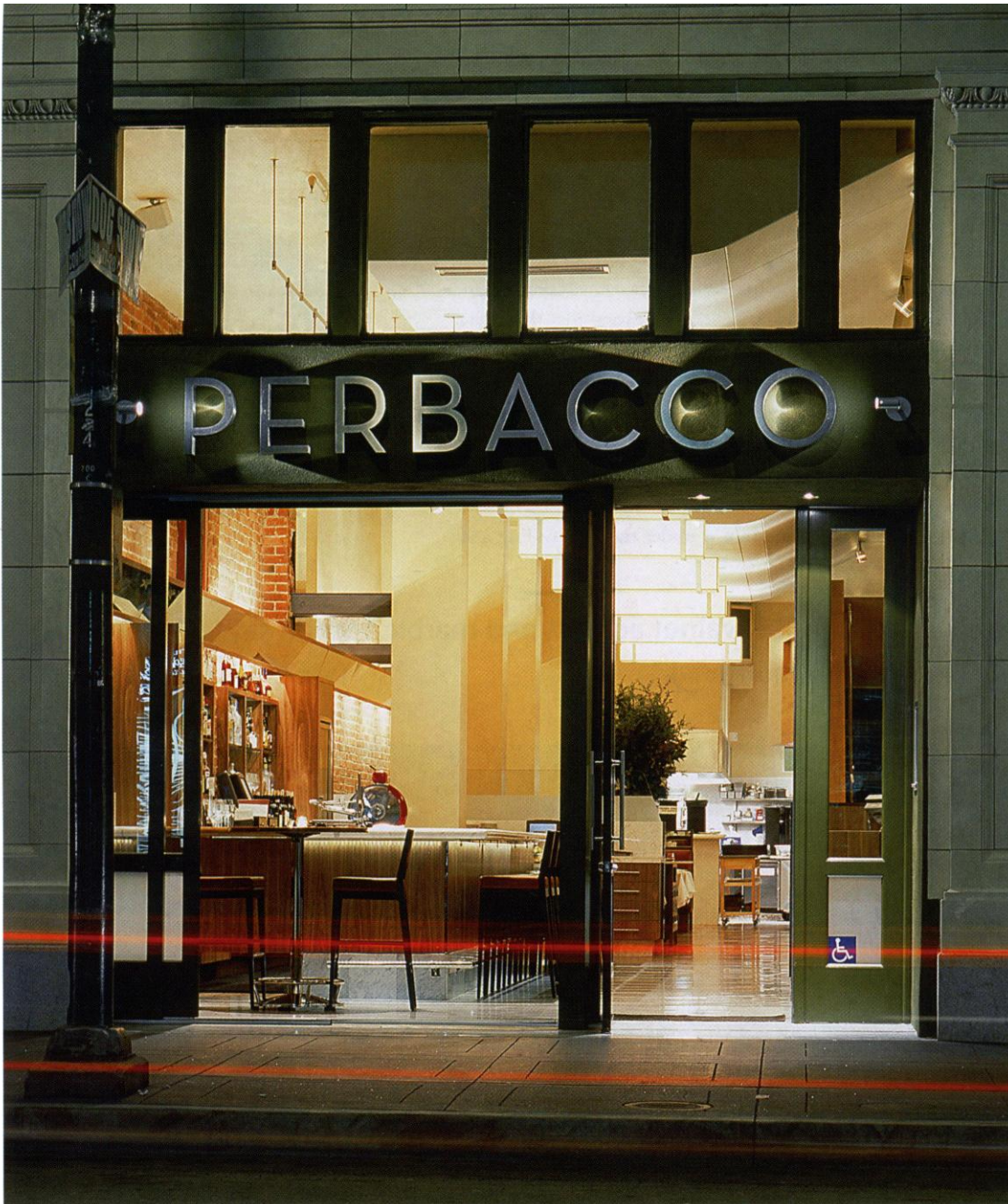


dining room



Fusing Old World and New

Cass Calder Smith's modern signature style breathes new life into a traditional space — by Kristine Ammon

Designing restaurants isn't new to Cass Calder Smith, the San Francisco architect behind Rose Pistola, Azie, and LuLu. But when clients asked him to remodel the interior of a dilapidated old structure into the trendy Perbacco eatery, he took on the challenge of his career.

dining room

“The space was a wreck,” he says about the site in downtown San Francisco that once housed the Gold Coast restaurant. “It was worn out and poorly planned, and very deep. The owners wanted the new restaurant to be contemporary but also cosmopolitan, since it was downtown. They wanted open seating and banquettes, but beyond that they were open to what I suggested.”

Calder gutted the interior of the 1912 building, removing old divider walls and raising the ceiling to create a soaring, uninterrupted flow. “I salvaged the original brick wall, which runs the length of the building, and historic touches like the exposed pipes and painted numbers on the brick wall.” He then transformed the 6,200-square-foot space into zones. Half of the restaurant is under the high ceiling and



“We used classic Italian touches like walnut accents and marble,” Smith says. “We wanted the restaurant modern but still traditional.”

