

1945 STEAK & SEAFOOD

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

Gillis Gilkerson was honored to play a part in the most recent evolution of the iconic Embers restaurant, assisting with a renovation project at 1945 Steak & Seafood. The Taustin family opened their first restaurant on the Boardwalk in 1945, before relocating to their current site in 1960, which became The Embers Restaurant. In 2021, the Taustins redeveloped the site into District 24, a multi-floor complex with diverse dining and entertainment options - including BLU Crabhouse & Raw Bar, Surf's Up Arcade and more. The restaurant known as The Embers relaunched as 1945 Steak & Seafood on the third floor - a new upscale, open-kitchen chophouse and seafood concept overlooking the bay.

To take advantage of the rooftop views, the third floor was originally designed as an open-air space, but it became evident that flexible, conditioned space would help the restaurant adapt to weather and expand off-season opportunities. In Summer 2026, Gillis Gilkerson came in to help the restaurant install overhead doors, service doors and storefront glass, after additional HVAC was added.

Thoughtful selections ensured that four remote-controlled overhead doors open smoothly without interfering with ceiling-mounted infrared heaters or sprinklers. Service doors ensure access to the balcony, and structural steel was added to support the new doors and windows that enclose the remainder of the space. The renovation project was led by Gillis Gilkerson Project Manager Rich Hertzog and Superintendent John Williamson.



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