



# NEW PROJECTS

## GIVING LIFE TO OLD VENUES

With a combination of experience and design flair, the team at CI Partnership has been making waves in the industry with some great recently completed bar and gaming projects.

### EASTS LEAGUES LEGENDS BAR

**T**he Easts Group, home of the 2013 NRL premiers, the Sydney Roosters, invited CI Partnership to assist in showcasing their proud history in a freshly minted modern bar and lounge.

The brief was to create a space that demonstrated the true spirit of a foundation football club that has spanned 105 years; to create something truly unique, which paid homage to this great club's history; and, at the same time, to create a place that is warm and inviting. Taking all this into account, together with some challenging operational issues and a very messy building shell, and this was not going to be any easy feat!

The CI team has made an outstanding response, creating a space that's sinuously wrapped by a striking pixelated graphic wall, which starts at the entry and snakes itself around the room, drawing patrons into the space. The entire wall is made up of iconic photographs of the players who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame (the images are actually formed by the letters of each player's name, and, every so often, a player's name is picked out in red lettering for those with keen eyes!). Portholes in the graphic wall display audiovisual information about the players, as well as highlights from classic games.

Today, the space boasts three defined zones: the lounge to the north-east offers large comfortable couches and generous armchairs; the dry bar area in front of the bar has more traditional seating, and is visually connected to both

the Hall of Fame and memorabilia displays; and, to the south is low-lit and cosy banquette seating, which creates a more lounging vibe. These banquettes are set among the memorabilia displays, and are separated by the shapes created by the columns. Overall, this zoning allows the different functions run by the club to happen simultaneously.

Working closely with artisan metalworkers, joiners and concreters, the central focus of the new space is a uniquely shaped and striking concrete and bronze bar, sculpturally finished in white off-form concrete. Up-lit from the floor, the brilliant effect is cleverly offset by the curved and carved plywood benchtop and floating bulkhead above. The back of the bar is fitted out with a monolithic black joinery unit, with two niches in intense orange – the only splashes of colour in the space – effectively focusing your attention.





Turning this previously dark, non-descript lounge into a bright and modern multi-functional space, which cleverly showcases the club's proud history and operates as a true modern bar and lounge, is an outstanding result for the Easts Group.

## HQ BAR

This striking bar is the focal point, forming the main backdrop for the foyer at St Johns Park Bowling Club (SJPBC). Designed as the centrepiece, its concept is very out of the ordinary. There was no back bar – just full-height glass refrigeration and wine displays and a sculptural steel front wrapping off-form concrete. The curved steel inspiration was influenced by the idea of a feminine fabric draped over the concrete – with revealing, sensuous cut-outs, all vibrantly lit with colour-changing LED lighting, allowing the bar to be themed for special occasions. On St Patrick's Day, the bar can turn fully green! The bar was positioned to be able to serve the sports lounge, bowling greens, TAB and main dining lounge all from one key service point, thereby reducing operational costs. The bar has rear-loading refrigeration with a coolroom behind, and a new goods lift from the basement cellars was installed to provide efficient back-of-house servicing.

## SJPBC OUTDOOR GAMING

St Johns Park Bowling Club's new outdoor gaming area, set in lush garden surrounds with black bamboo through the centre, is arguably one of Sydney's leading outdoor gaming spaces. The gaming services, such as cashiers and toilets, are located in a seamless floating 'service pod' in the centre of the indoor and outdoor gaming floor. The pod is finished in a sparkling gold finish, creating a shining jewel against the backdrop of the gaming machines.

The pod was created by reshaping the existing toilets, cashiers and bar, which were already situated in that location, but with very inefficient layouts. For example, there were three bar service areas that all had to be staffed separately in peak times. CI's aim was to consolidate this down to one efficient bar, with comping tray service directly integrated behind the main service bar.

## SJPBC NEW FOYER AND FAÇADE

The CI team has cleverly crafted its guiding design idea for the once barren and austere SJPBC entrance, creating a garden oasis for patrons under the hot, beating sun of Sydney's west. The façade features a screen with a leaf motif artwork, circular porthole cut-outs in the entry canopy, and brightly coloured glowing plants and light fittings in the foyer.

Columns through the foyer to the main bar represent trees, with the green circular motifs on the ceilings imitating the canopies of a lush rainforest. A massive lush green wall provides a cool backdrop and deceptively creates an effect of natural light in the middle of the club.

A gentle trickle of water can be heard from the amazing water feature flanking the foyer walls. Brightly coloured lily pads ping on this wall and take their inspiration from the Asian lily pad motifs and the koi fish throughout the gaming room and bathrooms beyond.

St Johns Park Bowling Club is worth a visit if you haven't already discovered the fresh new design look set to shape the industry in coming years – why don't you check it out for yourself? **C&PM**



The Directors at CI Partnership, Richard Cullinan and Vladimir Ivanov, have extensive experience in design and development across a wide range of pub and club projects. Cullinan is a recognised industry expert bringing key experience in bar and gaming projects, and with particular expertise in outdoor gaming. The CI team has completed about seven pub outdoor gaming solutions in the past four years, and have some very interesting large pub and club projects currently on the drawing board – so watch this space!