

The commission was to create a space for enjoying cocktails in an elegant atmosphere in a privileged seafront setting in Port Vell Marina. The building housing the BLUE WAVE cocktail bar is highly unusual: an elongated space with a lengthwise seafront façade filtered by a latticework that creates a clever play on light and shade as the sun begins to set.

Underlying this design is the idea of a wave about to break, plunging the customers into a marine setting filled with shadows and reflections.

Just before they break, waves coil themselves up to create separate watery spaces in movement that sparkle and gleam in endless hues. The strength and solid appearance of the vertical wall of water disintegrates into foam, and the rays of the evening sun are shattered into tiny golden sparkles on the water.

The elongated rectangular space features a clearly-defined layout: at one end we find the entrance, which leads on to the cocktail bar that runs the length of the space to the far end of the premises, where the terrace is located.

The glass façade envelope opens up to connect the interior and the exterior, thereby incorporating the white latticework of the existing building into the wave.

In order to recreate the idea of the wave, the space is veiled in a range of deep blues that become gradually lighter in tone until they are transformed into the foamy white of the existing concrete latticework, incorporating it into the bluish space as the foam of the wave. Small splashes of gold have been added, mirroring the sun's reflection on the water.

We opted to use the same material on the floor, walls and ceiling in order to unify the space and enhance the sensation of being swallowed up by a wave. A small format was required in order to produce the shading effect, as well as a reflective finish in order to create the tiny glimmers of light on the water. The ceramic tiles chosen fully met these requirements, whilst at the same time reflecting the essence of the Mediterranean.

Both types of tiles were commissioned especially for this project and handcrafted: the first was a shell-shaped piece in seven different shades of blue used for the floor, walls and ceilings to portray the transformation of the water into foam; whilst the second formed a contrasting deep blue arch on the walls and ceiling. The tiles feature gloss and matt finishes, thereby creating a clever play on light.

In addition to the ceramic tiles, other bluish shiny, reflective materials were used such as marble slabs, metal and glass. Arranged on the surfaces and panels, these materials come together in a patchwork of elements which, behind the bar, frame the bottle display cabinet, one of the focal points.

The bar is part of the wave, conceived as one of the marble slabs, although in this case, it is suspended from the ceiling and appears to be hanging in the middle of the space. The far end of the bar is a table that customers can sit around.