



Mr. Kofsky

*Architecture & Design*

## How Hotels are Updating Interior Spaces to Mirror Their Destination's Characteristics

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Featuring the unique characteristics of an area and destination by bringing the outdoors in is a growing trend amongst hotels and resorts. Now more than ever, as a way to create a sense of place for travelers, hotels have begun to seek inspiration from their own backyard when it comes to redefining an interior design theme. From architectural design highlights to fabrics, textiles and colors, the hospitality industry has found that integrating aspects of the natural environment is key to making a lasting impression, and offering an authentic experience for visiting guests of the hotel, whether they are in town for business or leisure. Personalizing guest rooms and common spaces to reflect the environment offers personality and has shown to create a dramatically more memorable experience.

Residing in the heart of "America's Finest City," the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego defines the downtown skyline with its two towers standing tall. It continues to ground itself as Southern California's largest hotel with 1,628 guestrooms being recognized as the tallest waterfront hotel on the West Coast. The hotel is currently undergoing a multimillion-dollar, five-year, massive renovation scheduled for completion in 2015 and accurately exemplifies the aforementioned, growing design trend within the hospitality industry.

The California coast, ornamenting San Diego's beautiful surroundings, the building's waterfront location and adjacent landmarks were all sources of inspiration for the renovation. Led by the vision of owners, Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc., and inspired by the location, the new guest rooms combine "California coastal" with a sophisticated contemporary design. The goal of design firm, WATG, was to create a more urban environment inspired by the structure of the nearby Coronado Bridge amongst several of the destinations more prominent and aesthetically-pleasing features and structures.

A comprehensive redesign to their 1,628 guestrooms was completed in the summer of 2013, which was just the beginning of the transformation the property. Also included in this substantial phase of the renovation and redesign was the introduction of a brand new Grand Club, which can be enjoyed by guests on the Grand Club Level. The newly-remodeled, exclusive club lounge is a private refuge 33-floors above sea level with views of harbor. With colors and patterns inspired by San Diego's USS Midway, guests can revel in this unique space with a personal concierge, complimentary food and non-alcoholic beverages, private workstations and breathtaking views of the San Diego Bay and city skyline.

In early spring of 2014, the hotel also debuted 50,000 square feet of transformed event space including the Coronado Ballroom, which features a terrace that overlooks the San Diego Bay and Coronado Bridge. The updated facilities feature new technology, a contemporary design theme and emphasize the property's impressive picturesque views of the city and bay. The location played a major role in determining how the meeting spaces would look and feel, with the overall theme being the exceptional views and waterfront surroundings.



In addition to the meeting space renovation, Manchester Grand Hyatt's fitness center, which features panoramic views of the San Diego Bay, has been doubled in size and was completely refreshed with all new soft goods, top-of-the-line fitness equipment, a TRX system and area for free weights and stretching. The next phases will include: a complete renovation of the 2nd and 3rd floor meeting space, renovations made to all the food and beverage outlets, and a complete revamp of the award-winning Kin Spa.

The overall goal of the renovation was to allow guests to genuinely appreciate the location's character whether they are enjoying their room, working out in the fitness center, exploring the nearby downtown or the surrounding neighborhoods, or attending a conference or meeting. Manchester Grand Hyatt's newly introduced, contemporary aesthetic was not only derived from the "California Coastal" theme, but also incorporates local infrastructure and landmarks found right in the hotel's backyard into its detailed design including the iconic Coronado Bridge and the iconic and historic USS Midway. The hotel also capitalizes on the idyllic San Diego climate inviting in the abundant natural sunlight in the vibrant color theme, and proximity to the water. The refreshing renovation mirrors the composition and appeal of the Southern California aesthetic flawlessly. Prior to the transformation, the hotel's heavily traditional and often regal design theme, complete with a rich color palette of dark burgundy, deep greens and mahogany wood, were inconsistent with the bright and airy exterior – this disconnect is what ultimately determined the need for the renovation and was the source of design inspiration.

The guest rooms, which feature views of the bay and downtown area now have a sophisticated, contemporary design that defines comfort chic with the "California Coastal" feel. Hotel guests are welcomed by natural sunlight permeating through expansive windows

towering each room from floor to ceiling. The windows open just enough for guest to feel the nice ocean breeze of the Pacific. New vertically opening shades, which have replaced the dark and heavy textiles of the former window treatments, are intended to increase the level of natural sunlight and enhance the exceptional views, making them a primary feature of the room. The walls are illustrated with abstract images of the beach, each a custom piece for the room. These rooms embody a contemporary look complementing the outdoors modern undertone of angularity, classic lines and cleanliness. The walls are now illustrated with abstract coastally-themed artwork, of one of San Diego's most noteworthy topographical features. The guest room hallway corridors create the idea of transferring to a destination highlighted by a color accent. The room furnishings reinforce straight line elements with structure and cross bracing details in a rich espresso wood tone complemented by warm colored tones and deep navy blues. Walk-in showers were also installed in several rooms to allow guests the option for either a shower or bathtub.

Taking the trend beyond guestrooms, the Manchester Grand Hyatt continued to highlight the San Diego cityscape, natural surroundings and history through the recently-debuted Grand Club Lounge. This Lounge was recently renovated to mimic the design features of the USS Midway, located in the San Diego Bay only a short distance away, and easily spotted from the Seaport Tower. The hotel intends to pay homage to the city's rich naval heritage in modern ways by weaving in touches of this local legacy. The Club Lounge complements the vessel's design in various ways. This 33rd floor lounge incorporates a similar color scheme found on the USS Midway. Highlighting yellows, grays, and beiges, the lounge encapsulates the essence of the maritime style seen throughout the ship and its main social rooms. The room furnishings reinforce straight line elements with structure and cross bracing details in a rich espresso wood tone complemented by warm taupe, bronze tones and deep navy blues. Large bucket-like seats fill the lounge resembling the cockpit chairs found on the USS Midway. Expansive windows overlooking the San Diego coast surround the Club Lounge's perimeter allowing guests to view the blue waters as one would from the deck of the ship.

The most recent phase of renovation at the Manchester Grand Hyatt is the transformation of its meeting and event spaces. The hotel has named a number of the facilities after some of the city's most iconic destinations. One such space, the Coronado ballroom has floor to ceiling grand windows overlooking the island, giving it its name. The views create a sense of oneness with the environment, as do the subtle details of the San Diego coastline integrated throughout the ballroom space. Below, the design of the carpet conveys a sense of wave-like motion, ebbing and flowing throughout the array of neutral toned chairs. The curvature designs on the carpet are a warm blue color mimicking the shade of the close by Pacific Ocean. Above, the ceilings are draped with crystal ornaments. Hanging, are chandeliers raining down shimmers of natural light. The ballroom is attached to a large foyer and terrace overlooking the San Diego city and bay. The Grand Hall, a 34,000 square-foot room adjacent to the Coronado Ballroom, is styled similarly to other meeting spaces in the Manchester Grand Hyatt. This room stands apart from the others by its underwater color and texture undertones, seeming as though guests are inside an undersea haven.

While Manchester Grand Hyatt's enthusiasm for its city is now evident in their indoor spaces, they have always shown support to the destination and encouraged guests to enjoy all that it has to offer. They have often developed programming and packages that emphasize the experiences and traits of the surrounding neighborhoods. Creating a cohesive sense of design outside and inside the hotel is just another way that the property can help their guests appreciate the beautiful Southern California location. Throughout the renovation, Manchester Grand Hyatt invites the public to witness the transformation by visiting a website dedicated to showcasing the progress, ([www.manchestergrandhyattrenovation.com](http://www.manchestergrandhyattrenovation.com)) and following the hashtag #NewMGHyatt on their various social media channels.

Since joining the iconic San Diego hotel, Mr. Kofsky has assisted in managing the hotel's extensive multimillion dollar transformation beginning in 2012, one of the largest hotel renovations in Southern California. Leading a sales team consisting of 29 colleagues, Mr. Kofsky is responsible for overseeing varying aspects of the Manchester Grand Hyatt, including revenue forecasting, developing business plans, and owner relations. Mr. Kofsky can be contacted at 619-232-1234 or [michael.kofsky@hyatt.com](mailto:michael.kofsky@hyatt.com) [Extended Bio...](#)

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