

Philip George, Designer of Elegant Restaurants, Dies at 94

By **Sam Roberts**

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Philip George, who designed the interiors of some of Manhattan’s most star-studded restaurants and oversaw a short-lived but indelible Moscow culinary landmark — the site of the impromptu Cold War “kitchen debate” between Richard M. Nixon and Nikita S. Khrushchev — died on May 10 at a clinic in Cuernavaca, Mexico. He was 94.

His death, which was announced only recently, was confirmed by his wife, Gail Cowdrey George.

Mr. George’s career encompassed several incarnations, but they converged in his preoccupation with imagery:

How foreigners in Southeast Asia and post-World War II Europe regarded the United States in the global competition against communism. How airline passengers perceived Braniff’s jelly-bean-colored fleet of planes. And whether diners preferred the elegant, clatter-free aura of Le Bernardin in Midtown Manhattan or, downtown, the cacophony of the Big Kitchen at the original World Trade Center or the Market Bar there, which, as Mr. George put it, was “a place that was supposed to imply business and market activity, and the last thing you would want is a lot of carpet and quiet.”

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