

AD

into  
the vibe

model  
**PALOMA ELSESSER**  
at home  
in Brooklyn

up next

a new generation of designers sets the mood



# DISCOVERIES



1. THE CEILING OF THE MAIN DINING ROOM IS LINED WITH LIGHTS MADE OF SLICED CARDBOARD SONOTUBES; CHAIRS BY KASHIWA. 2. AN ADAM POGUE LANTERN ABOVE A BANQUETTE. 3. THE COMBINED SUSHI BAR AND DJ STAND IS WRAPPED IN TILES BY SOFÍA LONDOÑO.



## NIGHTLIFE

# Japanese Fusion

## Commune Design draws inspiration from the Land of the Rising Sun for a record lounge in Nashville

**N**ashville seems an unlikely place to discover anything even remotely akin to a Japanese kissa bar. A kissa—or, more traditionally, a jazz kissa—is a type of café that initially sprang up in Japan in the 1920s as a communal place for people to drink, socialize, and listen to vinyl records. “They’re typically very intimate, casual, DIY spaces, sort of cobbled together,” explains Roman Alonso of the AD100 firm Commune Design, which recently completed work on 888, a combination kissa and sushi restaurant improbably tucked in the base of the JW Marriott Nashville hotel tower. The brainchild of Harrison Soffer, a principal at the hospitality and real estate development firm Turnberry, 888 celebrates the spirit of the kissa along with the fertile design heritage of the country in which it originated. “We wanted to create an authentic ambience by using humble materials in imaginative ways—construction-grade plywood, recycled wood gymnasium flooring on the ceiling, acoustic batting made from reclaimed denim, and cardboard Sonotubes,” Alonso says. The Commune team also enlisted the talents of multiple Japanese artists and craftspeople, as well as frequent Commune collaborators who find inspiration in Japan. The array of bespoke decorative flourishes includes Senda Takanori’s washi paper made from pulped album sleeves, applied to a light installation by artist Yusuke Nagai; textiles by Akira Minagawa for Minä Perhonen; patchwork lanterns by textile artist Adam Pogue; and a fantastic sushi bar and DJ stand wrapped in custom tiles by ceramist Sofía Londoño. “Japanese design has always been part of Commune’s DNA,” Alonso notes, citing the firm’s work at the Ace Hotel Kyoto and other collaborations. “At 888, we want you to feel the love and respect—and the beauty.” [888nashville.com](http://888nashville.com) —MAYER RUS



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