Momo Sushi

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Momo Sushi

Building Information:

-Momo Sushi is a Japanese restaurant that specializes in sushi.

-The restaurant is located in Henderson on Stephanie St. and it was chosen because of its unique use of light, color, and texture.

-The dining area that was studied is approximately 800 SF.
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Lighting Techniques Currently Used:

- Most of the lighting for the bar comes from soffit mounted track lighting. These fixtures serve as ambient and task lighting.
- The rice paper fixture mounted on the soffit becomes illuminated by what appeared to be recessed can lights and is partially illuminated by the task lighting.
- Downlighting is the main technique being used.
Lighting Techniques Currently Used:

- The dining room is lit in two different ways: Side lighting is provided by the illuminated half wall that divides the bar and the dining room and downlighting is provided by recessed can fixtures and hanging luminaires.
- The illuminated wall and hanging luminaires serve as decorative and ambient lighting.
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Lighting Techniques Currently Used:

-The other side of the dining room introduces two other techniques: Cove lighting in the walls and focal lighting using surface mounted spot lights.
The lighting design within Momo Sushi is very successful in setting a relaxing and intimate mood. It also succeeds in the way that it divides the space into two sections: the bar and the dining room. The bar, being vivacious and full of activity from the sushi chefs and patrons, is very bright while the tables are more dim for an intimate dining experience. Despite these achievements some modifications can be made in order to better emphasize the intentions of the design.
The bar is themed around the glowing rice paper fixture underneath the soffit. Because recessed can lights are used to light this fixture from within, the rice paper box ends up with many glare spots. If tubular fluorescent fixtures were used the number of bright spots would be reduced.
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The cove lighting design on the walls is a great idea because it provides diffuse and soothing light into the space. However, the light rope fixtures that are used are coming undone and are visible through the screen. These light ropes also make various bright spots along the perimeter of the cove. One suggestion would be to use fluorescent tube lights along the perimeter of the coves in order to provide a more uniform light pattern. If there is not enough room, a better substitute would be a flexible LED neon light rope. This technology allows for a continuous light source.

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Task lighting is very important to the sushi chefs, but a series of fluorescent or LEF tube fixtures with a diffuser could provide the same amount of light without creating bright spots along the hanging fixture. The uninterrupted light provided from tube lighting would further reinforce the horizontal theme emphasized by the bar and rice paper luminaire fixture.
The lighting in the dining room is also very successful, but a few modifications can be made in order to better represent the lighting design. The half wall divider can be lit using fluorescent or LED tube lighting in a similar manner that cove lighting is done. This will eliminate the bright center spot on the translucent screen and would provide even diffuse light.
Another change that can be made to the dining room is to focus the spot lights on the center of the textured wall. This will place emphasis on the verticality and texture of the wall. Another change is to introduce an uplighting fixture at the bottom of the bamboo. By doing this, the shadows cast on the wall will reach the ceiling and thus further emphasize the verticality of the bamboo. Also, the same suggestion is made for the cove lighting in the dining as the cove lighting near the bar.
One of the areas that definitely needs to be considered is the entrance. In its current state it is very dark and uninviting. Adding a hanging pendant fixture that will produce a scallop around entrance area would begin to define the space.
Sources:

http://www.LEDtronics.com
http://www.trinorthlighting.com/