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AT THE MET HENRY SQUIRE REGENERATION CRICK INSTITUTE OFFICE FOCUS

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44 WAYS TO ARTFUL LIGHTING

*Light installation 44, from
Bocci, is in the foyer at the
Barbican. See page 137*





PROJECT 1

Renaissance New York Midtown Hotel

The sense of place is resolutely reflected in the new New York flagship for hotel chain Renaissance, with Jeffrey Beers International taking inspiration from the grit and glamour of its Manhattan surroundings

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JEFFREY BEERS INTERNATIONAL was tasked with providing hotel chain Renaissance with a 'fresh new design concept that embodied the objectives of surprise, delight and discovery' as part of its rebranding package for the New York City-sited flagship hotel.

The design scheme draws inspiration from Manhattan's energy and excitement of the artistic industries that surround the hotel, located in the Garment District. Guests, with many being solo business travellers, are encouraged to get out and explore the exciting neighbourhood thanks to a large digital experience in the lobby area.

Known as Navigator, digital displays offering guests neighbourhood information are projected along the lobby corridor, which spans the length of the block and forms a 'living wall', showcasing the many unique experiences the neighbourhood has to offer. The wall responds to human motion through subtle, organic movements, with graphic patterns interacting with guests as they move through the entrance hall. Visitors can explore points of interests with just the point of a finger and tap of the foot.

Looking past the spectacular display and they'll see the design scheme that features >

a mix of luxury and industrial – a theme that continues throughout the hotel. The entrance features a finely figured Paldao wood portal, inset with glass-covered fabric panels, with directional linear grains in both the wood and Eramosa marble flooring matched up to form a seamless ribbon of pattern. This rich smoothness is contrasted by the rough texture of the bare concrete wall at the far end of the space, flowing into a Kenya black marble floor.

Arriving at the sixth-floor reception area, guests are greeted by a front desk flanked by vibrant photographic collages projected on to exposed concrete and depicting various New York City scenes by photographer and artist Nicolas Ruel. Blackened-metal lift doors contrast with white marble; concrete walls sit flush against figured walnut and polished Hermosa marble floors, all drawing inspiration from the grit and glamour characteristic of the city.

‘This space had to serve so many purposes – we wanted it to be a workspace, a lounge, a bar, and an event venue – so making sure it could accommodate all of those different activities while still maintaining an open floor plan required careful consideration,’ says Jeffrey Beers, designer and founder of Jeffrey >



Previous page The hotel's lobby features wood panelling, linear-grain marble floor and concrete walls

Above A 'living wall' of New York scenes runs the whole length of the corridor

Right A black marble floor contrasts with the bare concrete wall

PROJECT INFO

Client

H + H Builders;
Stonebridge
Companies; Marriott
Brand Companies

Interior designer

Jeffrey Beers
International
jeffreybeers.com

Size

20,439 sq m

Duration

Three years





Above A flexible meeting space follows a menswear-inspired decor in greys, with a pinstripe carpet and quotes from fashion icons painted on a raw concrete wall in reference to the Garment District

Right The sixth-floor bar has an elaborate ceiling of geometric-shaped walnut frame panelling that extends down behind the bar and is echoed in the flooring

Beers International. Areas are defined by millwork, including the front desk and the lobby bar opposite, which helped to overcome some of the issues faced by the design team. Ceiling panels are overlaid with a graphically styled walnut framework and the same bold geometric pattern is mirrored in the two-tone wood flooring in the bar. The bar itself, made of a solid slab of Calcutta marble, accommodates guests on upholstered bar stools and a small adjacent balcony offers additional seating that looks out over an expansive fifth-floor terrace.

An open bookcase separates additional seating in the Library Lounge, with the divider creating a more focused, productive work environment for guests while also not completing cutting them off from social areas. A twisting, tree-like sculpture appearing to grow through the bookcase brings in a more sinuous, organic component to offset the straight lines and right-angles of the shelving.

Travelling up another floor and a long corridor, covered in an oversize map of Manhattan, leads to a flexible meeting space that can be converted into multiple, separate conference rooms. A menswear-inspired theme features subdued colours >





Left and below Guest rooms are kept fuss-free to make the most of the small footprint

KEY SUPPLIERS

Furniture and fixtures

Vanitywala
vanitywala.com
Signature Hardware
signaturehardware.com

Artwork

Indiewalls
indiewalls.com
Art by Presa
artbypresa.com

Lighting

Ilanel
ilanel.com
iWorks
iworksus.com
Hallmark Lighting
hallmarklighting.com

Panels and wall covering

Archetype Frameless
Glass, Inc
archetypeglass.com
Carvart
carvart.com
Astek Inc. Wallcovering
astekwallcovering.com

and a lightly pinstriped carpeting, while inspirational quotes from the likes of Coco Chanel and Oscar de la Renta are painted on to the raw concrete back wall, all nods to the area's fashion heritage.

Each of the 348 individual guest rooms has a wood vestibule at the entrance, which creates a homely feel. 'For the guest rooms, the challenge was to make relatively small footprint feel airy and spacious,' says Beers. 'We succeeded in doing that by using pale finishes, maximising natural light with floor-to-ceiling windows, and adhering to an uncluttered aesthetic.' A palette of neutral colours is accented with a tone of aubergine in the bedding and a touch of bright yellow in the entryway artwork. These minimalist rooms feel more spacious than their footprint would indicate.

'Having grown up in New York, I thrive on the fast-paced rhythm of the lifestyle here, says Beers. 'I really wanted the design of this hotel to capture the vibrancy and creative energy of the city and to immerse visitors in the real New York. The marriage of luxe and industrial... creates an elegant yet edgy look in both the public spaces and the guest rooms.' **FX**

