

INTERIOR DESIGN[®]

JUNE
2012



the
many
faces of
creativity

INTERIOR DESIGN

portraits of hospitality

Hotels can capture the passage of time





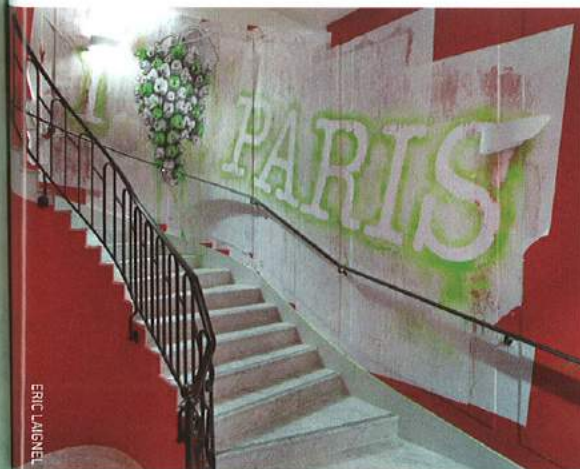
firm: rockwell group europe
site: paris

hospitality

fit for a queen

"A meeting of two worlds, Parisian elegance and New York energy." That's how Rockwell Group Europe managing and creative director Diego Gronda describes the W Paris-Opéra. Occupying three Haussmann buildings near the Opéra Garnier, the 91-room hotel boasts an ornate entrance hall and ➤

Clockwise from top: For a custom pillow in a W Paris-Opéra guest room, Marcel van der Vlugt photographed a model as Marie-Antoinette. A custom bench in ebonized oak sits in front of an elevator lobby's restored window. Spray-painted graffiti by Ludo is one of several street-art pieces.



ERIC LAINDEL





Clockwise from top left: The original stair railing is wrought iron. Reception desks in bronze-finished stainless steel stand on the terrazzo floor. Mirror, enhanced with marker by artist Shoboshobo, reflects the salon's custom leather-upholstered seating. His take on a French

kiss appears as a vinyl sticker, adhered to a lacquered wall in the bar. In the restaurant, Arolo, polyester by Rosita Missoni covers the backs of Louis XV-style chairs. Lacquered stainless panels, embedded with LEDs, enclose a banquette niche in the lounge.

hospitality





11 original marble mantelpieces alongside David Rockwell signature interventions.

The most striking of the latter are the walls wrapping the stair and elevator core and reappearing at strategic points throughout the public spaces. These walls were constructed from black-lacquered stainless steel perforated to allow colored LEDs to flash through. "Almost like a heart that pulses," Gronda says.

As classical architectural elements approach an LED wall, something mysterious happens to them—they seem to morph under the influence of the flashing light. The chevron pattern in the terrazzo flooring fades; moldings appear to melt. In addition, the light serves a practical purpose, guiding guests, for instance, from the hotel's front doors to the restaurant, the first in Paris from Catalan star chef Sergi Arola.

The Paris–New York combo makes itself very evident in the guest rooms, too. Graffiti is

juxtaposed with Louis XV-style chairs. Bedcovers' toile de Jouy combines vintage Citroën cars and other Parisian sights. Pillows are printed with photos of fashion models dressed as historical figures: Marie-Antoinette, the Marquis de Sade, et al.

Each of the top-tier "extreme wow" suites is dominated by an enormous round bed with side sections that separate to become a pair of crescent sofas. "It's a real party bed," Gronda says. For opening night, W even brought in the pop band Singtank to play while jumping up and down on one. —*Ian Phillips*

FROM FRONT GANCEDO: HEADBOARD FABRIC (GUEST ROOMS), BENCH FABRIC (ELEVATOR LOBBY, RESTAURANT), SOLID CHAIR FABRIC (RESTAURANT), CURTAIN FABRIC (SUITE, GUEST ROOM). **RIMEX:** DESK SURFACING (RECEPTION), PEDESTAL TABLE SURFACING (SALON, LOUNGE). **KVADRAT:** PANEL FABRIC (RECEPTION), RED OTTOMAN FABRIC (LOUNGE). **DEDAR:** PILLOW FABRIC (SALON, LOUNGE). **DUPONT:** BAR MATERIAL (BAR), SINK MATERIAL (BATHROOM). **MISSONI HOME:** PATTERNED CHAIR FABRIC (RESTAURANT). **ANDREU WORLD:** TABLES. **POLIFORM:** TABLES (GUEST ROOM). **ALARWOL:** CUSTOM CARPET (GUEST ROOMS, SUITE). **DURAVIT:** TUB (BATHROOM). **HANSGRÖHE:** TUB FITTINGS, SINK FITTINGS. **THROUGHOUT TOWNSEND LEATHER COMPANY:** UPHOLSTERY. **ERTIM:** ARCHITECT OF RECORD. **FRANSEN PROJECT:** WILD DESIGN: LIGHTING CONSULTANTS. **EIFFAGE:** STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. **RÉPONSE:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

Clockwise from top left: Custom carpet in a guest room is wool-nylon. In each of the two top-tier suites, the sides of the custom bed detach to become a pair of sofas. Polyester and polyurethane meet on a guest room's custom chair. This pillow riffs on a Paul Gauguin self-portrait. Shoboshobo drew another character on a window in the gym. A sticker by Emily Forgot is vinyl. She also designed the toile de Jouy on the custom bedcover. The bathroom's tub is acrylic.





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