

Joey's Smokin' BBQ, San Diego, Calif.

Contractor: TH Designs

Flames and home-style barbecue parties served as the inspiration for the floor stain and marble bar top at the Joey's Smokin' BBQ in downtown San Diego, the sixth location for the popular chain owned by restaurateur Joey Maggiore. Using products from Concrete Solutions, Tony House of Upland, Calif.-based TH Designs and several of his workers transformed an old terrazzo floor into a glossy, warm red and gold surface and built a jagged-edged cream and gray bar top for the Memphis-style barbecue eatery in July 2009.

"For the floor, we wanted something that was fiery-looking, and I think we achieved that," House says. "And the bar looks kind of worn — it has an outdoor stone effect. It's reminiscent of having a barbecue outside at home."

Maggiore met House through a general contractor who had done work for Maggiore in the past, and after House presented floor and concrete countertop sample work to Maggiore, he was hired for the Joey's job.

The 25-by-2 1/2 bar top was formed in three pieces in House's shop using Concrete Solutions' Ashby System, a concrete countertop system that results in a natural stone or granite look with a matte finish. "It's done like any other concrete countertop, and



it's a very popular, unique system," House says. The completed bar top was then installed, giving the restaurant an "urban barbecue feel," according to Maggiore. "With the broken edges, colors and cracks, it makes it look like an old, rustic place," he says.

For the restaurant's floor, slip resistance was as much of a factor as color vibrancy was. House and his workers began by applying a concrete resurfacing product, followed by a dye stain in Concrete Solutions' Canyon Gold and Sunset Red. Next, to seal the floor, they applied Concrete Solutions' water-based clear epoxy and clear HP urethane sealer. They finished with a

coat of water-based urethane gloss to add sheen.

"The floor finish isn't slippery, although it has a nice gloss to it," House says. "Your feet will get a little greasy walking in and out of the kitchen, but the products on the floor allow your feet to grip onto it a little bit."

To help keep the floor grease-free, House provided the restaurant with a Concrete Solutions floor cleaner for easy upkeep.

"Slip resistance was a huge factor for the floor," Maggiore says. "So was maintenance — we wanted it to be easy to maintain and we didn't want it to lose its sheen."

And knowing that the bar top would be subject to abuse, Maggiore felt going with a rugged surface would make a few nicks and scratches seem like no big deal.

"On the bar you have glasses pounding, and we wanted it so if it chipped, it would still look natural," he says.

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