## Anton Grassl, Bosto

## SPECIALTY FOOD SHOP

## Cha Tea Bar

Longwood Galleria Food Court, Boston Connor Architecture, Arlington, Mass.

The Cha Tea Bar strays from the typical food court tenant, both in terms of appearance and product offering. In a sea of neon and plastic laminate, the natural, calming space commands attention despite its modest size. Occupying only 125 square feet, the three-sided bar utilizes every visible element to its benefit. "Every inch is thought out for visibility of product," noted judges.

Teas are displayed in clean, stainless-steel canisters, placed neatly in a wood grid backdrop. The food and the people also play an important part in the overall ambience, providing a theatrical appeal. Natural materials, like the Japanese maple canopy, hand-oiled soapstone bar and maple and black steel stools, reflect the shop's natural teas and gift pottery. Golden-toned, suspended light fixtures illuminate the bar in a soft glow. And interlocking maple shelves house the artful crafts while a clear glass display case presents pastries, muffins and sandwiches.

(See source lists beginning on page 102).



