



Montreal, Canada



## RYÛ

by Menard Dworkind

The ancient Japanese tradition of *wabi sabi* plays a central role at restaurant Ryù in the Westmount neighborhood of Montreal.

*Wabi sabi* espouses the idea that beauty is enhanced by imperfection. Embracing this concept, Montreal-based interior designers at MRDK focused their contemporary design on natural and durable materials, like wood, that would take on a patina with age. There is a minimalist geometry at play here, reminiscent of traditional Japanese design, which is most evident in the light and dark wood slats above and the predominantly gray, black, and brown color scheme. It's a theme that is carried through to the presentation of the food—beautifully crafted sushi dishes served on black and white plates on bamboo mats. The circle, a feature of the Japanese flag, is a recurring motif. Above, suspended planters frame two large skylights, adding greenery and flooding the restaurant with natural light.