

hospitalitydesign

march/april 2018 hospitalitydesign.com

sweet spot

lifestyle meets luxury



HDexpo preview
hospitality design event

hospitality^{design}

march/april 2018

online TOC 013
from the
editor 018
people 026
ad index 198
back space 200



On the cover:
Compartés in Los Angeles.
Photo by Grey Crawford.

perspectives 033



products 125



hd expo preview 151



projects 169



sketchbook 035
places park city 047
trends confectioneries 053
brand identity two roads 063
interview marcel wanders 079
interview jaime beriestain 088
5 questions for bashar wali 096
special feature designing duos 100
special feature luxury today 115

profile adam kamens 127
art 129
outdoor furniture 135
window coverings 141
bath 143
flooring 149

from the show director 152
interview jonathan adler and simon doonan 154
cosmopolitan of las vegas 159
interview rebecca ruggles 162
products 165

ace hotel chicago 170
las alcobas napa valley 174
yurbban passage hotel & spa 178
le méridien/ac hotel denver downtown 182

Hospitality Design,
USPS 478-370, (ISSN No. 1062-9254),
is published monthly and combined
in March/April, by 100 Broadway, New
York, NY 10005. Copyright © 2018 by
Emerald Expositions. All rights reserved.
Subscriptions in the U.S. \$90; Canada
and Mexico, \$100; all other international
subscriptions air post, \$105. Single
copies \$10 (plus postage if applicable).
Vol. 40, No. 3. Periodicals postage
paid at New York, NY, and at additional
offices. Canadian Post Publications Mail
Agreement Number 40798037. Return
undeliverable Canadian addresses
to: Emerald Expositions, c/o P.O. Box
2601, 915 Dixie Rd., Mississauga, ON
L4T0A9. Printed in the United States of
America. POSTMASTER, send address
corrections to Hospitality Design, P.O.
Box 3601, Northbrook, IL 60065-3601.





midwest charm

Ace looks to Chicago's past for its latest outpost

By ALISSA PONCHIONE

Photography by SPENCER LOWELL and MIKE SCHWARTZ



There were many directions

Commune cofounder Roman Alonso could have taken for the design of the Ace Chicago. This being his fourth collaboration with the brand, the Los Angeles-based designer is as familiar with Ace's subtle nuances as anyone, but he was also faced with a new obstacle: This was the lifestyle hotel company's first ground-up property, and Alonso soon realized new builds present just as many complications as an adaptive reuse.

For one, an original building normally acts as a design partner in helping dictate the interiors. "We didn't have any historic architecture to go by because it was all new and modern," he notes. But Chicago is a city with a rich design heritage, so Alonso channeled Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's iconic work at the Illinois Institute of Technology for a look that marries strong Midwestern craftsmanship with utilitarian design. For Ace Hotel Group president Brad Wilson, that's part of Ace's charm. "We look for rare opportunities where we know we can experiment and challenge ourselves," says Wilson, who grew

1. A tapestry from Christy Matson hangs on a white brick-clad wall in Ace Hotel Chicago's lobby.



2



3

2. A plywood desk runs the length of the window in the spacious yet efficient guestrooms, while a blue linoleum headboard, denim chair, and coverlet in soft tones create an urban, utilitarian feel.

3. Suites offer a more daring take, with bright mustard sofas and earthy and natural rugs informed by George Nakashima.

4. Plywood creates the curving ceiling in the Ludwig Mies van Der Rohe-inspired lobby, where Chad Kouri's canvas panels recall Chicago's jazz legacy.



4

up in the Windy City. With Ace Chicago, “we took measures to restore the historic brick façade on part of the building,” which was once home to a cheesemaking factory.

Plywood, a nod to van der Rohe’s affinity for wood paneling, is used throughout and often paired with linoleum “to evoke a modernist period,” Alonso says. Take the lobby—a defining space for Ace—where the simple material forms the ceiling with a white brick-clad wall recalling the exterior. Black terrazzo floors finish the look, while indigo-dyed canvas panels that evoke the city’s history of jazz from artist Chad Kouri are flexible dividers that

encourage both intimacy and conviviality. The reception, lobby bar, City Mouse restaurant, and gallery “are connected with wide, sweeping entrances, allowing each space to operate in dialogue with one another,” adds Wilson. “And we made sure our public spaces overflowed with natural light—a big plus in Chicago.”

Alonso also collaborated with local art space Volume Gallery to populate the hotel with original artwork: a bronze sculpture from artist Steven Haulenbeek greets guests at reception, Anni Albers-inspired tapestries by Christy Matson fill the lobby, and multiple Bauhaus-infused textiles from Tanya Aguiñiga are found

throughout. One of the latter’s most prominent pieces reflects Chicago’s topography and hangs behind the host stand of the midcentury-inflected City Mouse from local restaurateurs Jason Vincent, Josh Perlman, and Ben Lustbader. The art continues upstairs as well: For the opening, the hotel’s gallery exhibited nearly 200 original pieces on Ace Chicago stationary by students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which are now showcased in the 159 rooms.

Plywood pops up again in the guestrooms and suites through a desk that spans the length of the window, a novel choice meant



5+6. An Anni Albers-esque tapestry sits behind the host stand at Country Mouse restaurant, leading to the inviting dining room with brass-edged tables and green leather seats framed in steel.

7. Rooftop space Waydown expresses a moodier vibe with black-stained floors and walls and a DJ booth sculpted from sand by artist Steven Haulenbeek.

8. Dressed in royal blue and black, the clean, modern guestroom bathrooms are finished with metal accents.

Ace Hotel Chicago

Owner **Ace Hotel Group/Atelier Ace** Developer **Sterling Bay Companies** Architect of Record **GREC Architects, Chicago** Interior Design Firm **Commune, Los Angeles** Engineering **Forefront Structural Engineers (structural) and Spaceco (civil)** General Contractor **Power Construction Company** Landscape Design **Site Design Group** Lighting Design **CharterSills** Cabinetry **Custom by Commune**; manufactured by **ALX Raw Art Volume Gallery** and **School of the Art Institute of Chicago Artists** **Steven Haulenbeek, Erik DeBat, Christy Matson, Chad Kouri, Jonathan Nesci, Tanya Aguiñiga, and Jojo Chuang** Creative Partnerships **Ezra Arthur, Horween Leather, Colonial Mills, the Metal Shop, Bottle & Branch, the Weaving Mill, and Edward Fields** Guestroom Coverlets **RTH**

**Designers did not provide sourcing for other furnishings shown.*



to provide unfiltered light while guests work. Chrome tubing in wall hooks hints to Bauhaus, while mountain chairs in denim “have a democratic, urban feel that Ace owns,” Alonso says. An exposed concrete ceiling juxtaposes the headboard made of inlaid blue linoleum and a throw blanket in blue, gray, and green stripes—a play on the hotel’s palette. “We wanted airy, well-lit spaces to contrast the dark blues and greens,” he notes. Suites take a bolder turn, however, with mustard yellow sofas and earthy but vibrant rugs inspired by midcentury icon George Nakashima’s textile work.

Meanwhile, the seventh floor is home to Waydown rooftop bar, which offers panoramic views of the city and is dressed in blue, including a DJ booth sculpted from sand, to make guests feel like “they’re up in the clouds,” Alonso says. And still to come: artist Jonathan Nesci’s highly anticipated dome for the fifth-floor garden terrace event space Prairie. The communal sized hammock will welcome a handful of people who want to take in a show or poetry reading while relaxing under Chicago’s skyline. **hd**

communedesign.com; acehotel.com