

SPACE

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL DESIGN

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PRODUCTS

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TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2024

It takes an army of design talent to create some of the world's best-loved luxury hotels, restaurants, and resorts. In each issue, SPACE shines the spotlight on some of the industry's hottest up-and-coming designers and architects making waves in their field of expertise



DEA KIM
 Project Designer
 HBA SAN FRANCISCO
 hba.com

Originally from South Korea, Dea emigrated to the U.S. by way of Texas, later moving to San Francisco for college. While studying fine art at university, he landed an internship at HBA San Francisco and was also an active volunteer with both the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and IIDA. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture and Design, Dea returned to HBA in a full-time role as Junior Designer where he has only continued to take his career to the next level.

Selected project (pictured):
 Dea's first international project where he was involved from concept to completion was Fairmont Chateau Whistler, which opened in 2022.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

I enjoy the ability to explore intensive creativity. Hotel projects have a diverse range of programming and spaces for designers to design. Inspiration can come from anywhere, making the possibilities seemingly endless to dream in one's mind. To bring a vision into reality is incredibly rewarding to me. I am most inspired when I travel and through meeting people from different cultural backgrounds.

What do you consider the biggest challenge when working on a hotel project?

The most significant challenge when working on a hotel project is striking the delicate balance between aesthetic appeal and functional efficiency.

Name one piece of kit/equipment you couldn't do your job without and tell us why?

I would say Bluebeam. Bluebeam software provides extensive work tools that designers can use for efficiency and to meet project deadlines. There are many shortcut features that save time during screen-sharing meetings with clients as well.

Tell us about your dream design project

My dream project is to design a boutique hotel where I have full creative freedom. It would appeal to all guests, but particularly attract young travellers and artists who seek new inspiration. Ideally, it would be a historic hotel renovation where I can draw inspiration from the history of the site and connect it to the brand identity and design.

Something trending that you can't get onboard with

Vessel sinks. I personally don't think they are hygienic or practical.

Which designer - well-known or otherwise - has most inspired you on your career path?

Jonathan Adler. His philosophy of being both minimalist and maximalist is the greatest inspiration when designing a space. He is also fearless in introducing colours, concepts, and layers to a space.

Tell us about your selected project

Seeing my conceptual design become real life makes it my most memorable project so far. I also learned from the experience and expanded my skillset by working with international regulations and requirements.

