

CASE STUDY

Bordeaux Quay Restaurant & Bar



An energy efficient lighting scheme to bring sophisticated ambience to this large, open space.

THE BRIEF

Re:light was commissioned by Wylde ia (interior architects) in June 2008 to create a new lighting scheme for the formal 127-seat restaurant and bar on the first floor.

The restaurant is built around a double-height atrium and runs across the full width of the front elevation, taking advantage of the full height windows and city harbour views. It is an impressive large, open space punctuated only by slim concrete pillars.

By day the room is light and airy. By night the harsh global lighting of the original scheme had made it feel like a refectory; certainly not conducive to an intimate dining experience.

Relight's brief was to inject mood and atmosphere into the space and to define the dining and bar areas with light. The scheme also needed to reflect the owners' commitment to energy efficiency and waste reduction.

“It was a pleasure dealing with Dominic at Relight. He was able to translate our enthusiasm and ideas into a creative solution that has transformed our Restaurant space. His vision of the warmth and ambience has made a significant difference to our customer experience. Thank you!”

Kimberley Taylor, General Manager, Bordeaux Quay



...making light work

THE SITE

Bordeaux Quay is a restaurant, brasserie, bar, deli, bakery and cookery school on Bristol's harbourside. It's built over two floors in a converted 16,000sq ft warehouse.

A commitment to sustainability and zero waste are central to Bordeaux Quay's ethos. This extends to every aspect of the operation from locally-sourced food to energy efficiency and waste minimisation. It was also critical to the design of the building which incorporated many of the original fittings, doors, pipe-work, block-work and timber.



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THE SOLUTION

ATRIUM

In the original scheme, the metal halide flood light fittings gave off a harsh, cold light that at night was as bright as daylight.

Re:light replaced these with low-energy, low-maintenance warm white LED strips, concealed in a built-in trough at both gable ends of the atrium. We painted the troughs the same colour as the walls to reduce their visual impact, making the subtle glow that emanates from the LEDs the focus.

A gentle wash of light now highlights the walls and exposed beams of the timber and glass roof above.

BANQUETTES

To give definition to the end walls of the restaurant we brought forward the banquettes that lined the walls.

We placed linear T5 fluorescent tubes in troughs built in to the space between the banquettes and the walls. These we covered with warm white colour sleeves.

The effect is a warm glow of light that visually reduces the width of the room.

LARGE BESPOKE LIGHT SHADES

In the central dining area we added diffusers to the bottom of stunning, bespoke light shades to create pools of light, rather than harsh global illumination. The gold-lined interior surface of each shade warms the colour temperature of the bulb.

The effect is a rich, flattering glow throughout the room.

BESPOKE BOX CASINGS

We removed the round white glass ball pendants in the central dining area and replaced them with a mixture of spotlights in box casings and bespoke light shades, to create areas of localised light.

We attached the specially designed spotlight housings to concrete beams and painted them mineral grey to blend in.

They are designed to be dual purpose: to conceal the cable and transformer as well as house the light source.

The result is a minimal, discrete fitting that gives pools of accent light over the tables and helps to break up the dining space.

In keeping with Bordeaux Quay's commitment to renewable resources, we used energy-efficient Osram AR1-11 long-life halogen bulbs: their infra-red coating turns heat back into light, extending the life of the lamp.

THE RESULTS

