



Dining spaces, bar areas and take-out counters flow together naturally in the open-plan layout. "We want people to feel as if they've discovered something when they come to the Commissary," says designer John Tong.

HOT SPOT

# DRAKE COMMISSARY



**WHERE:** Toronto **DESIGN BY:** John Tong, +tongtong **WHY WE LOVE IT:** Sprawled over 8,000 square feet in a historical brick building, Drake Commissary is a dynamic mashup of restaurant, bakery, take-out counter and cocktail bar. The latest venture from Drake Hotel founder Jeff Stober, it promises to do for Toronto's Junction Triangle neighbourhood what his hotels and shops did for Queen Street West and Prince Edward County, Ont.: transform an under-

appreciated area into a bustling destination. **STYLE:** John Tong turned the building's shortcomings to his advantage. "It had low ceilings and small windows, not qualities one fantasizes about," he says. To play up the cosy factor, he covered the ceiling in plywood and furnished the space with refurbished vintage pieces, leather banquettes and patterned rugs in rich colours, all of which add warmth and a sense of fun. **BONUS POINTS:** Artwork curated by Mia Nielsen

references the Junction Triangle's history, with Mexican-American artist Adrian Esparza's colourful thread art stretching across the windows in homage to the area's past as a textile hub. An intricate 35-foot-long mural made by Toronto artist Alex Mcleod using 3D software reveals plywood castles, clouds made of stones and more. "I see something new every time I look at it," says Mia. 128 Sterling Rd., Toronto. (416) 432-2922 or visit [drakecommissary.ca](http://drakecommissary.ca).



Abstraction vases. From 3¾" to 4¾" diam. x 9" to 12¼" h. From \$175 to \$350 each. Through Dahlhaus.

## DRIVEN TO ABSTRACTION

VANCOUVER CERAMICIST HEATHER DAHL'S LATEST ONE-OF-A-KIND VASES BOAST COLOURFUL ABSTRACT PATTERNS AND A BUTTERY SMOOTH TEXTURE. FILL THEM WITH FRESH FLOWERS OR LEAVE THEM EMPTY AND LET THE ARTFUL VESSELS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

Text by Kimberley Brown (Hot Spot)/Emily Evans (Driven to Abstraction)/  
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Sometimes a blanket statement is exactly what's needed.

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