

TICO

Boston, Massachusetts

Client: Good Essen, LLC



AWARDS

BEST NEW RESTAURANTS
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The creation of renowned chef/owner Michael Schlow (Radius, Via Matta, Alta Strada), Tico is set in an existing 6,500-square-foot property in Boston's upscale Back Bay neighborhood. Its gourmet cuisine is an inventive small-plate medley of Latin flavors born of the chef's love for Spain, Mexico, and South America.

Schlow asked Elkus Manfredi to create a Latin-inspired space, unscripted and eclectic, "like a Latin bazaar," as he put it. The resulting design of the 4000-square-foot dining room and bar is a plunge into seductive Latin culture and vibe. While the cuisine is sophisticated, Tico's atmosphere has the unaffected, welcoming charm of a cantina.

The space doesn't feel "art-directed," but more like a collection of favorite objects personal to the chef's vision. The open kitchen invites onlookers. Artisanal chairs and tables were built to resemble antiques spotted in Mexico; bright tiles set off the ceviche and tequila bars, with stools pulled up to the counters; ceilings feature different motifs and distressed finishes inspired by South American haciendas. A single column is covered in what feels like layered old posters on a Spanish wall; colors are sultry with the spicy, hot temperatures of a Latin world. In short, the design of Tico is a personal and inspired recipe, an experiential extension of the cuisine itself.







