

SPACE

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL DESIGN

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PEOPLE

PLACES

PROJECTS

PRODUCTS



DESIGN: Martin Brudniski
 ARCHITECT: Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel
 PROCUREMENT: The Cardy Group
 SUPPLIERS: Lighting: Chelsom, IWorks Wall coverings: Stark Fabrics: Robert Allen
 Furniture: McClaren, Credible Upholstery
 Carpets: ABC Carpets Flooring: Brintons
 Artwork: Katherine Gass

thebeekman.com



THE BEEKMAN NEW YORK

Creating luxury hotels in heritage buildings to meet the demand of the modern lifestyle, is always a challenge and something that needs to be handled with the outmost sensitivity. Torje Odegard finds out how The Beekman, New York, a Thompson Hotel, whose façade has been a New York City landmark since 1998, managed to do exactly that – to design a stunning hotel oozing of effortless elegance while staying true to its remarkable history..

In the trendy neighbourhood of Lower Manhattan, just blocks away from Brooklyn Bridge, stands an exceptional yet hidden architectural treasure. The iconic Temple Court was built in 1881 as one of Manhattan's first and tallest skyscrapers – hard to imagine when seeing the aerial shots of the urban metropolis that stands before us today. The structure attracted the attorney's offices to move in and later lured some of the city's most creative businesses, including publishers, press agents and architects. Today, after the design stewardship of Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel, an award-winning New York-based architect firm, and interiors by the legendary Martin Brudnizki Design Studio (MBDS), The Beekman opens within it. Somewhat more concealed than when the building originally opened, the building now shelters the hotel that welcomes 287 fully appointed rooms, including 45 suites and two signature penthouses.

The heart of the building and the beating pulse of the hotel – allowing everything around it to operate smoothly – is the nine-storey Victorian Atrium, which is a majestic pyramidal skylight surrounded by cast-iron railings and balustrises, ornamented with flowers and sunbursts, enclosed by cast-iron brackets in the form of dragons.

At the core of MBDS' work is a profound commitment to the individual and their experience of an interior. Through the careful study of a project's context and a client's lifestyle, a dedication to functionality and a love of layering different materials, textures and styles, MBDS is able to hand-craft environments that encourage discovery and enable people to develop personal and long-lasting relationships with their interiors. This is evident in their work with The Beekman.



SPACES

The man himself, Martin Brudnizki, renowned interior architect and founder of MBDS, explains how his studio appreciated the uniqueness and thrilling history of the building, which served as an inspiration and guide for the interior of The Beekman. To reflect the building's rich story in the design therefore became a huge goal, while at the same time keeping it true to a modern look.

"The need to usher the building into the present day while retaining a strong sense of belonging is always at the forefront of our designers' minds," says Brudnizki. This, he continues, was demonstrated in the atrium at The Beekman, which Brudnizki describes as the 'architectural jewel' of the hotel, where MBDS decorated it using the original Victorian wrought iron balustrades to maintain it as a theatrical centerpiece for the hotel. "This was achieved by seamlessly blending old and new through the use of exquisite materials, a meticulous attention to detail and bespoke furniture," he says.

From its distinctive Queen Anne exterior, to the Bretonian beauty of the dilapidated Victorian interior, The Beekman has such provenance. The building was originally constructed using red Philadelphia brick and tan Dorchester stone in 1881, based on a London building with the same name, by architect James M. Farnsworth. Ultra-modern at the time, the building's sophisticated appearance set the trend for the neighbouring buildings, for

instance with its characteristic roof turrets. MBDS therefore knew, according to Brudnizki, that the new interior had to tell its own story to create a dialogue that would equal the history and integrity of the building.

With high ceilings, curated artworks and aged-oak flooring, the guestrooms and suites feel suitably residential – and rightly so. Each custom-designed oak bed with leather headboard is luxurious and comfortable. Crisp white walls provide the perfect blank canvas that draws attention to the accents of colour coming from the artwork. Each space is an eclectic mix of bespoke and vintage furnishings. For example, on one side of the bed, a magnificent kitsch foo dog table lamp in imperial blue sits on top the marble and gold side table. On the other, a modest olive green crackled finish lamp complete with decorative collars stands on a side table of oak. Chelsom Lighting supplied both of the bespoke orb ceramic table lamps, which work together to portray a calming sense of understated extravagance. This mirrors Brudnizki's vision of a lovingly worn and authentic overall aesthetic, but with an edge of luxury. "To ensure our furniture and furnishings were all relatable to the original beauty of the site, as well as remaining as closely connected to the exquisite craftsmanship, most of it was either designed in-house or by companies we value greatly," he explains. >



— CHELSOM —



Tokyo by Chelsom – Edition 25



chelsom.co.uk



Chelsom Lighting, quality creative lighting designer based in the UK, worked closely with Martin Brudnizki Design Studio and the Cardy Group to create a stunning custom designed lighting scheme for the guestrooms and suites of The Beekman.

The scheme was completely individual in its entirety, as to be expected from MBDS, and the lighting pieces designed for this project were no exception. Key pieces included art-deco themed bespoke ceiling pendants in antique brass and frosted glass with laser-cut detailing for the entrance lobbies to the suites, in addition to stunning mouth-blown smoke glass chandeliers that adorned all the guestrooms and suites.

In addition to the bespoke table lamps for the bedside tables, the lighting scheme from Chelsom was further supplemented by a striking desk lamp in the form of mouth-blown Venetian glass hand-painted egg in a plethora of vivid colours. The guestroom lighting scheme was completed by two floor lamps; the first being a fantastic metal fitting finished in matt black with a decorative wooden handle, teamed with a peacock blue French drum shade lined in gold to give a warm ambient light and create a subtle shimmer effect. The second piece was a retro-feel angle-poised metal floor standard with a solid marble base and brass detailing finished with a coloured can-shaped head.

The bathrooms are light with multicoloured layers of grey geometric tiles on the floor and small rectangular-shaped tiles on the walls. A distinct resemblance of the bedroom comes from the oak that wraps around the

washbasins, while accents of gold frame the large mirror above.

Chelsom also did the lighting for the bathrooms. A duo of vintage inspired chrome wall sconces positioned either side of a centrepiece mirror adorn all bathrooms. Dimmable LED light sources are encased in moulded optical frosted glass to create a classic yet eclectic feel, one perfectly in keeping with both the flawless interior scheme created by the team at MBDS and the historic building itself.

The homey, welcoming style is also apparent in the lobby, where dark wood panels cover the walls and snug, but elegant chairs are scattered around. The centre-piece, however, is the rug-clad reception desk in traditional Persian patterns.

The restaurant Augustine, brought to life by culinary cachet of restaurateur and chef Tom Colicchio and restaurateur Keith McNally, is cleverly located to provide a stunning view of the atrium with its skylight. Each table is equipped with a lamp releasing a dimmed glow, creating a traditional, elegant dining experience, only complimented by deep green and brown chairs in leather and velvet.

The Beekman might not stand out as the tallest skyscraper in town any more, but it definitively stands out as one of the most calm, elegant and classic hotels in the modern, buzzing metropole. In an increasingly modern and digital world, the sense of tradition and belonging is essential – and with experienced and talented professionals on board, The Beekman has truly been successful in fulfilling this vision.