

HAPPY'S BAR + KITCHEN

*Boston, Massachusetts**Client: Good Essen, LLC*

AWARDS

MERIT AWARD FOR DESIGN – SIT-DOWN RESTAURANT
RETAIL DESIGN INSTITUTE, 2013

After designing Tico and Via Matta, two successful Boston restaurants owned by celebrity chef Michael Schlow, Elkus Manfredi Architects collaborated with the restaurateur for a third time to design Happy's Bar & Kitchen, a new variation on Schlow's mission to offer remarkable cuisine in a casual atmosphere. Happy's menu is a decidedly gourmet take on classic American comfort food, but the chef wanted the atmosphere to be like a familiar neighborhood watering hole with décor that has been collected over time.

Combining elements that evoke every decade since 1930, Elkus Manfredi's designers crafted a witty, unpretentious space mirroring Happy's menu — part diner/delicatessen, part “see and be seen” urban hot spot, part Sunday dinner at Grandma's. At the entry, graffiti-covered walls deliver a colorful blast of street energy. The 15-seat bar is surrounded by scattered clusters of kitschy mix-and-match upholstered sofas and armchairs. Glass doors open onto a sidewalk terrace; an oversized 1950s ad covers another wall. The dining room blends inscribed tables, leather banquettes, and quirky artwork. Beyond is the long wooden chef's table with fire-engine-red kitchen chairs. A mix of chandeliers lights the retro tin ceiling, while “adult milkshakes” fuel the good times. As one patron summed up the Happy's ambiance, “It's impossible to be sad in this place.”



