

DESIGN deconstructed

BY CHRISTINA GREEN

THE LIBRARY, RENAISSANCE EDMONTON AIRPORT HOTEL

ALBERTA, CANADA

Much of this hotel evokes the look of Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" with a crisp, cool palette and ultra-modern lines. The Library, deliberately, does not. Husband and wife design duo Rob Laschever and Toby Schermerhorn of Cauhaus Design introduced a warmer, residential vibe via chunky textures, natural materials and conversation pieces that look as though they were brought back from exotic places. "The overall design concept for the hotel was one of a modern ice palace," the designers say. But this lounge is a departure from the rest of the property. "While every space in this hotel may have a story, the Library was intended to be a collection of short stories," they explain. "It is a place for discovery and conversation." ●

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

OWNER/OPERATOR
Platinum Investments Ltd.

DESIGN
Cauhaus Design: Rob Laschever and Toby Schermerhorn, principals

ARCHITECT
Goldsmith Consulting Design Associates Inc.: Michael Goldsmith, president

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Platinum Investments Ltd.

PURCHASING COMPANY
Marriott Intl.

FABRICS
Architex
Reid Witlin Ltd.
Valley Forge Fabrics

FLOORING
Touchwood Flooring Ltd.

LIGHTING
LZF Lamps

MILLWORK
RBK Millwork Ltd.

OTTOMAN
Astoria Imports

PILLOWS
West Elm

SEATING
HF Collection
Mark David

TABLES
Crate and Barrel
Historic Timber and Plank
West Elm

WALLCOVERING
Eykon Design Resources

RUNWAY READY

Silver painted maple diagonal cross bars installed across a bookcase grid represent flight runway paths. The designers adorned the shelves with objects made from raw metals, white ceramics and pieces with patina and other understated finishes that gave them a vintage appearance.

LIGHTHEARTH-ED

Bent strips of wood create a ribbon-like effect in this hanging pendant. A natural wood finish complements the stained maple bookcase backdrop. "The fixture reminds us of the light from a fireplace—warm and glowing," the designers say.

FLYBOY FASHION

The designers referenced a pilot's jacket with these black leather swivel chairs. Felted-wool pillows and an ottoman upholstered in wool mimic the tough garment's softer inner side.

LASCHPHOTO/STEVEN LASCHEVER



CLASSIC ESSENTIALS

This overstuffed sofa was intended to look comfortable, be comfortable and convey simplicity, like jeans, the designers say. The piece's textured gray, denim-like upholstery pays homage to the city's history as an international supplier of blue jeans.

MODERN NOTES

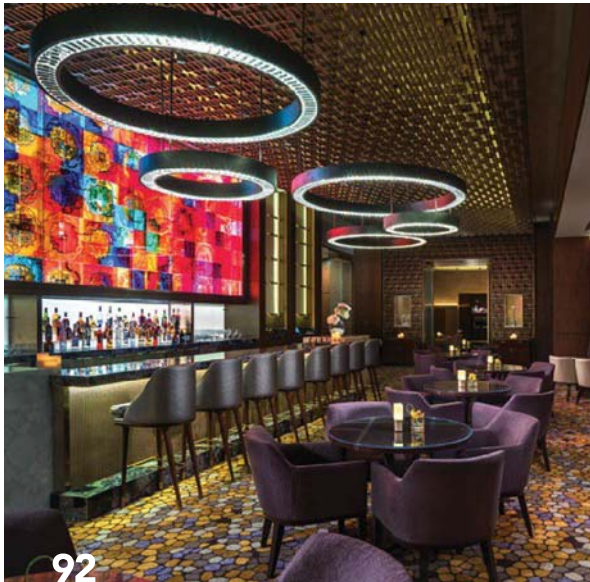
A white Eames replica fiberglass bucket chair with a satin steel Eiffel Tower base introduces a statement-making edge while tying in other parts of the property. "Throughout the hotel we have touches of mid-century modernism, representing both the golden age of flight, and a nod to '2001: A Space Odyssey,'" the designers explain.

NATURAL CONTRAST

Thermal treated, quarter-sawn oak topped with a black intensive stain offers a dramatic contrast to the bookcase's warmer hue. The darker tone, as well as a textured area rug made of chunky wool fibers, imbue an intimate feel.

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