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october 2023 hospitalitydesign.com



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Hiatus Montreal

Near the top of 1 Place Ville Marie (PVM)—the downtown Montreal skyscraper designed by I.M. Pei with Raymond Affleck in the early 1960s—local firm Sid Lee Architecture reinterprets midcentury modernism at A5 Hospitality’s Hiatus restaurant. Although hallmarks of the era like wood paneling and touches of tubular metal are in place, they have been contemporized in dialogue with such pieces as the graphic floral carpet welcoming guests at the mechanical room-turned-speakeasy on the 45th floor. One level above is the dining room, capped in vaulted ceilings and awash in leather, red oak, and brown and green marble. Stepping off the elevator, diners pass the kitchen to reach their seats, taking in views of both the cooking process and Mont Royal in the background. To amplify sightlines, the interiors are largely devoid of vertical features. “A hanging planter that circles the 46th floor stands out,” says Sid Lee Architecture principal partner Martin Leblanc. “It’s uncommon that a space this high up offers views framed by an element reminiscent of a tree canopy.”

