

HARVEST BISTRO, CLOSTER

Designed by Meryl Stern, Meryl Stern Interiors, Haworth

- “I wanted it to feel like home.” That was designer Meryl Stern’s plan for this welcoming space—and it was a philosophy well-suited to both the eatery’s fare (French bistro comfort food) and its name, which conjures images of a bountiful feast. To execute her vision of warm sophistication, she chose a color palette of golds, browns and greens. Venetian plaster in a honey hue adds texture to the walls, while rich oak floors offer a warm contrast.
- “The fireplace is personal,” says Stern. “Everyone loves sitting next to it.” Indeed, the impressive structure makes a statement—it’s fashioned of cultured stone in a random stacked pattern. Stern also raised it off the floor to give every table a generous view.
- To highlight the room’s focal points, Stern used layered lighting. A large French chandelier anchors the space; drawing the eye up to the high tea-stained ceiling are spotlights housed in criss-crossed beams, while, along the perimeter, sconces draw attention to the textured walls.
- A combination of banquettes and free-floating tables creates a workable flow in the space. “It’s not designed very commercially—many elements are like those you’d find in a home,” Stern notes. A harvest table adorned with flowers and candles divides the room and acts as a protective wall for patrons in the middle of the room. As the designer says, “No one likes to feel like they are floating in the middle of a restaurant.” ■

