

client Takashimaya New York Inc.
status Completed 1994
construction budget \$650,000
program Restaurant and Retail Space
floor area 3,800 sf

awards and publications The American Institute of Architects, New York Chapter, 1995 Interior Design Award



THE TEA BOX AT TAKASHIMAYA

The TEA BOX is a new restaurant complete with a kitchen, public bathrooms and retail space for TAKASHIMAYA, the acclaimed international department store in their Fifth Avenue location. A 3,800 sf space with low ceilings and no fenestration, it was originally designated to be a storage and mechanical area. CR Studio evaluated these inherent difficulties and turned them into assets by using the metaphor of a walled garden: the ceilings of the perimeter areas were lowered to handle the mechanical requirements contrasting dramatically with the new centrally defined restaurant and retail space. This central space is organized by a series of elegant silk ceiling panels that are lit from behind to give the space both height and a sense of lightness. The restaurant and retail spaces are separated by low partitions which allow the space to feel as if it continues on indefinitely. These low walls are finished in different textures and colors which have been subtly manipulated to alter the sense of depth and richness to the space.