

THE ARCHITECT'S NEWSPAPER MARCH 2, 2016

OPEN > CAFÉ

**> VOYAGER ESPRESSO**

110 William Street

Tel: 646-885-6792

Architect: Only If

MICHAEL VAHRENWALD / ESTO

Voyager Espresso, a 550-square-foot coffee bar, brings the perks of artisanal coffee to New York's perpetually caffeine craving Financial District in the new Fulton Center.

The coffee bar was crafted by New York-based design practice Only If, a team of five architects and designers. The clients wanted the space to look distinct from the ubiquitous white tile, reclaimed wood, and Edison bulb aesthetic and had ambitious design plans despite their tight budget. With this in mind, Adam Frampton, principal at Only If, opted for an “inexpensive but futuristic” material palette of black marble, perforated aluminum and copper, and black rubber; with walls made of aluminum enamel painted oriented strand board.

“In such a small and constrained space, our first intuition was to be very pragmatic with the layout and articulate the design through the materials and details. However, we didn't want to simply decorate the space,” Frampton said.

He devised a layout based on two circles: The positive volume, a barista station, allows two baristas to work simultaneously and a negative volume, the “grotto,” is a seating space carved out of the surrounding walls. “What's really interesting about the layout is how it activates different social settings and creates different types of seating.” **OLIVIA MARTIN**