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*Clockwise from left: YOD aimed to express the Buddha-Bar brand DNA authentically in the context of New York. Gravity pendant fixtures by Kateryna Sokolova for Forestier are influenced by traditional Asian arts, from weaving to bamboo constructions. Low, warm lighting and dark colors foster a sense of intimacy in the main dining room. A million-dollar parametric statue of Buddha made of frosted glass surveys the entry.*

# YOD Group

## BUDDHA-BAR NEW YORK

YOD Group, an internationally awarded, commercial architectural design studio based in Kyiv, Ukraine, was founded by Volodymyr Nepiyvoda and Dmytro Bonesko in 2004. The firm's latest project is the chichi Buddha-Bar New York, a two-story restaurant in the TriBeCa neighborhood of Manhattan. "It was an honor to create a design for an iconic brand like Buddha-Bar, which first opened in Paris in the '90s," says Nepiyvoda. "We aimed to find new ways to express its fusion aesthetics."

The concept of reincarnation is expressed in the rebirth of materials, space, and branding. A 15-foot-high glass statue of Buddha dominates the entry. "We stepped away from the idea of a deity made of gold," adds Bonesko. "Our Buddha is a parametric sculpture made from 1,000 pieces of frosted glass." 3-D digital art projected on the statue creates the illusion of a light hologram. "The statue weighs 15 tons, but you could think it is an empty vessel inside of which life and light is dawning." The building's cast-iron columns were preserved while screens made from steel bars are a contemporary nod to the city's 20th-century industrial boom. Metal pendant fixtures in the main dining room by Kateryna Sokolova, a Ukrainian industrial designer, "have an oriental sensibility but at the same time resemble futuristic drones silently hanging in the air," notes Nepiyvoda. Furnishings are similarly darkly atmospheric, with timber ranging from 800 to 4,000 years old "reincarnated" for tabletops.

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