

Dream designs: step inside Britain's most striking bars and restaurants

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Bala Bay – Southwark, London



Nestled under a railway bridge at Union Yard Arches, you'll find [Bala Bay](#), a stylish bistro designed by architect Afroditi Krassa that captures the energetic, sun-soaked climate of Tel Aviv. Look out for mosaic tiling, Israeli palm fronds and pops of burnt orange which scatter beneath the aluminium and exposed-brick dome. Carefully arranged lighting and traditional breeze blocks imported from Tel Aviv are used to recreate the city's dusk-lit shapes and dancing shadows, which form as the sun goes down over the glass-fronted entrance.



1,148

Culinary theatrics is one thing, but a meal tastes better when we're surrounded by extraordinary design.

According to some of Britain's [leading neuroscientists](#), the environment we eat in can have a "profound" effect on taste. Their research indicates that colour, lighting and even room shapes perform as "seasoning" to the flavours that we experience.

With that in mind, we've hunted down some of the UK's most spectacular restaurants and bars to set the appetite alight with.

From the Barbie-pink enclaves of the Gallery at Sketch (pictured above) to a renovated Gothic chapel and a remote island cottage, come take a look at venues that stretch the boundaries of the modern dining experience.