

GLOBAL DESIGNREVIEW

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WHO'S WHO IN HOTEL DESIGN >

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WA International's latest luxury hotel, Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk



A International's creative concept for this project was to capture their client's passion for Ancient Egypt. The architecture of the building

is shaped as an immense obelisk standing 51 storeys tall in the heart of Dubai. With such a prominent Pharaonic representation on the exterior architecture, WA International carried this intriguing style throughout the interiors.

WA International's client had chosen Sofitel as its Operator, with Sofitel being a French brand and prizing itself on luxury French-Style hospitality, this was WA International's foundation to reference the influence of the Ancient Egyptian patterns and finishes which was reflected throughout the French Art Deco movement.

Impressive Pharaonic columns stand tall within the 18 metre high entrance lobby, beautifully carved with Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. A 9 metre wide golden falcon sculpture takes centre stage over the reception desks. The falcon symbolizes the Pharaonic god of the sky Horus representing immense power. Falcons are also the UAE's national bird and a potent symbol of the nation's strength and heritage. The reception desks are solid blocks of limestone, carved with Pharaonic landscape patterns. Furniture pieces once again reference the French Art Deco era in a contemporary way.

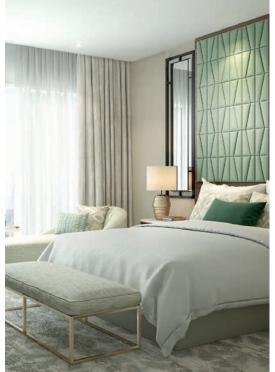
The concept for the interior of the French restaurant has been inspired by the Art Deco era, drawing its look from the sleek sophistication of Paris and the geometrically influenced representational forms of Ancient Egypt. Design elements included luxurious Egyptian motifs and bold colours such as white, black and gold. Fluted columns, plaster reliefs and bulbous light fittings have been used to hint at Art Deco, while creating a space reminiscent of Parisian Brasseries.

WA International's design director, Claire Craig further explains, "for the bar, the design brief was to deliver an English Gastropub. The design concept has been inspired by our client's fondness for his feline pets and the Pub Cats of London. The cat goddess Bastet became our Pharaonic reference. Her story is carved in hieroglyphic stone panels to the walls. Large Bastet images of her exotic silhouette adorns the rear walls. The Giza Pyramids are suspended above the bar."

Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk has 498 spacious guestrooms & suites and 97 luxuriously furnished apartments. Delicate geometric patterns and Art Deco references are visible throughout the interior architecture, furniture pieces and curated accessories. All rooms, suites and apartments have floor to ceiling windows offering wonderful views of Dubai's spectacular skyline. wa-international.com







WA International

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Design Director: Claire Craig Associate: Joey Samera Business Development: Nadia Kamber

Renowned in the hospitality market for creating original and distinctive destinations, WA International combines extensive international experience with dynamic creativity and an appreciation of local aesthetics, materials and conditions. WA International has built an enviable portfolio of esteemed clients and diverse projects; and ultimately, an exemplary reputation - a reputation which has been built through innovation, unique versatility and superlative performance. WA International continues to create some of the world's finest interiors, including the recently opened, award winning Sofitel

recently opened, award winning Sofitel Dubai the Obelisk and the Al Jaddaf Rotana Suite Hotel.

Selection of Current Projects:

St. Regis Downtown Dubai Grand Hyatt – Jaipur, India Luxor 5-star Hotel, Egypt Ngorongoro Lodge, Tanzania Royal Mirage refurbishment, Dubai One&Only The Palm Refurbishment, Dubai Sanctum Luxury Apartments, London Marriott JVC Dubai

Selection of Completed Projects:

Sofitel Dubai, The Obelisk Grand Mercure Hotel & Residences, Dubai Al Jaddaf Rotana Suite Hotel, Dubai Royal Mirage Dubai refurbishment Adagio The Palm Dubai Dubai Opera Jumeirah Royal Saray, Bahrain Hyatt Regency, Addis Ababa Renaissance Downtown Dubai The Hilton Al Habtoor City, Dubai One&Only The Palm, Dubai Park Hyatt, Zanzibar The Address, Downtown Dubai Four Seasons, Buenos Aires Park Chalet, Marriott Autograph Collection, Azerbaijan Pik Palace, Marriott Autograph Collection, Azerbaijan Ajman Saray, Starwood Luxury Collection Resort Marriott Al Jaddaf, Dubai JW Marriott Absheron, Baku Royal Mirage Dubai - Refurbishment Sofitel Capital Plaza, Abu Dhabi Sofitel Bahrain Zallag Thalassa Sea & Spa Sofitel Dubai Jumeirah Beach



Sofitel Dubai, The Obelisk

Associate Vice President (London): Nicole Hammond Managing Director Wimberly Interiors (New York): Margaret McMahon Vice President, Design Director (Seattle): Dennis Rehill Associate Vice President, Design Director (Chicago): Christopher Hurst Regional Offices: Shanghai, China; Singapore; Istanbu, Turkey; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; London, United Kingdom; Chicago, Honolulu, Irvine, Los Angeles, Coral Gables, New York, Seattle, United States Employees in practice: 350 Hotel Project Percentage: 95%

WCIT Architecture

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Webb+

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Wells International

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Justin Wells, Chief Executive Officer, Wells International

WGD Architects Inc

250 The Esplanade, Suite 302 Toronto, ON M5A 1J2 Canada T: +1 416 595 9955 E: wgdtoronto@ wgdarchitects.com W: wgdarchitects.com Principals: Richard Dabrus, Brian Gregersen Senior Architect: Kris Vassilev Buffet Architect: Veronique Allard Employees in practice: 15 Hotel Project Percentage: 15%

White Jacket

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William B Tabler

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> Patricia Ho Douven, Principal, White Jacket

Wimberly Interiors, a design studio of WATG

75 Spring Street, Suite 700 New York, NY 10012 United States T: +1 212 274 2626 E: newyork@watg.com W: wimberlyinteriors.com Senior Vice President + Managing Director (based in New York): Margaret McMahon Senior Associate + Creative Director (based in New York): Liana Hawes Young Associate + Creative Director (based in New York): Noel Cuvin Associate + Senior Designer (based in New York): Rebecca Weinstein





Creating Memorable Destinations

The Nine - Gastropub | Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk | Sofitel Dubai

Award-winning WA International continues to create some of the world's finest interiors.

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