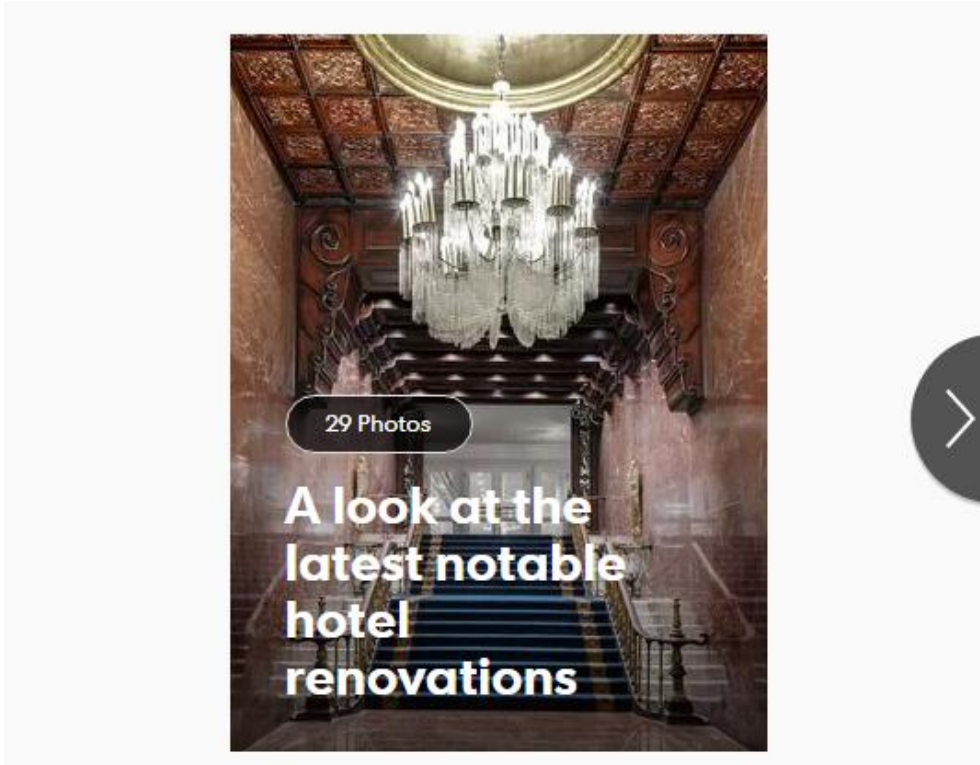


July roundup: A look at the latest hotel renovations



Hotels are constantly transforming themselves to keep up with the growing competition. Each month, USA TODAY will take a look at a few of the most notable hotel renovations. Here are the latest ones:

Curio Collection by Hilton

Hilton launched its Curio collection of upscale hotels just over three years ago in June 2014, and so far it has grown to 39 properties.

Already, a few of them are stepping up their game.

The Diplomat Resort Hollywood, Curio Collection by Hilton has just emerged from a \$100 million transformation. The oceanfront resort opened in 1958 and quickly became a social hub.

The renovation includes 10 new culinary concepts and a redesign of the 1,000 guestrooms and suites. The guestrooms depict two different design schemes: Sunrise and Sunset. Sunrise rooms are modern with earthy tones. Carpets have organic coral and sand patterns. Sunset rooms are also modern but more subtle. And, of course, they have sunset views.

Indoor and outdoor public spaces have also been re-done, including poolside cabanas and the spa. The El San Juan Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton, has undergone a \$60 million renovation designed by Jeffrey Beers International.



The front of the building has been completely transformed. Guest rooms, restaurants and the lobby were given a more modern and lavish look. The lobby, for instance, features a hand-carved mahogany ceiling and ornate chandelier.

The hotel opened in 1958 and drew celebrities such as Tony Bennett and Sammy Davis Jr.

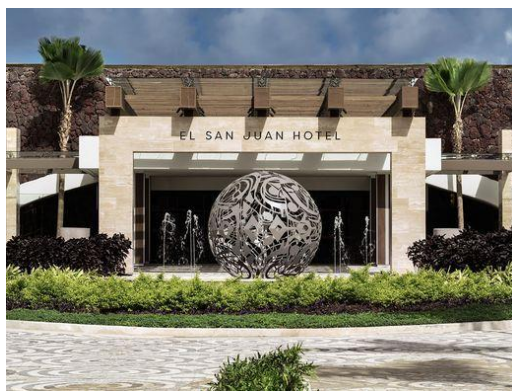
The Hotel Phillips Kansas City, Curio Collection by Hilton has gone through a \$20 million transformation of its guest rooms, dining areas and lobby. The hotel has been restored to its 1930s grandeur. A member of the National Registry of Historic Places, the downtown landmark opened in 1931, becoming the tallest building in Kansas City.

The renovation has restored its Art Deco look, which includes a lobby featuring bronze and nickel metalwork, walnut paneling, marble walls, and a black glass ceiling.

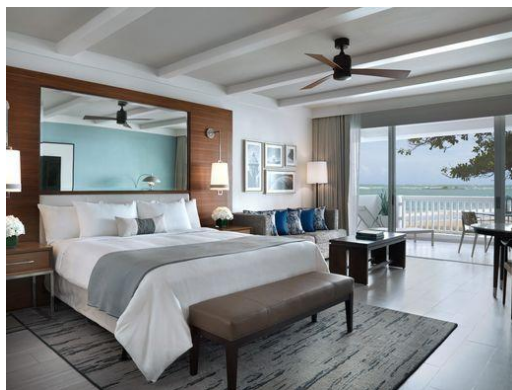
A gilded 11-foot sculpture of Dawn, known as the Goddess of Hospitality, was preserved. In Boston, the historic Ames Hotel, also a member of Curio and of the Gemstone Collection by Benchmark, has completed a \$6 million renovation. The redesign includes the lobby, The Library, Ames and Oliver & Oakes rooms, and the Cultivar restaurants.

The renovation preserved original features such as the lobby's tiled mosaic arched ceiling and a marble staircase that runs from the first floor to the roof. Still, the new lobby has sleek new check in stations and a casual seating area.

All 114 rooms have gotten a touch-up. And a "Bobby Orr Suite" was created in honor of the 50th anniversary of the legendary ice hockey player's signing with the Boston Bruins. The 581-square foot space has refurbished seats from the Boston Garden, a "penalty box", scoreboard chandelier, arena boards, a "stadium seating" millwork couch, Bruins bedspread, Boston Garden replica "locker" closets, "puck" side tables, and ice rink flooring.



The front of the El San Juan Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton has also been completely transformed and upgraded.



Many of the new guestrooms at the El San Juan, Curio Collection by Hilton, have ocean views.



All guest rooms and public spaces, including this concierge desk, were redone at the El San Juan Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton.



Some rooms at the El San Juan Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton, have outdoor showers.