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Making History by Preserving a Legend

Preserving the authenticity of an historic hotel while simultaneously meeting modern building standards for safety and energy efficiency, as well as guest expectations for luxurious accommodations, is a challenging task requiring engineering know-how and artistic finesse.

The renovation of The Algonquin Resort employed both modern technology and an appreciation for the hotel's original grandeur.

Design Details

"We wanted to send guests on a voyage of discovery, so we've taken the rambling spaces of this historic building and rendered them in unexpected, contemporary ways that create visual appeal and surprises throughout." -Robynne Moncur, Principal Moncur Design Associates, Toronto.

- Designed and installed 8,600 yards of public area carpet with no-repeat pattern of scattered antique medallions.
- Created (4) 2 x 9 foot bubble glass screens with imprinted imagery of antique alcohol bottles, lit with LED lighting, as a screen between two seating areas. Light reflects off bubbles in the glass, maximizing ambient and LED-enhanced illumination.
- Developed living room effect in lobby area, using diverse furnishings such as a traditional communal table with high back chairs upholstered in different, but complementary fabrics, front and back.
- Crafted black millwork bar inset with 12-inch square tiles made from leather, horsehair, crocodile, and other textures.

Aesthetic/Historic Considerations

- Retained original guest room configurations. While most hotels have eight different room types, the Algonquin Resort has 233 rooms and 117 different styles.
- Maintained original Tudor style exterior, including 200 custom-made 11-foot wide windows and original arches. Added Tudor styling to Prince of Wales wing to give hotel consistent look.
- Restored second floor patios for 16 guest rooms.
- Preserved Romeo and Juliet-style balconies for 96 rooms.
- Installed Dutch style open out windows in other rooms.
- Refurbished public area antique furnishings.
- Saved and highlighted historic photography throughout public areas.
- Retained double-sided fireplaces and converted to gas.

Comforts and Conveniences

- Installed complimentary WiFi throughout the property.
- Installed radiant heat flooring in guest bathrooms to minimize steamed windows and maximize comfort on cold winter mornings.
- Reconfigured public spaces for greater efficiencies – constructed new fitness center adjacent to indoor pool and waterslide.
- Relocated restaurant adjacent to kitchen to increase efficiency and enhance service.
- Created new outdoor event space with on-site prep-kitchen from unused mini-golf course and former “casino” building adjacent to outdoor pool.
- Enlarged lobby bar by re-allocating space from oversized gift shop and added a patio to showcase the spectacular sunset views.
- Added whirlpool next to the refinished outdoor pool
- Redesigned public spaces to encourage guests to gather and linger
- Expanded luxury spa to include salon services
- Added Natatorium, (indoor pool with three-story waterslide) to enhance resort’s year-round appeal.

Energy Efficiencies

- Decreased carbon footprint with an anticipated annual energy savings of \$200,000
- Created new thermal envelope, including double pane, anti-glare windows typical in new construction.
- Upgraded roof system to integrate with the exterior insulated finish system (EIFS) that retains the hotel’s original, Tudor-style appearance and elevates the R-factor for heat retention to 28.
- Installed energy recovery ventilation units in attic.
- Positioned pool area dehumidification system that recaptures lost heat to reheat pool water.
- Purchased computer-controlled energy management system that allows the hotel to adjust heating and cooling in unoccupied areas with minimal effort.

About the Autograph Collection:

The Autograph Collection is an evolving ensemble of strikingly independent hotels. Each destination has been selected for its quality, bold originality, rich character, and uncommon details. From near to far, iconic to historic, the result is an array of properties that is nothing less than unique, nothing short of collectively exceptional. For more information please visit www.autographhotels.com