



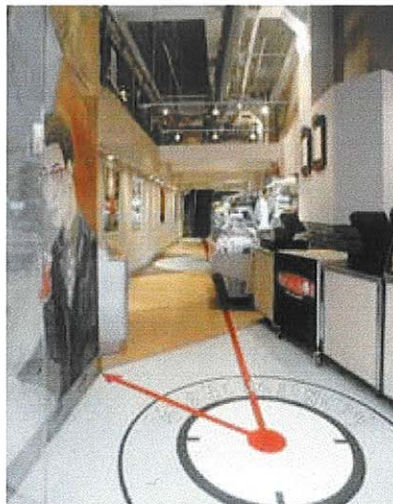
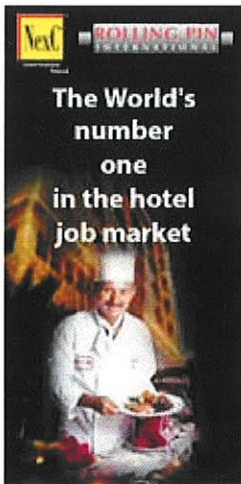
street that at Munchelino's any time is time to eat.

With the exception of the directional red extending from the clock face and guiding the customer to the dining area, the colors in Munchelino are warm and inviting neutral tones that provide a perfect background for the bright colors of the fresh vegetables and other foods.

The wall behind the food stations is a soft, three-color brick pattern with a glaze. It is highly durable and easy to maintain, and it is also makes a great backdrop for the stainless steel-framed menu boards it supports.

"Everything has a pulse here," Tobin says. "The Munchelino's design reinforces the quality of its product while honing the lifestyle of the clientele."

### Inspired by Her Brother



Tobin didn't take a direct route to the world of design. After graduating from California State University in Los Angeles with a bachelor of arts in American Studies, she worked as an administrative assistant for various corporations, including the John Hay Whitney Foundation.

But when she saw some of the projects her younger brother, then an aspiring architect, was working on, Tobin knew she wanted to change her career path. So, she decided to take some interior design courses after work. "I was enamored with what my brother was doing, the art of design, and was drawn to the challenge of creating practical and singularly aesthetic environment," Tobin says.

"When I expressed my excitement over these courses to a favorite teacher, she recommended that I pursue my interior design studies more seriously," Tobin says. "After that I never looked back, I quit my job, signed up for a variety of student loans and returned to school full time."

And three years later, she graduated with highest honors from the New York School of Interior Design with a design award for her St. George's Parish Chapel renovation. That set her on her path to what she calls her "true calling."

In 1983, Tobin's long-time friend, architect Robert Parnes, asked if she was interested in co-pitching a large residential job. At that time, Tobin was both teaching at Parsons School of Design and working on various commercial projects for a top design firm. She agreed, and [Tobin+Parnes Design Enterprises](#) was established when their proposal was selected.

Tobin is currently working on a yoga studio that will reflect a very serene and monochromatic environment with lots of natural wood. And she is also developing an employee cafeteria at the Hebrew Home for the aged in Riverdale, New York. ■

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