

Berlin Report

August 2024

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1. H Candyman Izakaya

Project Overview

House of Small Wonder, a popular Japanese-style café in Berlin, has relocated to a new site, a former Jewish girls' school built in 1930 in the Bauhaus style, reminiscent of a greenhouse in a botanical garden. This summer, the restaurant transitioned into Izakaya "Candyman," offering a signature menu of Japanese izakaya-style dishes and highballs in the evenings.

Owner Shaul Margulies, along with his partner Makoto Watanabe, first opened the successful Japanese brasserie Zenkichi in Brooklyn, NY, in 2006, followed by the Japanese-style deli House of Small Wonder in 2010. In 2014, they brought their culinary vision to Berlin, establishing a new base for their restaurant.

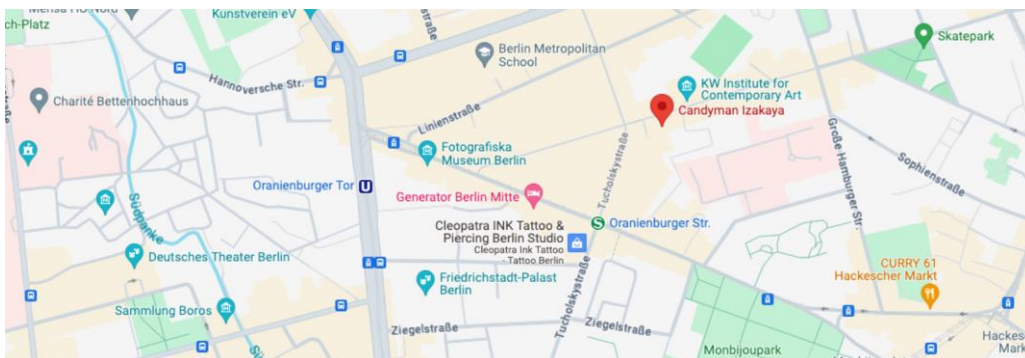
The interior of the new restaurant, like the previous one, was meticulously designed by Margulies himself, down to the smallest detail. Although the cuisine is Japanese-inspired, the new location's interior departs from the previous Japanese focus. Instead, it draws inspiration from memories of visiting Israeli grandparents, deeply rooted in the history of the former Jewish girls' school.

The space features wooden flooring with red tiles, complemented by vintage furniture, carpets, and antique-style wallpaper. While these elements might seem dark on their own, the small room's ceiling is lined with glass windows, which are illuminated to create a sense of openness and tranquility. In the high-ceilinged hall at the back of the room, wooden artworks spread across the ceiling in the opposite direction. The floor was raised, and the lighting was strategically placed with a lowered center of gravity, transforming the large, museum-like white space into a cozy and inviting environment. The light shining through the artwork onto the tables and walls, reminiscent of sunlight filtering through trees, creates a beautiful ambiance that invites guests to linger and enjoy the space.

Project Details

1. Client: House of Small Wonder, Candyman
2. Type of Business: Izakaya, Cafe
3. Open Date: 15/06/2024
4. Location: Auguststrasse 11-13, 10117 Berlin
5. Size: 150 seats
6. Interior: Shaul Margulies
7. Website: <https://www.houseofsmallwonder.de/>

Location Map





Above: Scattered antique objects and greenery. Below: The hall in the back is partially raised with a platform to raise the floor, and wooden art works cover the ceiling without oppression, transforming the open space with an 8-meter ceiling into a relaxing, low center of gravity space.





Above: The interior is decorated in green and soothing red tones. To keep it from becoming too dark, light blue chairs and ceiling window panes add bright accents.



Above: The entrance features a mosaic from the original construction, with red and green as the primary colors. Bottom right: A blindfolded platform is installed in the center of the hall. Bottom left: Old objects are arranged on shelves, creating a partition.



2. HOUSE OF RYE

Project Overview

Stork Club Destillerie, recognized as the producer of the world's best rye whiskey at the 2019 World Whiskies Awards (WWA), is located in Spreewald, 60 km south of central Berlin. This summer, the distillery unveiled the House of Rye, a dedicated space to showcase their products, situated in a corner of a red-brick building that once served as a repair shop for public transportation buses and trucks. The building, now facing the moat (Flutgraben) along the Spree River—a popular area where clubs gather—has been transformed into a bar, a small gin distillery, and a whiskey warehouse.

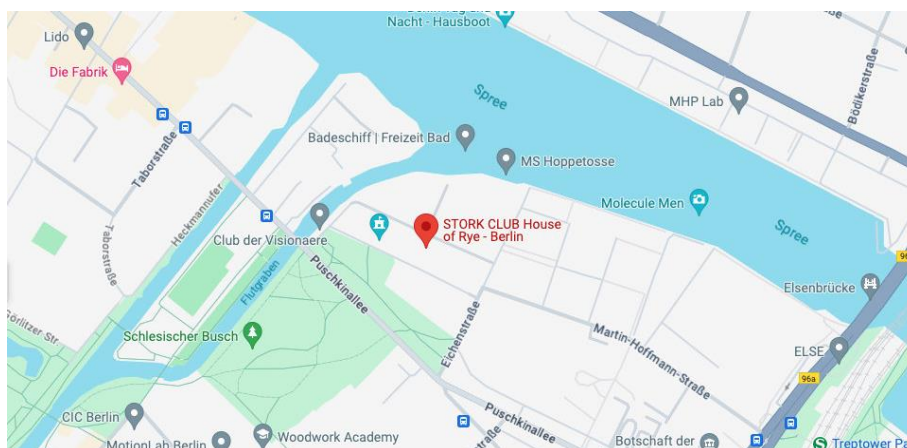
The bar, which faces the street, offers whiskey and gin-based drinks made with local rye from Stork Club Destillerie and its co-owner, gin maker HUMBOLDT Rye Gin. The interior concept is inspired by the dense greenery associated with Alexander von Humboldt, a Berlin-born naturalist who traveled to Africa and South America. Butterfly specimens and microscopes, paying homage to Humboldt's explorations, adorn the bar shelves alongside bottles of whiskey and gin.

The bar counter was crafted by combining concrete boards with old Berlin house doors, accentuated with brass plates. The furniture, custom-made by a Berlin workshop, complements the industrial interior with exposed piping while maintaining the bar's sophisticated atmosphere. In the warehouse at the back, American oak, German oak, sherry casks, and various other barrels are lined up along three walls. A large table is planned for the center of the warehouse to host tastings and other events in the future, promising exciting developments for visitors.

Project Details

1. Client: HOUSE OF RYE
2. Type of Business: Distillery, Bar, Event-space
3. Open Date: 01/06/2024
4. Location: Am Flutgraben 2, 12435 Berlin
5. Size: 45 m2
6. Interior: Werkbande
7. Website: <https://shop.stork-club-whiskey.com/pages/house-of-rye>

Location Map





Above: Everything is movable except the bar counter to accommodate large events.

Below: A warehouse lined with barrels can be used for tastings and parties.





Above: bar shelves pop the shape of the opening. Bottom right: A staircase connects the first floor, which opens fully to the street, to the salon-style mezzanine. Bottom left: Vintage furniture on the mezzanine floor.

