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## Need an escape from chaos? Commune offers sexy, vintage vibe

BY LANA MINI • MIRROR STAFF WRITER • APRIL 5, 2009

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Commune Lounge, located in the popular Bastone complex, is one of the sexiest bars to grace Main Street in Royal Oak and is proving to be an escape for a successful, hip clientele.

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Enter the lounge, with a name that represents unity for creative hipsters who are choosing to remain living in the Motor City, and feel a tone that's also being created in the most current west coast clubs.

The former Cinq became Commune last year and is still owned by Jon Carlson. We asked Bronwen Nikora, assistant general manger, to answer a few questions about the vintage-back-alley-inspired bar.

Q: Tell us about the remodel.

Before the remodel it was CINQ (five in French) which was more industrial in style with a lot of stainless steel. Now it is Commune, a 1920s-themed Paris Back Alley bar with vintage chandeliers, a red brick bar, dark woods and burgundy sheer curtains.

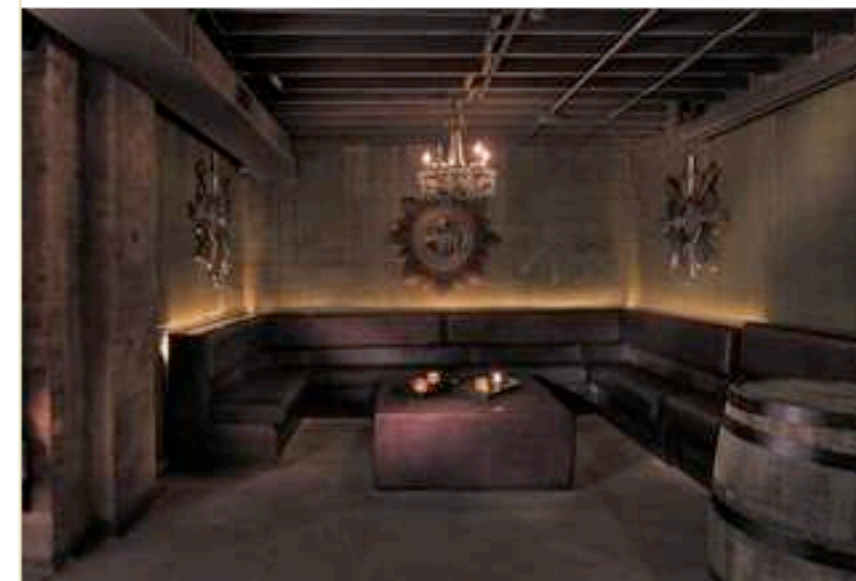
Q: Who designed Commune?

Jeff Atkins, Mercury Studios/Chicago.

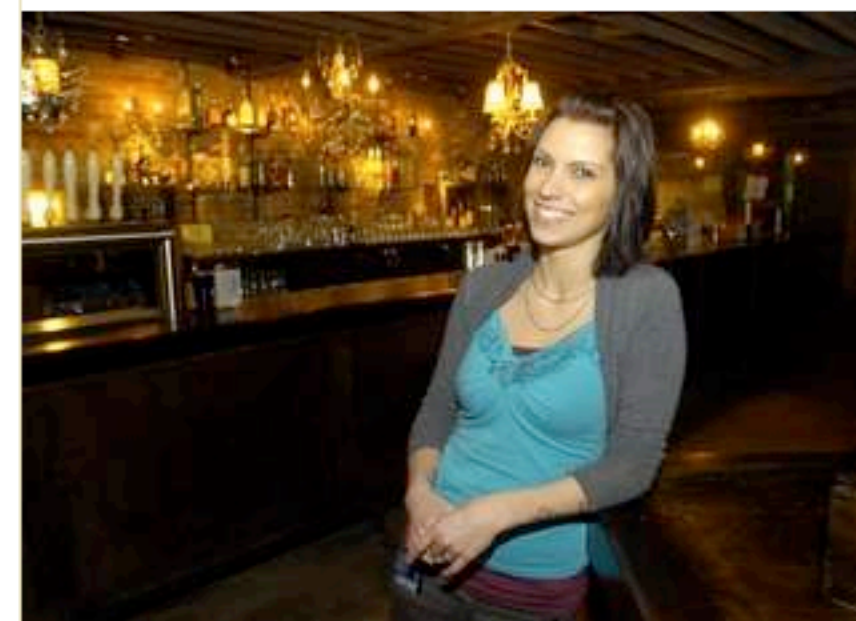
Q: Is it strictly bar or bar/restaurant?

We are more a bar than a restaurant, but we do serve a few items which are more like appetizers: mussels, pizzas, etc. We are located below Bastone Brewery which is a full restaurant and brewery. Most patrons choose to have dinner upstairs in Bastone then journey down for drinks after.

Q: What is the inspiration for Commune?



Cozy, intimate sofas are part of the atmosphere at Commune Lounge in Royal Oak.



Assistant General Manager Bronwen Nikora gets ready for a busy evening at Commune in Royal Oak.

### COMMUNE

What: Commune Lounge is located in the basement of the Bastone, Vinoteca, Cafe Habana complex  
Where: 419 S. Main St., Royal Oak, (248) 544-6250  
Details: [myspace.com/communelounge](http://myspace.com/communelounge)

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