EDAMAME SUSHI + GRILL

CHALLENGES:
The Client wished to try out a new dining concept. He tasked us with creating an upscale Pan Asian restaurant based upon a cafeteria-style delivery.

The project leasehold is an incredibly long and narrow space with a west-facing storefront entry. The orientation of the storefront, size and geometry of the space presented light control issues and planning challenges. Direct sunlight penetrates deeply into the space in afternoon/early evening hours. The available dining space was limited and the cafeteria queue/service area needed to be arrayed in a manner that made the space even narrower, occupying nearly 40% of the width.

RESPONSE:
We investigated a mezzanine to exploit the vertical space, but there was a large girder bisecting the leasehold. We resolved this issue by creating figural dining pods at various levels to capitalize on, and activate, the vertical volume. A green wrapper is employed to unify the many object elements in the volume. The figural spaces within the wrapper are analogous to edamame beans within their shell.

We introduced a patterned screen as a foil to the equipment zone of the cafeteria kitchen and as a device to amplify the illuminated green wrapper behind.

We employed patterned glass in varying degrees of transparency and reflectivity to “camouflage” the supports for the dining pods. The glass effectively dematerializes the concealed structure, floats the pods and allowed us to shape an entry realm that diffuses the west sunlight.

Creating two very distinct sides to the narrow leasehold visually expands the space and mitigates the narrowness issue. With opposing pods elevated above each end of the long dimension, the design visually reverses the orientation of the space away from the narrow dimension and frames an internally focused environment.
View From Dining Pod
Dining Pod – Toward Entry
Cafeteria Line – Entry Under Dining Pod
Plans