

Berlin Report

April 2024

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1. HIMITSU

Project Overview

'Manifesto,' one of the largest food hubs in Europe, has opened in a shopping mall in the center of Berlin. Amidst 22 restaurants offering cuisine from around the world, there is a large staircase connecting the two floors. At the bottom of this staircase, utilized as a free space with cushions and low tables, a Japanese-style speakeasy bar opened at the end of last year, quietly attracting a lot of attention. Its name is "HIMITSU."

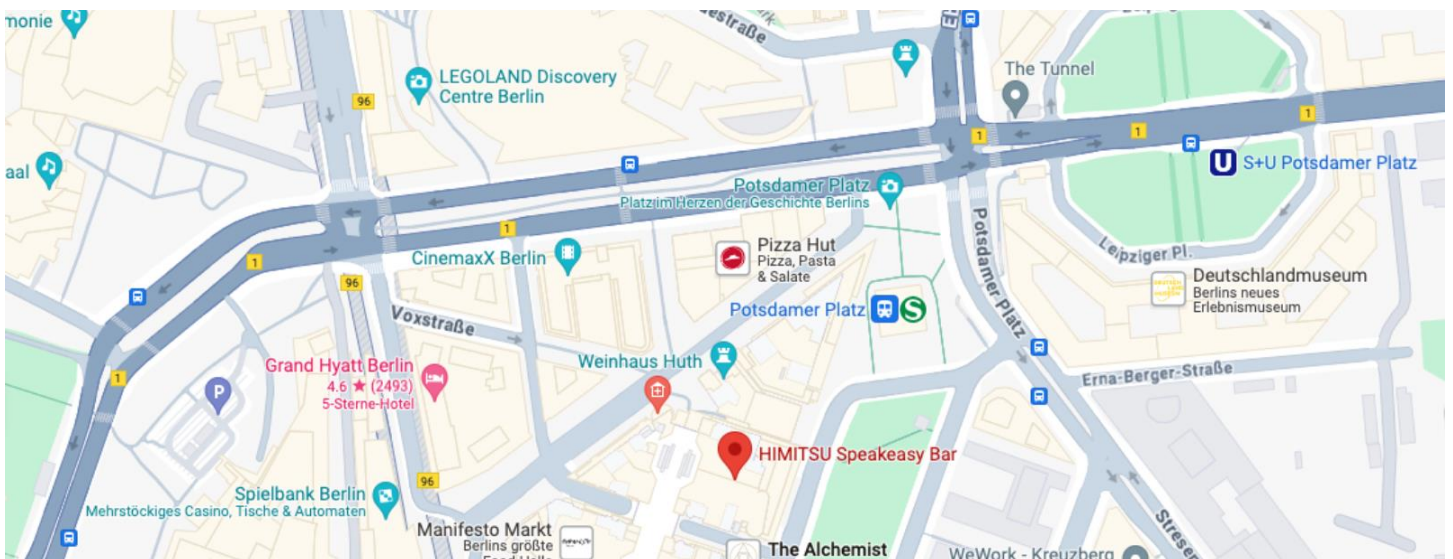
The entrance is so discreet that strangers struggle to locate it. Upon ringing the bell and opening the door, patrons are greeted by a bar with about 20 seats concealed behind a Bordeaux-colored velvet curtain. The interior was meticulously designed by Martin Barry, founder, CEO, and architect of Manifesto.

Envisioned as an authentic Tokyo bar, the interior exudes a tranquil and opulent ambiance. Dark brown wood was carefully chosen for the counter and tables, while deep red adorns the sofas and walls. The lighting is delicately subdued with small table lamps and tape lights installed downward on the counter. Spotlights are strategically placed at the back bar to elegantly accentuate the Japanese shochu, liqueurs, and large jars. These jars contain premixes of the bar's most popular cocktails. The menu features not only the solemnly poured Negroni from the jar but also the High Ball, which has gained popularity in Berlin bars in recent years. Another captivating nocturnal destination has emerged in Berlin.

Project Details

1. Client: Manifesto Market Berlin
2. Type of Business: Bar
3. Open Date: 03/12/2023
4. Location: Alte Potsdamer Strasse 7, 10785 Berlin
5. Size: 20 seats
6. Architect: Martin Barry
7. Website: <https://www.manifestomarket.com/berlin/potsdamer-platz/>

Location





The interpretation of "Japanese style" is interesting. They aimed to create a timeless and elegant interior. The use of dark colors and lighting emphasizes a sense of secrecy.





Bottles with impressive Japanese characters and large Bizen ware jars are placed on the spotted back bar.



2. Vektor

Project Overview

Just a decade ago, light artist Christopher Bauder made a big splash with his "Lichtgrenze" light installation, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In this work, he used light to recreate Berlin's "Wall" and release it into the sky. Now, Bauder presents "VEKTOR," an installation utilizing over 3,000 square meters of space in Kraftwerk, a vast thermoelectric power plant built in the 1960s. By synchronizing laser beams with sound and movement, the colossal industrial heritage space was revitalized once again.

Bauder installed 50 laser machines in a cavernous space measuring 100 meters long, 60 meters wide, and 25 meters high, crafting a diverse three-dimensional environment with laser beams choreographed to unique sounds. As laser beams inherently exist as lines, they are typically portrayed in two dimensions. However, Bauder ambitiously endeavored to recreate a physical three-dimensional space using light, employing technology to evoke emotional responses through movement and sound. To achieve this, a 3D model was initially crafted, followed by the generation and programming of 2D drawings based on the model. For the sound component, Bauder integrated sounds evoking shared memories, such as the church bells he listened to during his childhood.

In the 1960s, Kraftwerk, which supplied electricity to East Berlin residents, closed its doors in the 1990s. However, since 2006, it has been repurposed as a techno club, once again pulsating with the energy of the people. Now, Bauder employs laser beams to fashion ephemeral energy structures that dissolve with a mere touch. This exhibition also stands out as a remarkable achievement in spatial design.

Project Details

2. Type of Business: Exhibition
3. Open Date: 01/02/2024 – 07/04/2024
4. Location: Kraftwerk Berlin Köpenicker Strasse 70, 10179 Berlin
5. Size: 3560 m2
6. Artist: Christopher Bauder
7. Website: <https://www.vektor.art/>

Location

