

2000 ISP/VM+SD COMPETITION FIRST PLACE

► 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.



Location:
Longwood Galleria
Boston, Massachusetts

Program:
Design of a 125 sf
specialty food shop
serving tea in Longwood
Galleria.

Designer:
Connor Architecture

Client:
The Druker Company