Jennifer Colliau discusses the forthcoming Long Now Salon in Fort Mason

Included in this week’s Inside Scoop print column is word about an interesting new café-by-day and bar-by-night headed to Fort Mason, right next door to vegetarian temple Greens. It’s the brainchild of the Long Now Foundation, a non-profit group that “hopes to provide a counterpoint to today’s accelerating culture and help make long-term thinking more common.”

And as noted by Camper English earlier this week, Jennifer Colliau — who has been in the Charles Phan empire for years — will be running the bar program at the cool little bar with a working name of the Salon. The bar’s theme is time.

Colliau has been approached to run bars before, but hasn’t bitten on an offer, until now. She was drawn to the philosophy of Long Now, and also, as she puts it to Scoop, “the whole Fort Mason thing is rad.” Since Fort Mason is federal property, it’s not subject to the liquor laws of California. Which, for a bartender interested in spirits, can be a very fun thing. (Colliau plans to serve whiskey out of a barrel, for example. The thought process is that it could continue aging until being poured. Time concept alert!)

They’re kicking around other ideas. Aged cocktails (ponche de granada) and clarified milk punches are being brainstormed, with the idea that those drinks would be able to be mixed ahead of time, thereby making for quick service. Another possibility is a gin robot. You read that correctly. We will not spoil the surprise.

The bar is currently under construction. The capacity is anticipated to be about 70 people, twice the size of Hard Water, Colliau’s current post. Read more about the Salon project over at Long Now’s official site.
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The San Francisco Chronicle's Inside Scoop columnist.
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