



# history, restored

Bringing a Vancouver hotel back to its former glory

By Ashleigh VanHouten  
Photography by Donald Riddle





*This and opposite page, clockwise from far left: Rosewood Hotel Georgia's restored lobby; the bar at Hawksworth Restaurant exudes a masculine feel; and the grand staircase highlights the painstaking restoration of the hotel's original mahogany detailing.*



**Renovating an historic landmark** hotel always comes with expectations, but when it's in a relatively young city that doesn't have a wealth of historical properties, the stakes are even higher. "We were so fortunate to find the original architectural drawings, so we had an opportunity to give this hotel back to Vancouver and restore it back to its glory days," says designer Alessandro Munge, managing partner of Toronto-based Munge Leung, who oversaw the restoration of the Rosewood Hotel Georgia.

Debuting 84 years to the day after it first opened its doors in 1927, the hotel's design directive was clear: a classic, elegant reimagining of the original icon. "I wanted to [be able to] walk away and in 50 years know there was a property that stood the test of time," shares Munge. "For any new pieces, like furniture or lighting, we drew inspiration from the era that the hotel was born in, and kept it very classic and timeless."

One of the more painstaking but rewarding aspects of the revamp included removing layers of paint and stain throughout most of the main floor to uncover the hotel's vintage mahogany, which was then stained a rich burgundy to highlight gold accents on historic details. As Munge says, "We wanted to pay homage to the original architecture."





Lanterns bring added warmth to the outdoor lounge.



Still, there were some modern additions, including the Rosewood suite's rooftop terrace, a space that required restructuring the entire rooftop to showcase a whirlpool, sculptural garden, and spectacular view; the outdoor Reflections bar and lounge, complete with a firepit, steel canopy, water features, and teak lounge furniture; and an almost exclusively Canadian art collection made up of more than 200 colorful pieces.

The restructuring of the 155 rooms is unique as well, Munge says, as they are shorter and wide versus the typical long-and-narrow floorplan of many hotels. Whereas the lobby and many public spaces skew masculine, **rooms maintain sophistication with a somewhat residential feel, thanks to dark stained wood furniture and contrasting light fabrics.** "It's no mystery that it rains a lot in Vancouver, so our goal was to ensure that the rooms remain fresh when the weather isn't cooperating," Munge says.





But the biggest challenge: when a 56-story residential tower was built next door it required putting a crane in the middle of the hotel, and Munge and his team taking apart and then reconstructing the historic ballroom. Luckily, he says, "Our client gave us the trust and the ability to do what we needed to do." **hd**

[www.mungeleung.com](http://www.mungeleung.com);

[www.rosewoodhotelgeorgia.com](http://www.rosewoodhotelgeorgia.com)

*Opposite page, from top:* The outdoor Reflections bar and lounge, complete with a firepit, steel canopy, and teak lounge furniture; the Rosewood suite's rooftop terrace boasts a whirlpool and sculptural garden. *This page, from top:* The Rosewood suite parlor and a junior suite, where dark stained wood contrasts with light fabrics for a fresh, residential feel.



[www.hospitalitydesign.com](http://www.hospitalitydesign.com)

## Rosewood Hotel Georgia

Vancouver, British Columbia

**Owner** Hotel Georgia Development Ltd.

**Management Company** Rosewood Hotels & Resorts

**Architecture Firm** Endall Elliott Associates and IBI/HB Architects, Vancouver, British Columbia

**Architecture Project Team** Malcolm Elliot

**Interior Design Firm** Munge Leung, Toronto

**Contractor** Scott Construction Management Ltd

**Purchasing Firm** Project 3 Sixty

**Consultants** Robert Lemon Architect Inc., LMDG Building Code Consultants Ltd., Morrison Hershfield, Vertech Elevator Services Inc., and Millson Technologies Inc.

**Lighting** Lighting Design International

**Engineering** Glotman Simpson, Nemetz & Associates, and Cobalt Engineering

**Kitchen** DGA Design

**Landscape** Perry & Associates

**BAR AT HAWKSWORTH RESTAURANT**

**Bar Stool and Bar Front Upholstery** Edelman Leather

**Bar Stool** Andreu World

**Hardwood Flooring** Kentwood

**ROSEWOOD SUITE TERRACE**

**Furniture** Sutherland Teak

**Upholstery** Sunbrella

**Lantern** Restoration Hardware

**LOBBY SEATING**

**Sofa and Armchairs** William Switzer

**Armchair Upholstery** Moore & Giles and Kravet

**Sofa Upholstery** Osborne & Little, Carnegie Fabrics, and Edelman Leather

**Floor Lamp** Baker

**Coffee and Side Table** Eric Brand Furniture

**Area Rug** Creative Matters

**Wall Sconce** Lasvit

**Artwork** "Color Abstractions" by Jack Shadbolt; selected by Farmboy Fine Arts

**Table Lamps** Interior Matters

**REFLECTIONS**

**Furniture** Sutherland Teak

**Lanterns** Restoration Hardware

**GRAND STAIRCASE**

**Armchair** William Switzer, upholstery by Telio & Cie

**Side Table** Eric Brand Furniture

**Floor Lamp** Interior Matters

**JUNIOR SUITE**

**TV Panel/Reading Desk** Fleetwood

**Desk and Lounge Chairs/Sofa/**

**Dining Chair** Credible Upholstery

**Desk Lamp** Nessen Lighting

**Side Table** Bermanfalk

**Floor Lamp** Arteriors Home

**Living Room Coffee Table** Decca

**Floor Lamp at Living Room** Robert Abbey

**Wallcovering** Tapetex USA Inc.

**Framed Artwork** By Fatima Travassos; selected by Farmboy Fine Arts Inc.