

InsideOut

The comforts of home and then some

Restaurant design: Tillman's Roadhouse

Rob Dailey remembers growing up in south Arlington about where Interstate 20 is now. "Nothing was there; we'd lie out in the grass and look at all the stars," says the Dallas-based interior designer. "We'd come to Fort Worth to shop at Neiman's when it was out there near the traffic circle and Stripling & Cox."

Dailey has been spending a lot of time in Fort Worth again, getting Tillman's Roadhouse ready for its Cowtown debut.

Dailey and his partner, events planner Todd Fiscus, are part of the Tillman's brain trust, along with restaurant namesake Sarah Tillman and chef Dan Landsberg. The original restaurant, located in the Bishop Arts District of Oak Cliff, was an immediate hit and a key part of that area's revival.

While primarily a residential designer (he's working on his first Fort Worth project, a remodel in Rivercrest), Dailey's log-cabin chic aesthetic is on view to everyone at Tillman's.

From his custom velvet Chesterfield sofas to the hand-rubbed steel bar to the lush tapestry drapes, no detail is overlooked at Tillman's.

Glittering Murano glass chandeliers twinkle in contrast to the rustic pine planked walls dotted with wooden deer heads. Narrow mirrors above the blue banquettes in the private dining room add more sparkle.

"The restrooms are going to be fun, too," says Dailey. "I'm using horse ribbons — blue, red, white — all over the wall, something I did for a client once. And in the stalls, there's going to be old record album covers."

Unique to the Fort Worth location is the outdoor patio. Heavy granite-topped tables and powder-coated aluminum

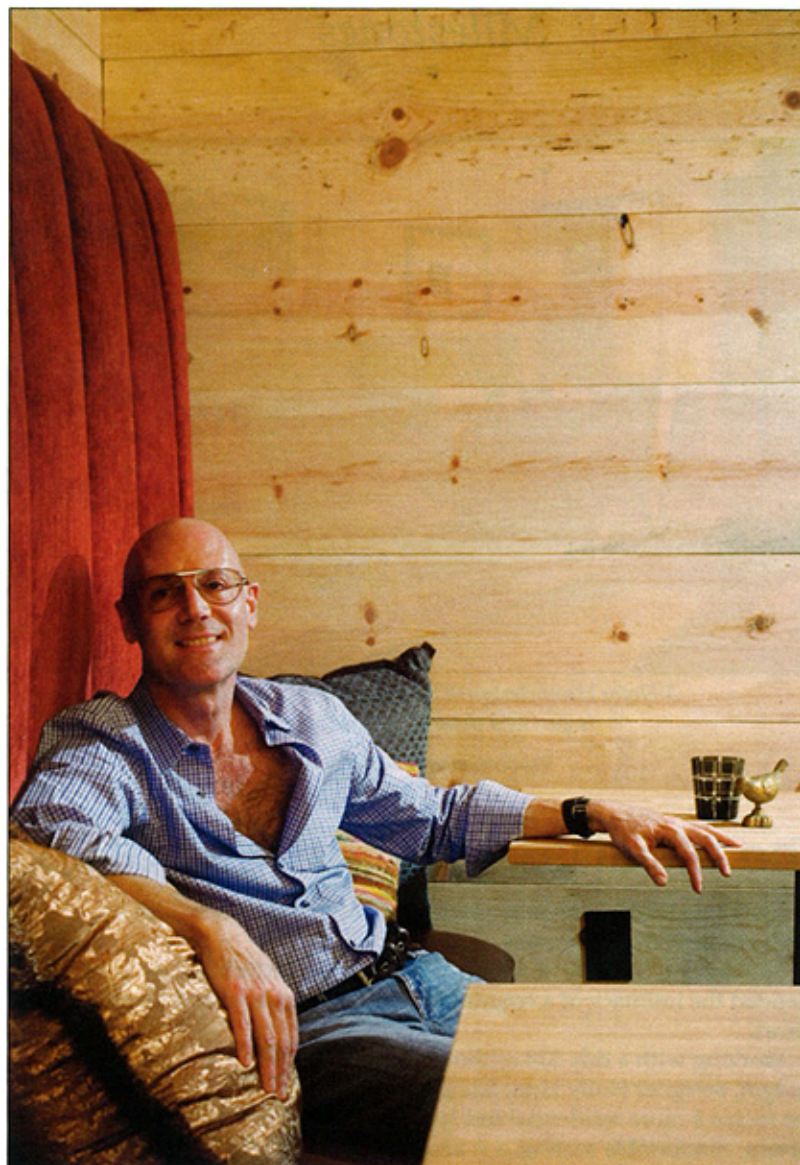
chairs from Janus et Cie provide extra seating, or you can cozy up to the outdoor gas fireplace on the custom sofa. Mini orange Eames rockers are provided for the kids. A steel overhang is outfitted with diffused lighting, and the patio's location ensures that the summer sun won't be an issue. The space also will be dog-friendly.

The little details are there, too. Corner shelves are filled with bric-a-brac and Match Italian pewter ladles are used for the complimentary truffled popcorn. The bird panels hanging on the display wall in the lounge area came from a Dallas estate.

One of Dailey's favorite features is the massive floating log bar. "It's a great community space. We want everyone to feel comfortable here."

Tillman's Roadhouse is scheduled to open Dec. 2 for dinner; the first brunch (their version of brunch) is Dec. 13 and lunch begins on Dec. 14. 2933 Crockett St. (in the new West 7th development), Fort Worth; 817-850-9255; www.tillmansroadhouse.com

— Meda Kessler



Stacked pieces of cut wood are used to face the bar and an outdoor patio wall.



Rob Dailey kicks back on one of his trademark velvet banquettes in the main dining room. The partially covered outdoor patio features a gas-burning fireplace and an eclectic mix of furniture.

Photos by Ralph Lauer