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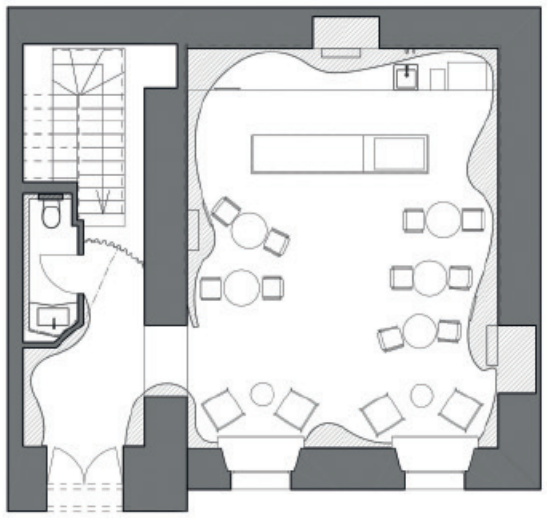
Temporality

Photography by Yevhen Kariev

Taio Ice Cream Shop
Odessa, Ukraine
Sivak+Partners Studio

Well this is a first for *hinge*: writing about a project that was completed only days before war broke out in its location. So something of a preface is called for. We pray all involved are safe, and that the awful current reality in Ukraine will end soon. We should also clarify that this project was selected for publication prior to the events in that country, and purely on the basis of its design merits.

The name of this ice cream shop in the beautiful city of Odessa can be translated as "I'm Melting", which is apt for a venue that specialises in ice cream and juices. On a tight deadline due to commercial leases etc. the designers searched for a solution that would be simple and clear, and realisable by a smaller contracting team. The concept settled upon is a solid metal 'wave' that wraps much of the space, would carry a formal impact, yet be quick to install. From the notion of melting ice cream, the scheme abstracts a 'melting' classical ceiling that flows down onto the new metal walls. The existing historic building offered an ideal contribution in this regard, with its decorative ceilings. Conveniently, the mechanical ducts and vents could be concealed behind the metal wall. Grids of protruding fixtures that were custom-designed for the project add a techno-whimsical edge to the design, whilst the principal ordering and sitting area is a chic juxtaposition of shimmering metal wave set against a chalky, ornamental ceiling. White Carrara marble is used for tables and the serving bar, accenting silver metal elements.

This is an urbane, modern place, executed with a level of quality that belies its quick installation schedule. It perfectly encapsulates the character of this lovely and precious city. May its creators have the chance very soon to enjoy its success.