

COMMERCIAL

Interior design

The essential guide for Middle East interior design professionals

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Page 102

INSIDE AND OUT

Yasmeen Muhammed and
Arif Al-Faraj's look with interiors

SPA PARTNER

Setting the scene for a
refreshing spa visit

LONDON CALLING

Black sheep refurbish a major
London youth hostel

Trends and technology are making lights brighter
and more environmentally friendly

LIGHTEN UP



South Beach renovation Landmark hotel in Florida undergoes an interior makeover

A landmark hotel in South Beach, Florida has been on the receiving end of a complete renovation thanks to Miami architectural firm of Bellinson-Gomez and interior designers Diamante Pedersoli and Carmelina Santoro.

The Betsy, noted for its imposing colonial façade, has had clean lines and rich textures introduced to its interior. The two styles of Pedersoli and Santoro fused together, culminating in an elegant and relaxed design.

"Our goal is to make The Betsy at once completely comfortable and familiar, yet create an undeniable mark which would make The Betsy stand out from other hotels in Miami Beach," says Pedersoli.

Enormous floor to ceiling windows stretch across the expansive façade, allowing natural light to flow through the space. The colonial design of the lobby features wooden plantation style shutters as dividing walls, which separate the hotel lobby and guest reception from a restaurant. Lighting consists of ivory coloured Fortuny Sheherazade chandeliers hanging from the coffered ceilings, complemented by colonial style fans in the lobby lounge. The historical terrazzo flooring is accented with natural fibre area rugs. Wooden antique world globes, zebra framed mirrors, safari pictures and potted palms complete the theme.

The Betsy Hotel's 63 rooms and

suites are private, hidden behind white wooden plantation shuttered windows. Each room features dark black walnut hardwood floors, white lacquered dressers, cabinetry and desks, and stately poster beds.

"Four different colour schemes are used to define the clean white rooms: fields of lavender in Provence, sunbathed Tuscan ochre, vibrant coral in the sea, and fresh Spring green. These inspirations came from brilliant colours in nature," said Santoro.

The richly textured linen curtains and pillow shams are bordered in matching colour. Pillows and chairs of various fabrics and designs further distinguish the colour accents. Raffia covered ceilings, chairs and

headboards lend a unique texture to the rooms. The hotel's accommodations otherwise share the same luxurious amenities and design, and stand out in one distinct accent colour.

The baths are made of Carrara and Thassos marble and have spacious walk-in showers. Bespoke design bathroom vanities from Neo-Metro are made of white resin countertops and dark wood, and feature faucets and fixtures by Kallista de Stille collection. The oversized and innovative bathroom mirrors by Electric Mirror incorporate high-definition, LCD-TVs and back-lighting that simulates natural light. Beds are topped with fine Frette linens.