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Miss Vans, Vietnamese Eating House Interior Design statement

Prepared by **BRANDWORKS**

Date: **28.10.21**

OVERVIEW

SITE AREA	160sqm
SITE ADDRESS	Shop 4 113-119 Marcus Clark St CANBERRY CITY ACT 2601
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	December 2020
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	October 2021
PROJECT COST	Est. \$450k
DESIGN TEAM	Interior Design agency: BrandWorks Studio Creative Lead for Interiors: Sophie Metcalfe Interior designer: Emily Florencia Account Director / Project Manager: Eleena Tan Creative Director: Michael Paul Tan
PHOTOGRAPHER:	Rohan Thomson

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KEY SUPPLIERS AND COLLABORATORS

BUILDER	Summerset Construction
SPECIALTY FINISHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Custom upholstery by Emily Ziz.- Perini Tiles (Fish Scale wall tile)- Jatana Interiors (Urban Night Genuine Reproduction Encaustic Tile)- Red Furniture Linoleum - FORBO- Aged Mirror - Spectrum Art Glass- Highland Green paint finish - Dulux
LIGHTING DESIGN / SUPPLY	Ambience Lighting and Edison Light Globes
FURNITURE SUPPLIER	Custom Linoleum tables - Identity Furniture Custom Bentwood Chairs - JMH Furniture

Project brief (150 words):

BrandWorks were engaged by client Andrew Duong (formerly Baby Su and Lazy Su), to embark on the end to end branding and interior design of his latest venture 'Miss Vans'. Miss Vans, inspired by traditional Vietnamese 'Eating Houses' is a restaurant and bar, honouring age-old recipes in a nostalgic and homely setting.

Project description (please describe the project in approx. 300 words):

The interiors are an eclectic homage to French-Vietnamese colonial architecture, a common sight found in cities such as Ho Chi Minh or 'Old Saigon'. Reminiscent of the shophouses and mansions, the venue features high ceilings with suspended tropical greenery, overhead fans, tiled flooring, antiqued mirrors and lattice arches. The facade has been designed to mimic that of the streetscape, engraved timbers, awnings and mock windows all come together to help patrons escape the city hustle and bustle.

There are two entryways to this site which pose a challenge for defining seating and circulation. The team opted to anchor the seating with a central banquette, which allowed for a relaxed open plan closer to the bifold line. This then created a strong circulation corridor which allows for easy traffic during busy lunch periods.

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The interior decoration has almost been treated like 'set design' to evoke feelings of cultural homage and nostalgia. Inside we are given a glimpse as to 'who is Miss Vans?'. Eclectic upholsteries customised for BrandWorks by the team at Emily Ziz, aged terracotta pot plants and vintage inspired accessories will have you wondering if she is someone's grandmother passing down recipes perfected over time. A central banquette commands attention, with green columns defining the floral upholstery. The datum line of the columns have been detailed with painted wainscotting, a detail often seen in a lot of colonial architecture. Scalloped industrial pendants hang above seating areas which add intimacy and eclecticity to the space.

Project materials (please describe the materials used in 250 words):

The colour palette has been influenced by the food offering with lush herb tones, vibrant chilli reds and spiced mustards. The finishes themselves have been carefully chosen to evoke feelings of old world nostalgia with distressed paintwork and aged surfaces. Antique inspired encaustic tiles were shipped from Jatana Interiors up in Byron Bay as they stocked the exact tone we needed to complement the vibrant reds used throughout the space. Our senior designer worked directly with the team at Emily Ziz to customise two different floral upholsteries that can be seen eclectically peppered around the space. Both the banquette and custom furniture have been upholstered in this design.

The existing brick was painted and sandblasted to reveal a green datum line that looks as if it's been weathered down over time. Tasmanian Oak is the chosen timber for it's warm and contemporary aesthetic. The entire internal facade has been custom fabricated to mimic a vintage shop front, and all joinery has been fabricated to match. The front bar and back bar tiling is a complementary fish scale from Perini tiles and all powder coating has been specified to match.

What were the design challenges and how were they overcome? The main internal facade faces a bright and clinical looking shopping centre. We wanted to really allow the diners to transcend into the world of Miss Vans so wanted to ensure this facade was designed as theatrically as possible, allowing a strong and exciting visual externally, but also closing off the garish site to the diners inside.

It was imperative that we utilised the outdoor area to its full potential. The site was handed to us with a step down which split the entire outdoor seating area in half and rendered it almost useless. We demolished the original perimeter and constructed a plinth which allowed us to make a flush decking across the entire space. The result is an area with prized outdoor bar seating which allows our client to seat people on the window line at cocktail hour. Placing patrons outside here creates theatre and enticing activation.

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Where did you draw inspiration from for the project? French colonial architecture of Vietnam

Were there any unique aspects to the project you can tell us about? The joinery was custom designed with a curved radius to all of the legs as a repeated detail. All of the furniture was upholstered with the custom upholstery designed specifically for Miss Vans. We also wanted to pay homage to wrought iron motifs found throughout Vietnam, and we achieved this by specifying aluminium fencing to be powder coated and placed over the front bar veneer, creating a three dimensional cladding.