

# Bluetooth Mesh Brings Ambiance and Mystery to Empress M, Napa's New Destination Chinese Restaurant

The Empress M restaurant, Napa valley's newest destination dining spot, was seeking a lighting control solution that could create an ambiance of warmth and mystery as well as highlight the restaurant's impressive Chinese art collection and décor. mwConnect teamed with the restaurant's designer and Casambi to deliver an easy-to-use wireless network that achieves these goals effortlessly.



## Overview

New to Napa Valley, already a world-renowned center for culinary and wine excellence, the Empress M restaurant combines traditional Chinese regional cuisine with Chinese art and music for an immersive dining experience. The restaurant management wanted a lighting experience that contributed to the overall experience with a range of scenes for dining as well as highlighting the exceptional art collection displayed throughout the 5,800 ft<sup>2</sup> building. They selected mwConnect's Bluetooth mesh solution powered by the Casambi app, due to its versatile capabilities, price point and flexible user interface.



## Creating a Unique Experience

The Empress M restaurant encompasses China's eight greatest culinary traditions while its interior and exterior designs express the passion and dynamism of Chinese culture. Regal, custom-commissioned works of art and vibrant red accents, symbolic of joy and good fortune in China, decorate the interior spaces, which consist of three dining rooms. Outdoors, artfully landscaped gardens create an ideal atmosphere for peaceful relaxation, natural inspiration, and magical afternoon tea services. The mwConnect/Casambi Bluetooth mesh platform was an ideal choice for bringing this authentic and immersive Chinese dining experience to life.

The dining spaces feature dimmable LED track lighting as well as LED color strip lighting and uplighting. In addition, the dining areas include custom manufactured decorative pendant lanterns and chandeliers as well as two custom floor lamps in the restaurant's VIP room. All the interior lighting is controlled by the Bluetooth mesh system.

"We appreciate the versatility of the control platform tremendously," notes Thomas Megna, Director of Operations and Business Development. "We're able to operate multiple different scenes across the restaurant simultaneously with either the app interface or the 4-button wall controllers.



Our floor managers and waitstaff are easily able to adjust scenes without time-consuming training or the need to access user guides.”

## Project Highlights

The restaurant features several distinct dining spaces.

### Bar

In the bar, visitors can enjoy cocktails and menu items as well in an intimate space. Four custom fixtures and 20 dimmable LED track lights are controlled via Casambi control modules installed above the ceiling in J-boxes. Scenes are accessed via the app installed on the bar’s master iPad, which also controls the other dining and gathering spaces throughout the restaurant.

### Main Dining Room

In this spacious area, 10 tracks of dimmable LEDs are complemented by four custom pendant lanterns. Several preset scenes are available for use, such as daytime and evening dining scenes as well as service and safety scenes for before- and after hours activities.

### VIP Room

This private room features five rows of dimmable LED downlights, two custom chandeliers and two custom floor lamps all controlled via an occupancy sensor and set of wall stations. As with the bar and main dining areas, controllers are concealed above the ceiling in J-boxes. Floor managers can access the iPad interface in the bar area to adjust scenes

for this room as well as any other area in the restaurant.

### Entrance Hall

This impressive gathering space features four tracks of dimmable LED downlights controlled via two EnOcean wall stations.

### Future Plans

The lighting throughout the spacious, nearly 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> outdoor patio is currently not part of the Bluetooth mesh network but as Megna notes, can be easily included with the addition of two controllers and a set of EnOcean wall stations. “We look forward to creating different scenes for our outdoor dining spaces just as we’ve done indoors,” he comments. “We can take advantage of the superb Napa weather and provide a wonderful ambiance for the space, especially desirable on our live entertainment nights.”

### Project Team

**Thomas Megna, Director of Operations and Business Development, Empress M Restaurant**

**Peter Augusta, Vice President of Sales, Casambi Technologies**

**Stephen Zhou, Vice President, mwConnect**

**Ken Yasui, Firmware Engineer, mwConnect**