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MARK BEST & MARK LANDINI Since opening in October last year, Centennial Parklands Dining in Sydney's Centennial Park has become a favourite with both the business and local lunch set. The new restaurant is the work of branding and interiors whiz Mark Landini and acclaimed chef Mark Best. The pair has created a space that invites you to linger over the tranquil park view and the menu of simple seasonal dishes.

Mark Landini, a former creative director at London's Conran Design Group, and the creative force behind many restaurant designs, is known for timeless interiors that sit easily in their environments. "I hate fashion in design. With branding and interiors, when things are done well from the outset, and their surrounds are considered, they will stand the test of time," he says.

Natural finishes, including dark brown stone and American oak, make up the deliberately understated interior palette of Centennial Parklands Dining, while massive glass windows allow expansive views of the park.

Multi-hatted chef Mark Best took a similarly restrained approach when devising the menu. "Deciding on the menu for a restaurant in a much-loved public space can be controversial. In the case of Centennial Park, people feel strong ownership as many locals spend a big part of their lives there. You almost have to be a custodian of the space," he says. "I opted for a nothing-too-left-of-centre menu using seasonal ingredients sourced from our favourite suppliers – perfect for a local, lunchtime restaurant."

Grand Drive, Centennial Park, Sydney, (02) 9380 9350; cpdining.com.au

