The Great Boston HOTEL BOOM

A GLAMOROUS, GLEAMING NEW CITY IS RISING UP AROUND US. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CHECK IN.

BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN TOWN:
OUR FAVORITE BARS, POOLS, HOT SPOTS, AND MORE.
The Great

BOSTON HOTEL BOOM

Remember when Boston was America’s most hospitable city? To be fair, you probably weren’t alive then, but once upon a time our hotels set the standard. The Tremont House, built in 1829, is credited with introducing a long list of exotic amenities. (Bellhops! Indoor plumbing!) And the Ritz-Carlton’s flagship Back Bay property redefined luxury when it opened in 1927, adding a new air of sophistication to the city and a fresh spot for boldfaced to mingle. Fast-forward nearly a century, and we find ourselves having a similar moment—a time when Boston’s hotels are places to go, not merely places for out-of-towners to stay. More than ever, hotels have some of our top restaurants, bars, spas, and scenes, and new projects are rising up at an unprecedented pace, forever altering the skyline. So take a peek at the city’s future—and see what the great hotel boom means for Boston and for you.

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With additional reporting by MADELINE BILIS, SPENCER BUELL, and ALEXANDRA HALL
As hotel culture evolves, so does the art. Gone are the days when bland canvases were chosen to coordinate with the carpeting. "I've been delighted with what's been happening in hotels," says Cambridge's Kate Chertavian, a onetime art consultant for David Bowie who's curating the collection for the forthcoming Four Seasons at One Dalton with her colleague Lucy Rosenburgh. "To look at artwork by an artist that I might not know very well, but I can recognize the link to the city, always gives me a sense of welcoming." Below are just a few of the compelling pieces currently on view in hotel common areas around town.

THE ORCHARD
Panoptioon Gallery, which reopened in the Hotel Commonwealth under new ownership last year, offers a 24/7 showcase for photographers such as Cig Harvey, whose work is on view in the group exhibition “In the Garden” through April.

PAUL REVERE
The Revere Hotel Boston Common's namesake, sculpted from recycled materials by Oregon-based artist Brian Mock, presides over the new lobby bar.

INNOVATION IN CAMBRIDGE
Artist Przemyslaw Kordysh hid a Polaroid camera and 11 other objects designed or redefined in Cambridge inside this installation at the Freeport Hotel.

HORIZON REFLECTION
Hanging in the Envoy Hotel lobby, Maryanna McDonald's custom mixed-media work (made with repurposed VHS tapes) was inspired by the horizon line on Boston Harbor.

HISTORICALLY, PEOPLE IN BOSTON went to hotels for philanthropy fundraisers. Properties become aligned with different events, and the hotel scene was very locked and loaded. But the whole culture has shifted. People are now talking about experience design and human-centered design. Hotels mean different things to people now. The decision tree around choosing a hotel is not separated by vacation, or work, or travel; it's all blended together into lifestyle choices. People are looking for something that makes them feel good and is relevant to their universe.

Although brand loyalty does exist, all the brands have had to up the ante because there are so many more choices today. There's a lot of room for innovation—look what Target did for mass-market consumer goods! That's where I would say that design plays a really important role. But it's not just the design, and it's not just storytelling; it has to all fit together.

In my opinion, you can apply that methodology to anything from a limited-service property to a five-star property, and everything in between.
Get a Room!

Seeking a staycation? Need a recommendation for friends passing through town? This handy guide will help you pinpoint the right room for any occasion.

COOL

- Big meeting on Beacon Hill or in the Financial District? The newly refurbished Nine Zero Hotel is a perfect place to prep.
- Girls' weekend at the Revere Hotel Boston Common means sunbathing at the roof deck bar by day and clubbing at night.
- Wine lovers can raise a glass at the Boxer Hotel, the hotel partner of the new City Winery down the block.
- Bruins fans will love scoring the Bobby Orr suite at the Ames Boston Hotel.

WORK

- She got into MIT! And after helping her move in, Mom and Dad check into a room at the Kendall Hotel.
- Relatives in town for the holidays can squeeze in last-minute shopping—without braving the cold—at the Westin Copley.

PLAY

- Cobblestone proximity and calm quarters make the Beacon Hill Hotel an ideal lodging for sightseeing in-laws.
- Red Sox fans go wild for the Hotel Commonwealth's Fenway Park suite, boasting signed memorabilia and a balcony with genuine seats from the ballpark.
- Pamper four-legged travel companions at XV Beacon, where room service includes a dedicated Dawgone menu featuring German Shepherd's Pie.

CLASSY

- The lobby library and chalkboard-style décor at the Charles Hotel cater to visiting scholars.