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CURRENTS

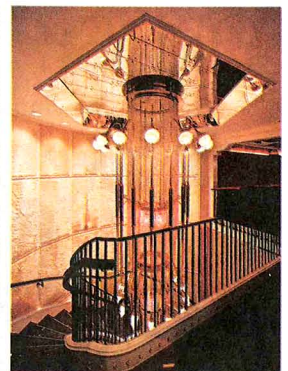
ROOMS

Where the Ambience Is Jewel-Like

► Beauty & Essex, a restaurant opening on Saturday on the Lower East Side, was designed by the Manhattan firm AvroKO to resemble a jewelry store that would sell “pieces kind of reminiscent of what my sophisticated grandmother had,” said Peter Kane, who owns this restaurant, and Stanton Social, with Richard Wolf and Chris Santos. “But with a Lower East Side sensibility.” The entrance, right, is a small shop that sells vintage jewelry, guitars and

books. Beyond the rear door is the Beauty part — the restaurant, which has a 17-foot-tall chandelier suspended over a spiral staircase and walls covered in white horsehair, far right. There’s plenty of jewelry here too: a 16-foot-long brooch that runs across one wall, another chandelier strung with fake pearls, and framed antique watches and pendants.

Beauty & Essex, 146 Essex Street (Stanton Street), (212) 614-0146, beautyandessex.com. ELAINE LOUIE



PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRED R. CONRAD/THE NEW YORK TIMES