



 **BENGAL COAST**
SPICE TRADERS





Set on the first floor of the Centrum Building, a Dallas high-rise combining retail, residential and office space, the 4,025-square-foot restaurant's location did not present many exterior design opportunities. However, the conversion of a landscaped exterior area into an atrium created a light and airy space that has quickly become one of the more desirable dining areas within the restaurant. The atrium features a



translucent roof array with silk fabrics hanging down; vestiges of regional décor—bamboo placemats and floor coverings, stools hand-carved in India and a potted banana tree—found throughout the restaurant further convey the Eastern theme.

Inside the front entry the use of large timber columns makes a strong initial statement and contrasts well with the abundance of tile and stone featured within. Earth-toned tiles and stone are complemented by gold onyx countertops and tumbled onyx on the bar. Colorful silk and similar fabrics provide a softness against the earthen materials. Entrants are greeted in the entry vestibule by a compelling spice wall featuring 15 transparent display cases filled with spices from around the world such as cumin and mustard seed; many patrons have inquired about obtaining their own spice wall for presentation in their homes.

Completed on a very tight schedule—conceptual designs took place in July and the restaurant opened in December—Bengal Coast has provided Dallas restaurant aficionados with a unique fusion of Southeast Asian cuisine in a setting with warm, inviting colors that feels right out of Bollywood. The design by Techcon Dallas afforded a captivating setting that is often commented on as much or more than the food, helping the initial Bengal Coast restaurant achieve great success and paving the way for future locations. ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



*TOP RIGHT: A contemporary blast of flavor and color, culinary essentials such as mustard powder adorn the entrance.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: Atrium dining offers patrons the desired outdoor feel, even in the winter months; during spring and summer the large, retractable glass walls allow the outdoors to come in.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

*FACING PAGE LEFT: Day and evening, the atrium provides diners with an indulgent feeling in which they are surrounded by subtle glows of light and wispig fabric.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*

*FACING PAGE RIGHT: Luxurious countertops define the Bengal Coast bar, which is surrounded by hand-sculpted columns made of rustic wood and accented with onyx sconces and pendants.
Photograph by Scott Hagar*



Woodlands Grill at Watters Creek



Techcon Dallas, Inc.

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ Providing a modern interpretation of classic American cuisine, Woodlands Grill is an exciting restaurant franchise in which Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture presents a compelling contemporary backdrop ideally suited for enjoying innovative interpretations of American fare. As the fourth location of this unique restaurant offering, Woodlands Grill at Watters Creek, located in the heart of a prestigious mixed-use development in Allen, will bring an inviting new upscale dining option to north Texas.

Designed by Bruce Russo of Techcon Dallas, Woodlands Grill is inspired by the extraordinary designs of Frank Lloyd Wright—particularly by Wright’s magnum opus, Fallingwater, but also by his Prairie School vernacular and other captivating designs—and Wrightian influences are evidenced in abundant natural stone, rich hardwoods and clean contemporary lines. Much as Wright’s designs so often deftly employed horizontal motifs, Woodlands Grill conveys

*FACING PAGE: Stucco awnings and stone columns surround the entryway of Woodlands Grill, adding an earthy feel and a strong linear appearance.
Project Design Team: Bruce Russo, Joe Russo, Laura Fate and Victor Badillo.
Rendering by CG Rendering*



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a grand sense of the horizontal through ubiquitous horizontal banding and an array of levels, which ever so subtly create an appropriate human scale that is wholly engaging to patrons. This inviting aura is further conveyed through the varying planes of the ceiling topography—for example, eight-foot-tall ceilings in booths give way to 12-foot-tall ceilings just outside, creating interest and spaces of intimacy and repose.

Abundant glass is a defining feature that, along with a prevalence of stone on both the exterior and interior, blurs the line between inside and outside and creates continuity throughout the space. Moreover, stately stone used on the exterior comprises the front of the bar and a remarkable stone fireplace behind; a compelling water feature at the bar displays water cascading down glass between sculpture, which in many ways conveys the feeling of the creek's running water at Fallingwater.

A singular restaurant concept in which the architecture is equally if not more compelling than the menu, Woodlands Grill at Watters Creek utilizes Wright's trademark horizontal flair and subtle but engaging details as interpreted by Techcon Dallas to create the perfect setting for enjoying contemporary culinary creations that, much like Wright himself, are uniquely American. ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

*TOP RIGHT: Wood paneling creates a dramatic accent on feature walls, which are arrayed with accessories to add a touch of home. Period carvings adorn the booth walls, adding subtle elegance.
Rendering by CG Rendering*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: The furniture at Woodlands, made of rich cherry hardwood, adds to the harmonious balance of new design with a classical sense of style.
Rendering by CG Rendering*

*FACING PAGE LEFT: The grand stone fireplace flanked by stylized, floating wood shelves adds warmth and style to the bar, making it the perfect place to relax.
Rendering by CG Rendering*

*FACING PAGE RIGHT: The suspended ceiling details and use of fine wood materials convey the rich character seen throughout Wright's designs.
Rendering by CG Rendering*



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