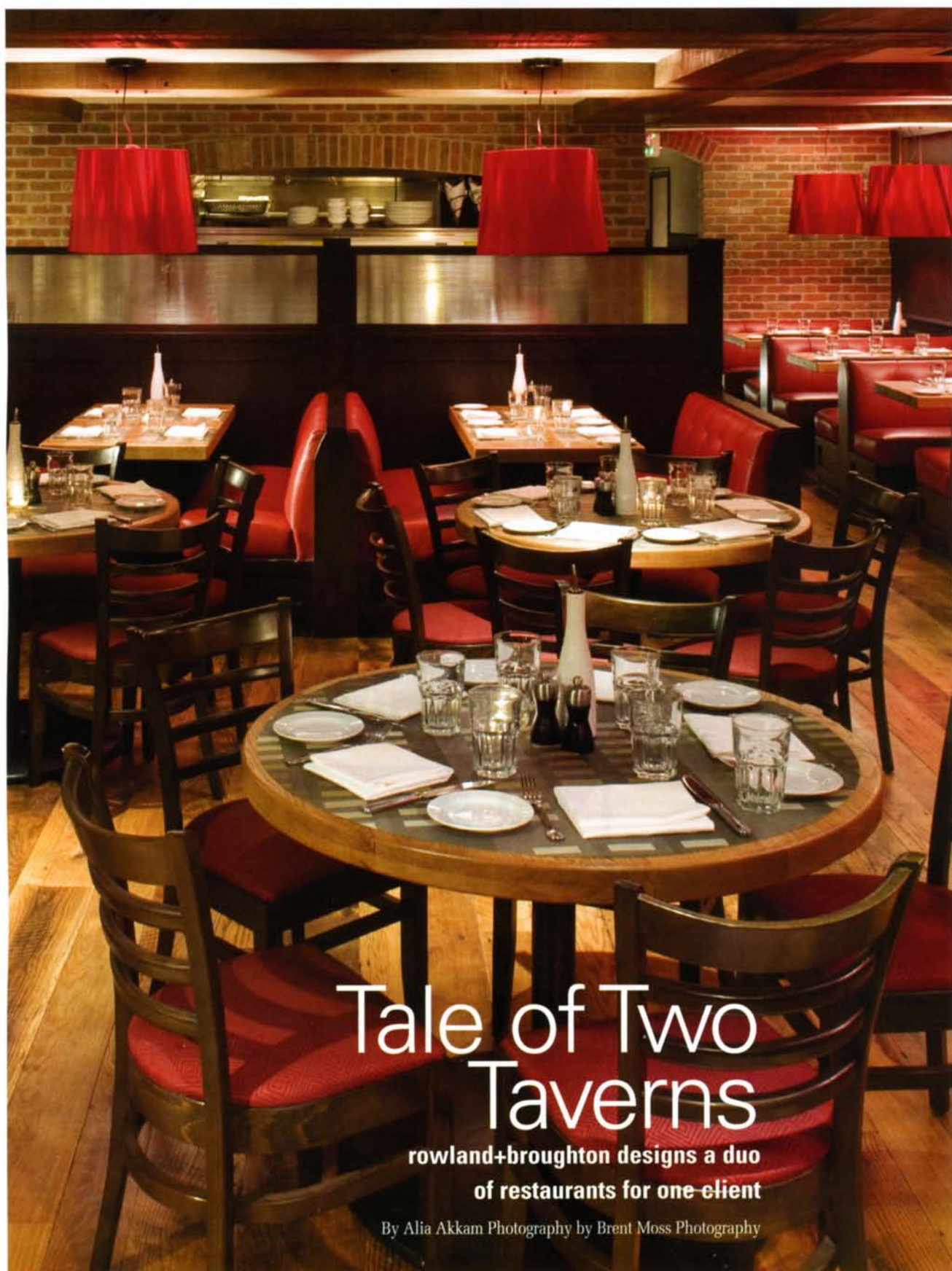
Magic Carpet Ride

Durkan
Hospitality
adapts with
the times

Lee Blair
Senior Vice President
Durkan Hospitality



project Ajax and Sneaky's



Tale of Two Taverns

rowland+broughton designs a duo
of restaurants for one client

By Alia Akkam Photography by Brent Moss Photography



Opposite page: Ajax Tavern's main dining room. Above, from left: The bar and lounge at Sneaky's Tavern.

WHILE DESIGNING THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE of an Aspen Skiing Company executive, the company called on Denver and Aspen, Colorado-based rowland+broughton once again. This time, it was to design two restaurants—one in Aspen, one in Snowmass Village, Colorado—in just eight months. “Both projects were to have a ‘tavern’ aesthetic, but since Ajax was a renovation and Sneaky’s was a full TI [tenant improvement] project, we definitely needed to design each space to stand alone uniquely, while maintaining some similar tavern elements,” explains Jason E. Goldberg, one of the firm’s designers (and project manager for Ajax), adding that the team went on a guided pub crawl around Denver for inspiration.

The result: two spaces that transcend the tavern aesthetic with a modern twist. In Ajax housed in the Little Nell Hotel situated at the base of Aspen Mountain, wood (reclaimed oak for floors and tabletops, FSC wood chair frames, refinished original wainscoting and woodwork), steel, and splashes of red prevail. Throughout, fabric ribbon drum-shaped shades (yes, done in red) create intimacy in wood-and-red leather booth seating that line the open space; and the new brick walled service line and kitchen pass-throughs capture the rusticated feel of the tavern experience. Plus, the designers relocated the bar to the back of the restaurant, creating a large, open, inviting space.

The use of wood and red accents continues in Sneaky’s (which just won an ASID award), where the designers created strong indoor-outdoor connections by pulling natural light and mountain views deep into the airy restaurant. Differences come in the form of metal-clad fireplaces flanked by limestone and flexible seating options—the lounge with custom sofas, a round settee, and square ottomans, the private dining room, and large wood community table—and an entire wall of sliding storefront windows completely opens up the bar to a large outdoor terrace and the mountain beyond. One of the biggest challenges? “Instead of dropping the ceiling to cover mechanical equipment, we created a number of ceiling alcoves which hover over dining spaces, as well as an airy ‘trellis’ of wood beams suspended from the ceiling, to compose an illusion of height in the space,” Goldberg says.

And for both, the designers used sustainable finishes and furniture wherever possible—think reclaimed wood, energy efficient lighting, low VOC paint, Greenguard certified leather, solid surfacing and resin, CRI Green Label Plus carpeting, and cork/rubber flooring. “Both projects show the enthusiasm our firm shares with our client for sustainable building,” he says, adding that rowland+broughton was recently named the 2009 Young Firm of the Year by the Colorado AIA chapter. >



project Ajax and Sneaky's



Ajax Tavern and Sneaky's Tavern

Aspen and Snowmass Village, Colorado

Owner Aspen Skiing Company / Design Architect and Interior Design Firm rowland+broughton architecture and urban design

Project Team Sarah Broughton, principal; John Rowland, principal; Brandt Shwayder, designer; and Jason E. Goldberg, designer

FF&E Specifications rowland+broughton / Lighting Consultants Liesl Lighting and Element Lighting Design

Ajax

Hotel Management The Little Nell

Contractor William H. Baker Construction

Mechanical Engineer AEC - Architectural Engineering Consultants

Paint Benjamin Moore

Glazing Bendheim Glass

Metal Myers Steel

Brick Veneer Robinson Brick

Dining Chair/Barstool GAR Products

Built-in Banquette and Booth Re-Upholstery

Aspen Upholstery

Tabletops Kent Newell

Barstool Leather/Banquette and Booth Upholstery

Edelman

Pendants Fambuena

Sneaky's

Restaurant Management Snowmass Club

Architect of Record & Design/Build Contractor

Neenan Archistruction

Project Team Ron New, senior project manager; Randell

D. Johnson, senior architect; Joe Ashcraft,

architect; and Larry Thompson, general superintendent

Design/Build Mechanical & Plumbing Commercial

Design Engineering Inc. (CDE Inc.)

Design/Build Electrical Wayne's Electric, Inc.

Kitchen Consultant Ricca Newmark Design

FF&E Procurement Bray Whaler

Carpet Masland Contract

Paint Benjamin Moore

Cork Flooring Ceres

Cork/Rubber Flooring Capri Cork

Solid Surface CaesarStone

Acrylic Resin 3form

Barstool/Outdoor Furniture GAR Products

Stool/Setee/Sofa/Banquette/Ottoman Emilio's

Hightop Table Stool/Dining Chair ISA International

Community Hightop Tabletop/Dining Tabletops

Kent Newell

Hightop Table Base D'Style

Upholstery Joseph Nobel, Momentum, ArCom,

Reid Witlin

Leather Edelman ■

Above, from left: The white tiled bathroom at Ajax; a fireplace warms Sneaky's private dining room.