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AND DESIGN

JULY/AUGUST 2006

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SONOMA SPECIAL

El Dorado Kitchen—a restaurant situated in the historic El Dorado Hotel in Sonoma, California—has locals and out-of-towners clamoring for reservations. Proprietors Bob and Tim Harmon and Claude Rouas, who also own Napa's Auberge du Soleil, have enlisted executive chef Ryan Fancher, formerly of French Laundry and Auberge du Soleil, to prepare El Dorado's California cuisine. However, it's not just the food that has people lining up. The design, created by Backen Gillam Architects, is remarkably warm and light filled.

Robert Fink reworked the interior architecture, while April Powers selected modern yet rustic furnishings. "We kept with what works in Sonoma but wanted it to be different, too," says Powers. Aluminum chairs and marble-topped tables are arranged in the lounge area (above left). The dining room (above) features a Jonas Hardy communal table made with wood salvaged from a Montgomery, Vermont, bridge built in 1810. **EL DORADO KITCHEN, 405 FIRST ST. W., SONOMA, CA 95476, 707.996.3030, WWW.ELDORADOSONOMA.COM**