

**HOTEL SPEC**

# GLOBAL DESIGN REVIEW

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WHO'S WHO IN HOTEL GROUPS | WHO'S WHO IN HOTEL DESIGN | FF&E SUPPLIERS GUIDE





WA International | Brasserie Boulud Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk | [wa-international.com](http://wa-international.com)

**WHO'S WHO IN HOTEL DESIGN >**



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

**W**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](http://wa-international.com)





## WA International

**Abdulla Kamber Business Centre**  
**Salahuddin Road, Deira, PO Box 42, Dubai**  
**United Arab Emirates**  
**T: +9714 2663050**  
**E: info@wai.ae**  
**W: wa-international.com**

**London Office**  
**258-262 Belsize Road, London NW6 4BT, UK**  
**T: +44 207 625 8550**

**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 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 Zallaq 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; Istanbul, 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

725 Kapiolani Blvd,  
 4th Floor  
 Honolulu, HI  
 96813  
 United States  
 T: +1 808 592 2345  
 E: info@wcitarch.com  
 W: wcitarch.com  
 President and Principal:  
 Robert K Iopa AIA  
 Vice President and Principal:  
 Lawrence Cunha AIA  
 Vice President and Design  
 Principal: Daniel Kanekuni  
 Vice President and Design  
 Principal: Mark H Higa

### WDG Architecture, PLLC

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW,  
 Suite 300  
 Washington, DC  
 20036  
 United States  
 T: +1 202 857 8300  
 W: wdgarch.com  
 Managing Principals:  
 David P Habib AIA,  
 Eric J Leibmann AIA,  
 Jeffrey A Morris AIA  
 Principal of Design for Interior  
 Architecture: Hiro Isogai  
 Principal of Interior Architecture:  
 Howard M Weiss  
 Associate Principal Senior  
 Designer: Sean M Stadler AIA  
 Associate Principal Senior  
 Designer: Siti Aboul-Rahman AIA  
 Regional Offices: Dallas, United  
 States

### Webb•

Webb Plus Pty. Ltd  
 Suite 102  
 23-25 Gipps Street  
 Collingwood, VIC  
 3066  
 Australia  
 T: +61 3 9468 2570  
 E: info@webbplus.com.au  
 W: webbplus.com.au  
 Principal: Simon Webb  
 Senior Associate Interior  
 Designer: Rebekah Levison  
 Practice Manager Special

Projects: Barbara Crowl  
 Employees in practice: 12  
 Hotel Project Percentage: 80%

### Wells International

P O Box 118978,  
 1 Sheikh Zayed Road  
 The H Dubai Office Tower  
 Level 9  
 Dubai  
 United Arab Emirates  
 T: +971 43721236  
 E: Hello@wells.international  
 W: wells.international  
 Chief Executive Officer:  
 Justin Wells



*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: wgdto@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

25 Seah Street, #02-01  
 Singapore 188381  
 T: +65 6883 2305  
 E: hello@whitejacket.com  
 W: whitejacket.com  
 Principal: Patricia Ho Douven

### William B Tabler Architects

158 West 29th Street  
 New York, NY 10001  
 United States  
 T: +1 212 563 6960  
 E: contact@williamtabler.com  
 W: williamtabler.com  
 Principals: Mark Dabbagh,  
 William B Tabler Jr.

*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







international  
PASSIONATE ABOUT DESIGN

Creating Memorable  
Destinations

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

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London: 258-262 Belsize Road London, NW6 4BT, UK Tel: +44 207 6258550

Email: [info@wai.ae](mailto:info@wai.ae) [www.wa-international.com](http://www.wa-international.com)

Claire Craig - Design Director

Joey Samera - Associate

Nadia Kamber - Business Development Manager