A sense of place and a stylish design

The Hamilton Princess Hotel's makeover is almost complete

It's been done over three phases and taken an investment of $100 million, but finally the renovations at the Hamilton Princess Hotel are nearing an end.

A marina has been added, and a new pool, new high-end rooms, and two new restaurants, Marcus and 1609, are just some of sights that have been added to the hotel over the first two phases.

The third phase has given the hotel even more class and has involved a range of additions and alterations that have added more space and more light to the building.

One of the most notable additions is the number of works of art – many of which are owned by the hotel owners, the Green family. The hotel even offers a guided art tour of its highly prized collection.

The front of the house area has been considerably upgraded and improved; next to it the retail area has been expanded and made to look much brighter by new, wider, corridors and lots of glass, giving the impression of a fresh new look that is inviting to shoppers.

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Elite Beach Retreat

Hamilton Princess Hotel transformation continues with south shore beach club

Behind the stunning view from the Hamilton Princess Beach Club lies something completely unexpected.

Peek behind the scenes, and there are five mobile containers, each with their own tow bar ready to move in the event of a hurricane.

One is a fully fitted kitchen, another a fully fitted bar, and three are bath and changing rooms – all are beautifully decorated on the exterior.

Jason Mackertich, a partner in architects firm BotelhoWood, says, "The units were custom-made and have a high-class finish inside.

"We accept that the area will get hit hard in the event of a hurricane, so we put the mobile units in so they can be easily moved and not damaged."

What is probably the most photographed hammock in Bermuda sets the tone for the club, which is described by Mr. Mackertich as "rustic chic."

The tables were hand-made and imported from Hawaii. Some of the fittings from the old Waterloo Hotel, which was knocked down and replaced by the office complex Waterloo House, have been used as decorations.

A children's playground is nicely tucked away – visible to parents but not conspicuous – and a metal pink flamingo, by artist Pierre Diamantopoulo, stands in the distance across the bay, adding a touch of humour to the view.

Cabanas, which can be rented daily and will be used by the new spa, Exhale (opened at the Hamilton Princess), line one side of the bay.

Mr. Mackertich says the owners, Alex and Andrew Green, came up with the original concept of having something on the water. "The idea was to get a Caribbean/Island feel."

Before any work could start, however, several buildings on the site, which were beyond repair, had to be demolished and the whole area levelled.

"We wanted a high-class finish but also a washed-out beach look. The building itself is a very simple structure, but it was built to frame the view across the bay, which we think we accomplished," says Mr. Mackertich.

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Ted Wood, Jason Mackertich and Germano Botelho of architects BotelhoWood

Anchoring the retail area is the new spa, Exhale, and leading on from there is the gym, which is right next to the revamped pool and now has a full view over the marina. It's the perfect view to keep your mind off your exercise pain.

Upstairs, the old Harbour Suite has been transformed into a new Gold Lounge – one room has a self-service marble-topped bar, one end of which has a chilled top while the other end has a hot station.

Another room is a comfortable dining room, which can be closed off, and the third area is a snug library, containing the Green's personal artwork.

Outside is a large balcony area; from there it is easy to see the new balconies that have been added to the upgraded gold one-, two-, and three-bedroom suites.

The addition of the balconies also has served to soften the once hard-looking exterior of the gold wing.

The old Gold Lounge – renamed the Trudeau Lounge – has remained largely unaltered from the days when it played host to Allied code-breakers in World War Two, apart from one huge addition.

Atlantic Building Consultants Ltd

Would like to congratulate the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club on the recent completion of Phase 3 of its redevelopment.

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Outside a new balcony has been built – underneath is the extended area for the retail space – and its addition has helped pull both sides of the hotel together, which will be a stunning area for a wedding reception.

One constant factor in the overhaul has been the architects BotelhoWood and partner Ted Wood, who says, "People will see the finished product which we think looks amazing but the work behind the scenes will continue for another year or so.

"A new laundry is to be installed, and there will be upgrades to the electrical infrastructure. At the front of house there will also be some landscaping. All that work is part of phase three as well.

"It has been a tremendously interesting project and one that we are very proud of. It has been fantastic working with the Green family and their input has been amazing."

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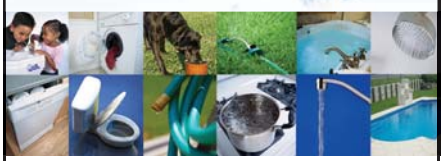

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