

BOUTIQUE design

HOSPITALITY REINVENTED

DECEMBER | 2015



WINNING COMBINATION

DEBRA FOX AND CHRIS BROWNE
FOX BROWNE CREATIVE
2015 GOLD KEY DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

2015 GOLD KEY AWARDS
BEST RESORT

WINNER

FOUR SEASONS DUBAI AT JUMEIRAH BEACH

Dubai

DESIGNERS BAMO, San Francisco; Tihany Design, New York (Sea Fu, Suq, Mercury Lounge, Presidential Suite)

THE BRIEF Design an oasis with an elegant ambience. Keep this Andalusian-style building light and airy throughout the generous public spaces and 237 rooms and suites. Embrace the views.

THE INSIDE SCOOP “The challenge was to create something fresh in a city known for landmark projects,” says Michael Booth, principal, BAMO. The team knew they had to start with the cosmopolitan allure and vibrant culture of Dubai and the hotel’s location on the Persian Gulf. Collaboration with the project architect gave them public spaces that look onto the water. Blues and greens evoke the sea throughout the project. The finishes and FF&E pull in the other inspirations. The lounge’s driftwood-washed ceiling has a geometric design that nods to traditional Arabic patterns. Hand-blown glass balusters add sparkle to a staircase.

GENIUS TIME Making the point of the design as much about what isn’t there as what is. Eschewing overly ornate or flashy elements left the team with a carefully curated toolkit to craft unforgettable spaces. Black Kenyan marble



“LOVELY RESORT IN
A PLACE WHERE IT’S
HARD TO EXECUTE
SIMPLICITY”

— KEMPER HYERS

KEN SEET (FOUR SEASONS)

columns in the lounge obviate the need for a flashy art program on the walls or a vivid palette. Transitional architectural touches in the guest rooms do double duty, framing the beds in place of a headboard and acting as wall art. Spiral patterns in both the walls and the floors of the guest bathrooms might seem like an intricate detail, but the all-cream tones keep the effect from being overwhelming. Yes, there are focal point chandeliers—look beneath them, though, and there are strong, simple shapes in the seating, rendered in quietly rich teals and creams.

THE TAKEAWAY Resorts don't have to be in an escapist wilderness to be serene. There's no one right answer for today's getaways, urban or rural. The team wanted to celebrate, not deny, the connection to the bustle of Dubai and its ultra high-end hotel scene. So, they decided to keep some of familiar building blocks of that aesthetic and change up how they were used to calm things down. The same set of textures and pieces that define luxury—marble, silk, velvet, crystal and intricately cut stone—are channeled into making each space serene without losing that sense of opulence. Layering teal and light blue adds depth to a seating mix.



SOURCES

OWNER: Bright Start LLC; **OPERATOR:** Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts; **DESIGNERS:** BAMO: Michael Booth, principal; Billy Quimby, senior associate; Martin Oestlund, Lauren McGuier, associates; Danielle Yuen, project designer; Julie Ketchum, interior designer; Tihany Design, New York, [Sea Fu, Suq, Mercury Lounge, Presidential Suite]; **ARCHITECT:** DSA Architects; **PURCHASING COMPANY:** Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts; **GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Dubai Construction Co.; **DESIGN CONSULTANTS:** Craig Roberts Associates, Inc. (lighting); James Robertson Art Consultants Inc. (art); **BATH AND SPA:** Dornbracht; Kohler; **CARPET AND RUGS:** DW Hospitality; Patodia; **FABRICS:** Cortina Leathers; Cowtan and Tout; Dedar; Donghia; Gretchen Bellingier; Hesselin Moore & Giles; Perennials; Sahco; Valley Forge Fabrics; Vignano; **MIRRORS:** Electric Mirror; **FURNITURE:** APF Munn; Artistic Frame; Artstyle; A. Rudin; Carole Gratale; Charter Furniture; Colombostile; Eric Brand; Fleetwood Fine Furniture; Gasser Chair; Interna Contract; Ironies; Jean de Merry; John Boone; Lewis Mittman; Mattaliano; Nancy Hein; Neidermaier; Oly Studio; Randolph and Hein; Roman Thomas; William Switzer; Seguso; Steelcase; **LIGHTING:** Arteriors; Charles of Paris; Donghia; Edge Lighting; Glass and Glass; Hallmark Lighting; Ironies; Kerry Joyce; Nancy Corzine; Palmer Hargrave; Porta Romana; Ricardo Lighting; Rhanda Fahmy; Seguso; **SURFACING:** Calacatta Crema; Sicis; **WALLCOVERINGS:** Anya Larkin; Innovative; Koroseal; Maharam; Phillip Jeffries; Robert Crowder; Tri-kes

