Pass the AZT

August 1, 1998

Judging by the recent rash of apothecary-style restaurants and bars in London and New York City, protease envy is alive and kicking. At Pharmacy, upscale Brits sit on giant aspirin-shaped bar stools, nursing Russian Quaalude and Cough Syrup cocktails, while waiters serve food in surgeons' scrubs. The medicine cabinets that line the walls are so authentic and the atmosphere so sterile that confused locals turn up to have prescriptions filled. British artist Damien Hirst, creator of Pharmacy's sick taste, calls the place an art installation. "Art is like medicine," he sound-bites. "It can heal."

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