

TIMELESS, NOT TRENDY

*Gottwald & Assoc.
creates 'sense of place' for N.Y.
neighborhood bar & grill*

In a town where trendy restaurants come and go each month, it's refreshing to have a newcomer open up whose main objective is not to be "in" or "out," but just to be "there." Zig Zag Bar & Grill on West 23rd Street in Manhattan was designed by Janusz Gottwald & Associates Architects, P.C., New York, for clients who wanted an understated, timeless space to attract neighborhood patrons.

Subtle detailing is key to the 2,200-sq.-ft., 56-seat restaurant's clubby charm. To achieve this look, the design team started from scratch. The space, which is located on the first floor of a five-story, 80-year-old building, had been renovated over and over again without regard for structure. "We completely gutted the interior and removed seven layers of beer-soaked floors," says Janusz Gottwald, AIA, principal in charge.

Sound-proofing required

A sound studio located above the restaurant made it necessary for Janusz to devise adequate sound-proofing, which he did by installing sound blankets between joists, fiberboard layers, and a double sheet-rock ceiling. A hardwood floor treated with

View of entire restaurant from entryway shows off rich mahogany paneling and hardwood floors. The 53-ft.-long bar is "zig-zagged" to allow niches for people to talk. A stepped ceiling follows restaurant layout, distinguishing bar from dining area. Lighted from behind, liquor bottles form a colorful montage and draw attention to the bar.

