

# cer

magazine

INTERNATIONAL 51

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Cersaie 2021 returns  
as an in-person show

## TRENDS

The goal?  
Water savings!

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High-quality products  
and customer care

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Odile Decq: Creativity  
beyond habit

# A new Asian dining experience

THE FIFTH RESTAURANT IN THE SUSHI CLUB CHAIN IN CESANO MADERNO HAS WON THE COMMERCIAL CATEGORY OF THE "CERAMICS AND DESIGN" AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ROLE IN PIONEERING A NEW ASIAN CULINARY EXPERIENCE WITHIN A NEW AESTHETIC AND FORMAL CONTEXT

by Donatella Bollani

The interior design project for the Sushi Club restaurant, a collaboration between a young food entrepreneur and Maurizio Lai from Maurizio Lai Architects, envisages design not just as a means of generating an experience, forms and atmospheres but also a tool that contributes to the creation of a distinctive brand.

An architect, scenographer and designer, Maurizio Lai is a highly original artist renowned for his visually stunning restaurant, retail and hospitality spaces. At the beginning of his career he worked in television and fashion design, but soon branched off into the commercial and tourism sectors.

Winner of the *Restaurant & Bar Design Award* for Best Lighting Design International, he was nominated for the *Dezeen Awards 2020* for Best Interior Design Studio of the Year.

With locations in Cesano Maderno, Saronno, Corbetta, Castellanza and Lipomo (Como), Lai's restaurant format has transformed the concept of

the Asian dining experience by placing it within a completely novel aesthetic and formal context. The restaurants are conceived as a kind of scenic backdrop, with a compositional language that is expressed through the materials, the design of the volumes and the diffused lighting that culminates in the large central light installation.

In Lai's creations, the movable furniture, the light fixtures and the scenery are all designed and built by hand.

The restaurant extends over an approximately 1,000 square metre area on two levels.

The interiors follow a continuous colour scheme that makes preferential use of warm and dark tones and contrasts effectively with the dramatic lighting design.

The light inserts on the vertical surfaces are arranged in a precise pattern that is enhanced by the ceiling installations and further amplified by the wall-mounted mirrors in the main hall.





**SUSHI CLUB RESTAURANT**

**PROJECT**

MAURIZIO LAI ARCHITECTS  
WWW.LAISTUDIO.COM

**PHOTOS**

ANDREA MARTIRADONNA  
WWW.MARTIRADONNA.IT

**CERAMIC SURFACES**

CERAMICA SANT'AGOSTINO  
WWW.CERAMICA  
SANTAGOSTINO.IT  
DSG CERAMICHE  
WWW.DSGCERAMICHE.IT

**YEAR OF COMPLETION**

2016



 Go to the Project Gallery for other socialisation facilities in Italy and worldwide



ABOVE: THE MAIN DINING ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

**SPACES**  
recreation/  
socialisation

**APPLICATIONS**  
interior floor  
coverings



Blendart  
Grey



Concrete  
Graphite

**ceramic surfaces**

CERAMICA  
SANT'AGOSTINO  
porcelain tile  
Blendart Grey  
90x90 cm

DSG CERAMICHE  
Concrete Graphite  
60x120, 120x120 cm  
12 mm thickness

**technical characteristics**

water absorption  
(ISO 10545-3):  $\leq 0.1\%$   
modulus of rupture and  
breaking strength  
(ISO 10545-4):  $40 \text{ N/mm}^2$   
deep abrasion resistance  
(ISO 10545-6):  $\leq 145 \text{ mm}^3$

coefficient of linear thermal  
expansion (ISO 10545-8):  
compliant  
thermal shock resistance  
(ISO 10545-9): compliant  
crazing resistance  
(ISO 10545-11): compliant  
frost resistance  
(ISO 10545-12): compliant  
chemical resistance  
(ISO 10545-13):  
UA ULA UHA  
staining resistance  
(ISO 10545-14): class 5  
slip resistance (DIN 51130):  
R10

**certifications**  
LEED (Blendart)



The dialogue between materials and light is clearly evident in all the rooms, including the stairs and passageways which maintain the same immersive atmosphere as the rest of the restaurant. Ceramic tiles play an important role due to their functional characteristics as well as their ability to contrast with and enhance the original lighting design through compositional and colour choices. The porcelain floor and wall tiles echo the location's warm, dark tones. This applies equally to the aged wood-effect tiles from Ceramica Sant'Agostino's Blendart Grey collection, which recreate a varnished effect superimposed on the wood grain, and to the Concrete collection slabs from DSG Ceramiche – the porcelain stoneware division of Decoratori Bassanesi – chosen in a large format for the walls of the staircases and landings.

**ALSO SEE**

"Ceramics of Italy – Ahead of our Time" tells the story of Italian tile

➤ [WWW.CERAMICA.INFO/EN/CERAMICS-OF-ITALY-AHEAD-OF-OUR-TIME/](http://WWW.CERAMICA.INFO/EN/CERAMICS-OF-ITALY-AHEAD-OF-OUR-TIME/)



ABOVE: THE UPPER-FLOOR DINING ROOM  
LEFT: THE WINERY