

hospitality design

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growth spurts

nine destinations
to watch

HD expo
a hospitality design event

perspectives **sketchbook**
next hotel

→ “No fuss,” was a key brief to interior designers charged with the remake of a dated yet iconic Brisbane hotel, says Angela Spathonis, a senior interior designer with Asia-Pacific design practice Geyer.

NEXT Hotel—the first flagship brand for Singapore-based SilverNeedle Hospitality—debuted in the Queensland capital after a \$47 million makeover of the Chifley at Lennons landmark hotel converted the tower section of the 1972-built, 33-story skyscraper, doubling its capacity from 150 rooms to 304.

“How to reinvigorate the bones of a 42-year-old building, mindful of its place in Brisbane history, and the commercial reality of re-living the tower to envelope its office space into a hotel were the main challenges,” says Spathonis. “We painted the bookends a deep charcoal color—they are quite a visual aspect in the skyline—and revamped the signage with branding overlay.”

The hotel was given a new façade to draw passersby up to the second floor F&B outlets. (Forever 21 made its Australian debut as sole tenant in the ground level retail space.) The free-flowing lobby and custom-designed carpets overlaid with world time zones reflect the brand’s mantra: “designed to make your time count,” Spathonis says.

“Warm-toned travertine, walnut and ebonized black timbers, and linen are accented with black powdercoated metal finishes” in the lobby, she adds, while bamboo flooring, exposed brick, and Carrara



marble in Lennons restaurant are injected with deep purple hues. Guestrooms were refurbished with taupe carpet and sliding walls creating a greater sense of space. And, Spathonis says, “instead of a standard print on walls, an upholstered bed pelmet with integrated lighting and a custom image of the Brisbane Story Bridge is a practical design element and another nod to local culture.”

corrections and clarifications

→ In our December issue’s Curated Solutions story in our Products section, HG Arts was responsible for creating the artwork shown on the wallcoverings of the Hyatt Herald Square guestrooms. This work was incorrectly attributed to Soho Myriad, who also worked on elements of the project.



Shine Collection by Arik Levy

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