### SECOND COURSE: MILLVALE MOOSE

#### Mobile/Adaptable Cafe Feature Elements for Regional Non-Profit / Pittsburgh, PA / 2019 Urban Design Build Studio (UDBS)

The mission of Pittsburgh non-profit New Sun Rising (NSR) is to 1) Create economic opportunity, 2) Solve social challenges, and 3) Strengthen the vibrancy of place. NSR asked the Urban Design Build Studio (UDBS) and PROJECT RE\_ to design and fabricate feature elements for its new café at the Millvale Moose Food + Energy Hub. The mission of New Sun Rising aligns directly with the mission of the UDBS—to develop appropriate, affordable, replicable, and regionally-specific design solutions in the public interest—and the mission of PROJECT RE\_ to reuse materials, rebuild communities, and restore lives. SECOND COURSE: MILLVALE MOOSE is a manifestation of the allied missions of these partner entities, demonstrated through both process and product.

The scope of work included 1) a café service + transaction bar, 2) a movable, modular "green" partition wall, and 3) branding of the architect-designed interior awning. The client asked that the café modular/reconfigurable to accommodate various community programming, such as a cooking class, concert, or banquet. The café bar is the second iteration prototype of a modular, adaptable cart system built entirely from waste material-it is a site-specific iteration of a product intended for mass-production. Oak from deconstructed dormitory wardrobes, reused steel office cabinets, and reclaimed marble countertop are composed to create authentic, functional, place-specific furniture. Highly-specific, custom detailing was employed throughout the project to satisfy functional, usability, and ergonomic requirements while aspiring to invite visual and tactile delight for its users. The modular "greenwall", desired by the client for display of low-light plants, is composed of stacks of plastic storage crates wrapped in plywood, creating a flexible and attractive partition wall that can be repositioned or restacked as programmatic functions change. A CNCmilled supergraphic depicting a moose in a field of wheat under a rising sun is applied across the cafe elements to give an authentic, place-specific identity to the space and speak to the ethos, heritage, and aspirations of the new Food + Energy Hub. Designed to emulate natural foliage, the textures and forms of the cafe are intended to inspire curiosity and imagination in a child, with hopes of positively impacting future generations through the build environment. All steel and stone components of the project were fabricated by Entrepreneurs-in-Training (E.I.T.s) at PROJECT RE as part of job skills training aimed at elevating the individuals' prospects for earning a living wage. The project enabled the EIT to advance hard skills in tube welding, stone cutting, stone polishing, CNC plasma-cutting, and finely crafted detail metalwork, as well as soft skills in communication/ coordination with designers and the reading of architectural shop drawings.

Years Design 2018-2019 Completed 2019

Client New Sun Rising; 412 Food Rescue; Sprezzatura

**Design** John Folan, UDBS Director; Garrett Rauck, UDBS Fellow

Construction PROJECT RE

#### Partners

Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, Construction Junction, Laser Lab

#### Recognition

-AIA Pennsylvania 2019 Honor Award, Impact Design -AIA Pittsburgh 2019 Certificate of Merit, Architecture: Small



Exterior photograph of the Millvale Moose building.



Panoramic photograph of Millvale Food + Energy Hub Cafe showing cafe carts (right), awning (upper right), and modular "greenwall" (left). (Opposite) The cafe bar provides various surfaces for transaction, food prep and bar seating.



Elevation photographs of finished Cafe Bar and Greenwall. Both are "two-faced" in concept and function. Identified by warmer materials, the front of the bar serves as the public front to the café and is designed to create visual intrigue while providing variable height surfaces for interface with patrons. Identified by cooler materials, the rear of the bar is an ordered system designed to support the functional requirements of use by café employees. Reclaimed steel office cabinets provide lockable secure storage while adjustable open shelves allow for flexibility and easy access for stored items. The front face of the Greenwall is the visual focus of the space, the eye of the moose at its center. The back panels of the Greenwall are removable to allow access to plants housed inside.

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Front and rear elevation drawings of the Cafe Bar and Greenwall from Construction Document set, used during fabrication.













12 C-T-T TRIM PLAN DETAIL



Sample pages from construction documents.



**R** COUNTER SEAM SECTION DETAIL



7 COUNTER SEAM SECTION DETAIL







5 LEVELING CLEAT SECTION DETAIL



6 LOCK PIN PLAN DETAIL



5 UPPER LOCK PIN SECTION DETAIL





4 STEEL ANGLE SECTION DETAIL



3 CABINET MOUNTING SECTION DETAIL



2 PLATE-MOUNT CASTER PLAN DETAIL



1 PLATE-MOUNT CASTER SECTION DETAIL

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3 LOCK PIN PART LAYOUT

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1 LOCK PIN PERSPECTIVE DETAIL





4 TYP, JOINT SECTION DETAIL





Sample pages from construction documents.







1 TYP. JOINT PLAN DETAIL

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A raster image of a moose in a field of wheat under a rising sun was generated for supergraphic applied across the three cafe elements, intending to speak to the ethos, heritage, and aspirations of the new Food + Energy Hub.



A Grasshopper script was used to generate CNC-millable curves from the rough geometry produced from the raster graphic.







(Above) Construction Documents sheet with branding panel schedules for Cafe Bar, Greenwall, and Canopy, used to coordinate with fabricators. (Opposite) Detail of CNC-milled cafe cart shells. Solid oak planar stock was salvaged from Duquesne University dorm room wardrobes slated for landfill. The oak was laminated into panels, stained in ebony, and then milled to reveal the natural oak interior. Designed to emulate natural foliage, the textures and forms of the cafe aim to inspire curiosity and imagination in a child, with hopes of positively impacting future generations through the build environment.





Left natural to invite user interaction, a curved piece of oak helps stiffen the cantilevering transaction countertop, with the grain running perpendicular to the primary surface. The corner is radiused to allow for comfortable circulation around the end of the bar.



Custom steel plasma-cut latches lock the steel high-top cart into the oak bar. They are designed to be operated with the flip of a finger. The angled notch profile helps to guide the pin into a slot in the latch for locking.



A custom caster-mount plate helps support the cantilevering front panel of the transaction cart.











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Tapered dovetail cleats were developed to serve as an alignment mechanism between the carts and help to ensure a level countertop surface across the carts regardless of inconsistencies in the floor surface.



A custom steel lock pin was developed to hold the carts firmly together. A pocket - informed by the rotation of the pin - was routed into the oak shell and left natural to serve as a visual cue against the dark ebony shells.



A steel angle is used to fasten the steel office cabinet to the cart shell while simultaneously creating an under-counter grabbing surface for handling the carts.

## Regionally-sourced waste material is diverted from landfill to create authentic, place-specific furniture.







Designed to **emulate natural foliage**, the textures and forms of the café are intended to **inSpire curioSity and imagination** in a child, with hopes of positively impacting future generations through the built environment.



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# **job skills training** aimed at elevating the individual's prospects for earning a living wage.

The project enabled the EITs to advance hard skills in tube welding, stone cutting, stone polishing, CNC plasma-cutting, and finely crafted detail metalwork, as well as soft skills in communication/coordination with designers and the reading of architectural shop drawings.

















Timelapse stills illustrating assembly and reconfiguration of the cafe bar into communal table.





A series of collaborative design charrettes with partner entities were used to quickly explore options and develop consensus.



The cafe carts can be reconfigured to form a communal table. Careful consideration was taken in sizing the carts to ensure alignment/unity in both configurations.

