

J U P I T E R NEXT A PORTLAND HOTEL

Interior Design Summary **Megan Millie, Designer**

Concept Development

With the need to blend two properties – a 60's vintage and a completely new building across the street – the early design questions were about how to express this unique relationship, and how to create continuity throughout the two buildings. A combination of “old and new” was both literal and became our framework for developing an interior design narrative as diverse as the project itself. This concept was explored in several themes throughout the interior with use of evolved materials, bold contrasts, warm accents and deconstructed patterns.

Intention behind choices for evoking mood and emotion

It was important to maintain a relaxed and approachable tone. The original Jupiter Hotel is known for its inclusive and community vibe. At Jupiter NEXT the lobby welcomes you with a relaxed tonal palette, soft natural materials and ambient lighting. The comfortable, versatile furnishings continue through to the second floor flex lounge, providing both a place to connect with others or spend a little time alone.

The new building is infused with a sense of community. There are places to meet and to hang out that are visually connected to the neighborhood and the original Jupiter Hotel. New public and event spaces at Jupiter NEXT provide many options for people to have the experience they crave.

Soothing lighting welcomes you into the guest rooms and soft finishes in your room makes it feel like home. Comfortable beds with their cushioned, muraled headboards make a great space for reading, gazing at the views or relaxing with the big screen. These features help encapsulate your own space while still being connected to the liveliness of Portland's urban surroundings.

We also aimed to add vibrancy and excitement. We talked a lot about creating objects and spaces of interest, involvement for guests and locals alike. Getting drawn into something shiny or visually stimulating can be the highlight of your stay. Passing by on the sidewalk outside the building, you get drawn to the tall overhead mirrored soffit. It's fun and funny to gaze up into and promotes the taking of selfies, looking up at yourself. Design decisions like this invite a peek inside.

Working with the architecture

The building's exterior, designed by Works Progress Architecture, emphasizes contrast; a black textured façade material and white punched windows are supported by an oversized mirrored soffit on each street side. Geometry is seen in trapezoidal windows, angular soffits and floor plates that push out and contract on each guest room level. This architecture informed the interior design with contrasting color choices and irregular angles, developing concepts to connect these elements throughout, creating overall balance and simplicity.

The interior architecture expresses large expanses of structural concrete, metal details and lots of oversized windows. The interior design selections use these materials in alternating ways, repeating throughout the whole interior from public spaces to guest rooms. This gave way to an “elemental design” approach which helped us create the visual connection we were after and ultimately worked well with an aggressive budget.

Design Details

The lobby at Jupiter NEXT features two main lounge areas with custom banquette seating upholstered in distressed leather, relating to the tones of concrete flooring. Both seating areas are detailed with lighting accents which create a warm glow in the evening and a softening effect during the day; a comfortable vibe from the morning through to evening. The lobby is perfect for a short hangout or longer, more leisurely visits.

Aiming to transition the lounge seamlessly from day hangout to nightlife, we used subtle changes in lighting to adjust the mood of objects and furniture pieces, considering how they reflect the light in the different times of the day, and these subtleties were intentionally teased out with each piece. An open fireplace is approachable from three sides with flexible lounge pieces that can move throughout the space.

Darkened steel and wood details layer in tactile components within multiple custom feature pieces which were made by local artisans.

In the guest room corridors, high contrast finishes reflect the building exterior. Angled linear wall lighting glows warmly, directing guests to their door and breaking up the length with visual impact. Carpeting expresses a deconstructed pattern that undulates through each hall.

Guest room palettes feel like part of the “whole house” by entering into a foyer featuring oversized concrete-inspired tile flooring, before transitioning into carpeting that repeats from the corridor. Casework starts in the entry area and continues down the length of the room as a floating ribbon, echoing geometric angles from the building’s façade. The length of connected pieces provides clothing storage, a sink vanity, a mini-bar unit, a luggage bench and a multi-purpose floating surface at desk height. Opposite the sink vanity is a glass box separating the sleeping area from the sink area, with a water closet and walk-in shower enclosed.

Lots of women involved, how did this influence the process and design?

Works Progress Architecture: Carrie Strickland, principal

Co-Owner, Jupiter NEXT: Kelsey Bunker

Interior Designer: Megan Millie

Designer and Fabricator, metalwork: Laura Sol of Sol Creations

Photocollagist (Headboards): Beth Kerschen

Textiles (Guest Rooms): Seek & Swoon

Hey Love (restaurant and bar tenant): Bar Manager: Emily Mistell, Food & Beverage Director: Sophie Thomson

Some constraints in budget led to a good amount of creativity and re-inventing the wheel in some cases. Some of these key makers and visualizers were female and added a strong “will-do” attitude to challenges that came up in a project this size. We worked together to form quick solutions in some cases and with others, we value-engineered as needed to arrive at a place where our design intent and budget were intact. All these things influenced the process in a positive way, as well as enhanced the finished product. Collaborating with all sorts of artists and local makers was inspiring and led to better results all around.