Woodlands Grill

Techcon Dallas, Inc.

The flagship Woodlands Grill opened outside of Chicago to great acclaim. This American grill was a new attempt to meld great food with great architecture. Here, the area was made famous in the architecture world through Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. The design for Woodlands Grill would take cues from that iconic structure, so that the astute architectural eye would recognize the influence, while the average diner would find him or herself immersed in the warmth of a comfortable restaurant. Techcon Dallas continued Woodlands Grill with its Westminster addition in Orchard Town Center.

FACING PAGE: The main dining room showcases elaborate high ceilings and an oversized fireplace that grounds the room as its main focal point. Project Design Team: Bruce Russo, Joe Russo and Laura Fate. Photograph by Scott Hagar







In Westminster, just outside of Denver, Woodlands Grill is a hybrid, designed specifically for the region. The restaurant brings in a similar tie-in with Frank Lloyd Wright's work—an amalgamation of several of Wright's projects, not just Fallingwater—and reconfigures the whole for Colorado. The obvious draw is the water feature. Cascading over stone, the water feature recalls Wright's noted structure, but here plays another hand in ambience. Bruce Russo and his team at Techcon Dallas designed the project and set about to merge the overall design of this Prairie-style structure with the building's shell, matching the architecture with what existed, along with the architectural integrity of the Woodlands mission.

The signature waterfall is matched, likewise, with a continuous fireplace, a double-face design element that opens through disparate spaces in the restaurant, separating the long, rectangular vernacular of the dining room from the bar and lounge area. What we have here is an exclusive ski-lodge or pub-type aesthetic that works perfectly with Colorado's sensibility. As well, the fireplace continues throughout, even onto the patio. Because Colorado's weather changes are much more dramatic than Woodlands' other spots, say Dallas and Chicago, this outdoor heating element allows for patio dining straight through December.

Awash with natural stones and woods that create a wholly engaging interior aura, Woodlands Grill is at once relaxing and inviting. An engaging contemporary architectural solution paying homage to an architectural legend, Woodlands Grill is the perfect backdrop for leisure and progressive American fare, with a Colorado twist—read: a lot of steaks and chops. Designed by Techcon Dallas, this unique restaurant offering has brought a new local flavor to the Denver area, and is a delectable extension of a fascinating, casually upscale American gathering place.



ABOVE: The furniture at Woodlands Grill, made of rich cherry hardwood, adds to the harmonious balance of new design with a classical sense of style.

FACING PAGE TOP: Wood paneling creates a dramatic accent on feature walls, which are arrayed with accessories to add a touch of home.

FACING PAGE BOTTOM: The bar is handsomely appointed with stacked stone and simple furnishings reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's sense of style.
Photographs by Scott Hagar