

Fairmont Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA

CONCEPT: Part of the Three PNC Plaza mixed-use development designed by Gensler, the 185-room Fairmont Pittsburgh is Fairmont Hotels & Resorts' first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified hotel. The hotel's entrance, meeting space and restaurant occupy the ground and second floors of the 23-story building, with the guestrooms occupying the top 10 floors.

"We coined the design theme, 'Art & Industry.' It celebrates the local industries, history and art heritage of Pittsburgh," said San Francisco-based Gensler senior associate Beth Campbell. "All the furnishings came from within 500 miles of the site and the project is expected to be confirmed as gold level LEED."

EXECUTION: While excavating the site, artifacts from the mid-1800s were discovered, some of which were incorporated into the hotel's design and are displayed. "The guestrooms' color schemes are inspired by the rivers and bridges of Pittsburgh. Simple furniture contributes to a timeless aesthetic and a spacious feel and all of the artwork in the guestrooms and suites is by local artists," said Campbell.

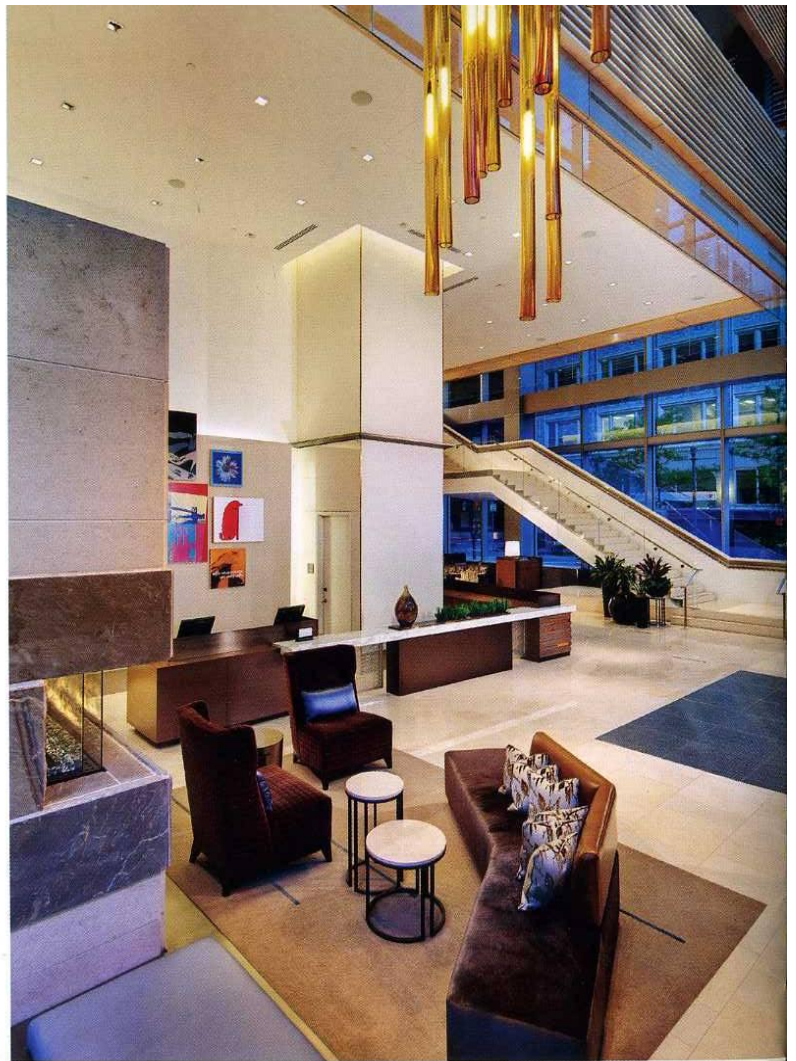
Similarly, in the lobby guests are greeted by artwork on the feature wall. The angular front desk is flanked by a small seating area and a glass-enclosed fireplace surrounded by locally quarried stone. A 15-foot-high wooden sculpture adds a natural element to the modern interior.

Andy's, the lobby bar, has a lower ceiling to provide what Campbell describes as "an intimate quality." The bar counter is made of resin with recycled metals that sparkle in the changing light. An asymmetrical grand staircase leads to Habitat, the second-floor restaurant that is semi-open to the lobby space. It features domestic maple wood slat walls, reminiscent of a tree house.

RESULT: Looking to achieve LEED gold certification, the Fairmont Pittsburgh was designed with a focus on using local, recycled and recyclable materials and sources and healthy non-toxic wall coverings, floor finishes and upholstery, noted general manager Leonard Czarnecki. Steel and glass can be found throughout the property, including the ballroom chandelier and glass pendant fixtures in the lobby and bar.

"PNC is a cornerstone of commerce in Pittsburgh, a city which had not seen a new tower in its downtown core in more than 20 years," said Campbell. "This project presented the opportunity to catalyze and rejuvenate the heart of the city."

—Stefani C. O'Connor



Design Details:

Project Owner: PNC Financial Services
Designer: Gensler
Project Cost: \$200 million
Theme/Influence: The arts and industry of Pittsburgh blended with sustainability
Signature Features: Sustainable wall coverings, floor finishes and upholstery; metal and glass details, local art, asymmetrical lobby staircase, maple wood slat walls