

DAS ARCHITECTS TRANSFORM LE BEC-FIN

PHILADELPHIA, PA – On Sunday, August 11, Susan M. Davidson, IDC and David A. Schultz, AIA, Principals of nationally distinguished DAS Architects and Designers, will commence renovations on Philadelphia's most famous French restaurant, Le Bec-Fin, 1523 Walnut Street. The four week endeavor will completely transform Le Bec-Fin's formal interiors from an ornate, Louis XVI setting into a gracious and luxurious setting reminiscent of a Paris salon in the late 19th century. DAS and an expert team of artists and craftsmen will work sixteen hours a day to complete the project in time for the restaurant's grand reopening on Saturday, September 7.

"Georges Perrier told us to change everything but his three crystal chandeliers," says Schultz, who renovated Le Bec-Fin's art deco façade over a decade ago, and who has been working closely with Perrier, Le Bec-Fin's owner and chef to create a dramatic new interior. "Our design will introduce a wealth of color, light and texture while retaining the restaurant's celebrated elegance."

In order to recreate turn-of-the-century French decadence, DAS selected top artisans – woodworkers, furniture makers, specialty painters and expert plasterers – who have already begun crafting fixtures, accessories and installations for the project.

The transformation of Le Bec-Fin will begin with a new foyer, where a decorative coffer with customized lighting will add height to the entryway. DAS has also designed an ornate, freestanding host podium made of rich French walnut wood. A new grand entry door will serve as a symbolic entrance to the restaurant, separating the dining area from the lobby.

Adjoining the foyer, the front dining room will be a showpiece of blue and golden hues, where elaborate millwork burnished with gold leaf will highlight mouldings and cornices. Four wooden archways containing beveled mirror doors will create a pleasing, spacious effect. Behind one set of these doors, a wine cabinet will house 400 bottles from Le Bec-Fin's famed wine list.

DAS will transform the main dining room into an elegant tapestry of light, color and texture. Subtle ivory tones will provide a refined backdrop for opulent floor-to-ceiling millwork pilasters inlaid with golden silk with latticework patterning. Graceful wall sconces will reside on more silk panels woven with rich botanical designs surrounded by antiqued mirrors and delicate wood frames. Touches of deep azure, rich ruby and dense emeralds will brighten the tasteful room. Sleek chairs of light wood will bear soft, leather upholstery and silk backs adorned with red and gold leaves. On the custom-designed carpet, three medallions placed directly beneath the three chandeliers will reflect in the fixtures' glittering crystals.

An open winding staircase, formerly hidden from view, will lead to a landing specially designed to serve as Georges Perrier's royal balcony. Beyond the balcony, the stair will continue to the mezzanine dining room where patrons can overlook the restaurant through an open, gilt window frame.

Georges Perrier moved Le Bec-Fin to its current location in 1983. Since that time, the chef-owner has earned 5 stars from the Mobile Guide, as well as best restaurant ratings from the Zagat restaurant guide, Gourmet, Food & Wine and Condé Nast Traveller magazines. Not one to rest on his laurels, Perrier hired DAS to renovate Le Bec-Fin in order to maintain his highest standards of fine dining.

DAS is highly esteemed for their work in creating more than 70 prestigious restaurants including: the elegant Mediterranean restaurant **Savona** on Philadelphia's Main Line; the award-winning **Novelty Restaurant**, in Old City Philadelphia; and **Twenty 21**, an upscale dining venture in Center City. DAS also served as architect for several projects for the **Starr Restaurant Organization** including the French bistro **Blue Angel**, the futuristic Asian **Pod**, and **Morimoto**, a brilliant new restaurant featuring contemporary Japanese cuisine.

Outstanding new restaurant projects include: **Normandy Farm**, a historic estate that will be converted into a luxurious restaurant, hotel, ball room and conference facility in Blue Bell, PA; the expansion of **Rat's**, the stunning restaurant located at the world-renowned park and museum, *Grounds For Sculpture* in Hamilton, NJ; **Roux Three**, a brilliant new restaurant in Edgemont, PA; the creation of a new entertainment and community space at the University of Pennsylvania named for the WXPB's radio program, the **World Café**; and **Moro**, a contemporary Northern Italian bistro to open this fall in Wilmington, DE.

DAS offers a diverse range of architectural, interior design and consulting services such as space planning, site analysis, theme development and project management. Since 1985, DAS has successfully completed a wide variety of projects that include public spaces, corporate businesses, law firms, retail spaces, hotels and private residences. DAS recently introduced **DAS Interiors, Inc.**, a new affiliate company specializing in procurement services. Services include the selection, specification, bidding, ordering, tracking, inspection and installation of one-of-a kind furnishings, finishes, accessories and artwork for clients.

Principals Susan M. Davidson, IDC and David A. Schultz, AIA are regularly featured among the country's top designers in publications such as *Hospitality Design*, *Nation's Restaurant News*, *Contract Design*, *Chef Magazine*, *Restaurants USA*, *Retail Design* and *Interiors*.

Le Bec-Fin will be closed during renovations, but DAS architects will be available for interviews with members of the press. The offices of DAS are located in the heart of downtown Philadelphia, at 8 Penn Center, Suite 100. For more information or to arrange for an appointment, please call 215.751.9008.

For more information, contact Clare Pelino or Jennie Hatton at Profile Public Relations, 215.985.2106

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST