

mgm grand vp talks renovations

By Andrew Sheivachman



▲ Last month, the MGM Grand announced a \$160 million renovation of its guest rooms and suites slated for completion in September 2012. Dubbed The Grand Renovation, the refresh will aim to make a guest's transition from the comforts of home to his hotel room as seamless as possible.

"For us, a guest room should be your home away from home," said Tim Kelly, VP of hotel operations for MGM Grand. "Just like homes are evolving, so should our guestrooms. We have to make sure we have the comforts, functionality and technology one would find in his home today."

By upgrading the guest room technology in each room, the MGM Grand hopes to accommodate guests who want to bring

entertainment back to their room. "The renovation actually extends beyond the room to encompass the guest elevators hallway," said Kelly. "The renovation of the guest rooms is really comprehensive as it involves all 4212 guest rooms and suites. We've started and anticipate work being completed by the end of September 2012. The design is transitional and the look is more or less traditional, but we also blending in some contemporary colors that are very warm and relaxing while capturing the energy of what MGM is all about: entertainment."

Substantial and far-reaching, the MGM Grand will upgrade its project to appeal to new consumer expectations. High-definition movies, for instance, will be available in every room.

"Obviously, we're upgrading to flat-screen TVs with a media hub to plug in various devices and allow guests to do presentations right over the TV," said Kelly. "We added minibars to the guest rooms, a new thermostat, new lock system, and at the conclusion of the renovation, there will also be upgraded Internet and bandwidth availability. This is comprehensive in the fact that we're addressing about eight different designs that range from different colors to upgraded fixtures."

Increased functionality will appeal to business and group travelers, as well.

"The key is that it's much more functional that what the room was historically and meets the needs of the customer of today," said Kelly. "The customer of today is very different than the customer of 10 years ago, and technology has certainly evolved, so there are new fundamental expectations. Instead of traditional drapes, for instance, we have electronic shears and drapes that flow down with great backout shades that really open up our rooms and take advantage of the beautiful view of Las Vegas."

The new guest rooms were created by the team at MGM Resorts International Design and will include such amenities and designs as: warm earth tones, floor-to-ceiling headboard walls, a dresser with a fully stocked mini-bar and media connectivity hub, a flat-screen HD TV, and energy-efficient lighting and lamps. The suites will feature colors ranging from royal plum to red and azure blue, with multiple seating and dining areas, large flat-screen TVs, and spacious master bedrooms.

The newly remodeled rooms and suites will also go along with MGM Grand's commitment to sustainability, and include LED lighting, improved thermostats and solar shades to better manage temperature and guest comfort, upgraded faucets and showers, and bath amenities that are 100 percent biodegradable.

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Above:
A guest room at MGM Grand .

Clarification: In the July/August edition of HA+D we published a feature on the St. Regis Bangkok. We have been asked to clarify as follows: All architectural design for the St. Regis Bangkok was created by the staff of BBG-BBGM and the interior design of the project was created by BBG-BBGM with Kate Greenwood as Design Partner.

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