# ITALO ZUCCHELLI FRANCISCO COSTA

# SURFACE





BAR

### Repurposed materials and subtle colors make this tiny Berlin bar a comfortable wintertime watering hole.

#### **BY JILLIAN RICHARDSON**

When French native Johann Courgibet first envisioned Bar Saint Jean, which opened earlier this year in the heart of Berlin's Mitte district, he wanted to bring a touch of Parisian after-hours cocktail culture to Germany. The entrepreneur commissioned 32-year-old architect Thilo Reich to create the intimate space. Though he was constrained by a tight budget, Reich sought to build something timeless. "That's why I worked a lot with natural, real materials," he says. The centerpiece of the bar is a counter made of stacked wooden ship planks, which, before being stripped of tar, were used as a fence on a farm in France; the artistic assemblage lends the space a feeling of rustic charm.

Reich worked with a palette of muted grays, greens, and browns to define the conspiratorial air of the bar, while a rusted-metal side table—made with pieces found during early-morning searches through scrap heaps around the city—complements the owner's red beard and hair. "Courgibet has a very strong charisma and appearance, and the

## Cocktail by Tomas Delos Reyes

#### **INSPIRED BY BAR SAINT JEAN**

There's a dominant masculinity about this space that I imagine will make it attractive to a woman's eye, given the lighting scheme, the organic texture of the bar, and how it's designed to really showcase the bartender. This cocktail takes the sensibility of a female artist and wraps it in an air of masculinity.

- 1 ounce Bacardi Superior rum
- ounce Aperol
- l ounce lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon superfine sugar
- spray of Laphroaig

Combine first four ingredients into a shaker. Add ice and shake hard. Spray cocktail glass with Laphroaig, then strain ingredients into the glass. Slice a lemon peel. Squeeze it over the top and drop in.

Tomas Delos Reyes is a mixologist and partner of the gastropub Jeepney in New York's East Village.



bar is meant to be something that really suits him," Reich says. A twisted metal ladder, also found in a scrap heap, is lit from below and hovers on the wall behind Courgibet as he tends the bar.

Other elements in the cozy, cocoonlike room are steel lights by La Lampe Gras, steel-and-wood bar stools by Atelier Haussmann, and anthracite oak flooring. For Reich, the space helps make the social dreariness of Berlin during the winter months more bearable. "The activity of a whole city can fall asleep immediately, and I think that's a pity," says Reich, but Bar Saint Jean "is the perfect hibernation."

in the Raw