

# Kultura Culture

by Jesse Frankling

It's about culture, and who knows culture better than us Torontonians; living in one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world. When I was asked to share in the newest attraction called Kultura, introducing culture fusion, my interest grew into anticipation. Since moving to the city I have enjoyed the ability to taste a world of cuisines all within a stroll. So to hear of a place bringing them all together in tactful tapas, I could hardly wait.

Kultura not only translates into 'culture' it represents one all it's own.

So, what do you do with all the cultures and tastes the world has to offer? According to Executive Chef of Kultura Lounge Roger Mooking, take the best of each and combine them...

"The combination of cultures is the focus of Kultura. It's about a culinary journey of international tastes." As Roger explains, "combining century old recipes with modern ingredients." Inspired from India to Italy, not to exclude any type of cuisine, it's a world fusion.

## EATING OUT

Very strong tastes are present in Mooking's creations. Tactful combinations are what really impress here. Coconut with beef, and banana and shrimp stick out as some of the most memorable. But the list goes on with souped-up samosas and a miniature version of savory fish and chips.

It is no surprise each dish on this menu is like nothing I have ever seen before. I am familiar with Rogers work, one as a musician and one as a chef. The successful rhythmic artist is now putting his passionate compositions into Kultura's food creations. Entertaining taste buds everywhere.

"I have a lot more to share than music" Mooking goes on. "Although music is one of my passions, I find cooking for people one of the most satisfying things I can do."

The once Mystical Mooking member of

*Base is Base* is still very involved in music production. "but here is where you find me in the night time... performing 5 nights a week" he chuckles.

Doing a walk through of the lounge restaurant is not a bad place to be. Designed by *Core Architect Inc.* and *Commute Homes*, the transformation of this retro-fitted old town beauty spans three floors and is a distinct exhibition of good taste.

Welcoming you, the front glass façade sits

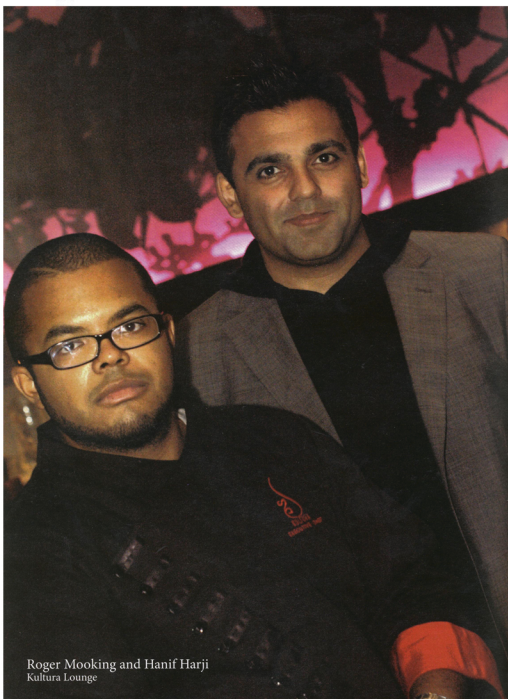
like a frame to encase a work of art or in this case you and your flavorful food. The dark wood stained floor, exposed brick walls, fire place in the row and neon purple lights set the mood, adding a very believable LA feel.

From the first floor lounge to the second floor dining area the massive staircase encased in glass provides a grand entrance to any level. The second floor is made up of two large dining areas. Dividing the two rooms a warped window frame, still standing as a piece of the original building. Several renovations later it has become nothing short of a piece of art.

Intended for private parties the third floor with its high ceiling sits as the crown to this fantastic King st. renovation. The combination of high end in old town is a perfect fit. The building's age coupled with the rustic, yet chic designs melded together like their intoxicating ingredients.

With Rogers innovative views on social dining and business partners Hanif Harji and Kent Farell an enlightened atmosphere is created. This made for a very enjoyable night out and an easy recommendation for our magazine.

Explained to me Kultura translates into Culture in many languages however from my experience Kultura also represents one all it's own. Be sure to call for a reservation 416-363-9000 you'll need one. Kultura Lounge is located at 169 King St. E. Toronto.



Roger Mooking and Hanif Harji  
Kultura Lounge



Mooking and team making music for the taste buds