

PASSION FOR HOSPITALITY

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HOTELS

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7 *Natural Gift of*
Hotel Toronto



DESIGN

Better NATURE



RIPE FOR THE TIMES, WELLNESS- AND SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED 1 HOTEL TORONTO COMES ONLINE, REFLECTING CITY'S NATURAL GIFTS.

Contributed by ALICIA SHEBER

With the growing appreciation that happiness is inherently linked to spending time in biophilic spaces that nurture wellbeing, hotels geared toward the wellness of guests, the community and the planet create positive experiences that encourage repeat business. Cyprus-based developer Mohari Hospitality tapped into this win-win proposition with the 1 Hotel Toronto that opened August 2021 and features a design mixing sustainable, nature-inspired concepts with luxury comforts and services. Starwood Capital Group commissioned New York-based architecture and interior design studio Rockwell Group to create this sixth property for the brand, its first in Canada.

"We wanted the hotel to reflect the city's natural gifts," says Shawn Sullivan, partner and studio leader, Rockwell Group, who directed the project. "Lake Ontario, and its muted colors, were a huge source of inspiration, as was Toronto's

The design of the property pays tribute to Toronto's local environment and natural beauty through the use of raw materials and textures sourced throughout Ontario. (All photo credits, Brandon Barre)

DESIGN

ravine system that creates a natural organizing system for the city, and pockets of refuge.” These sinuous ravines were translated into the public areas’ spatial arrangements with greenery-filled alcoves (the hotel cultivates 3,300 plants), while the urban forest covering 26% of Toronto determined the use of reclaimed local materials.

To ensure FF&E was legitimately cradle-to-cradle and sustainably sourced, produced and shipped, Rockwell specified elements that could be gathered from the community and regionally crafted. The reception desk features a desk made from granite and limestone boulders, while maple trees and local foliage lead to a stone wall with timber-like striations carved by glacial activity along the nearby Eramosa River. Local woodworking studio Just Be Woodsy, which has exclusive rights to collecting fallen trees around Toronto, made public area and guest room furnishings from trunks Rockwell hand-selected





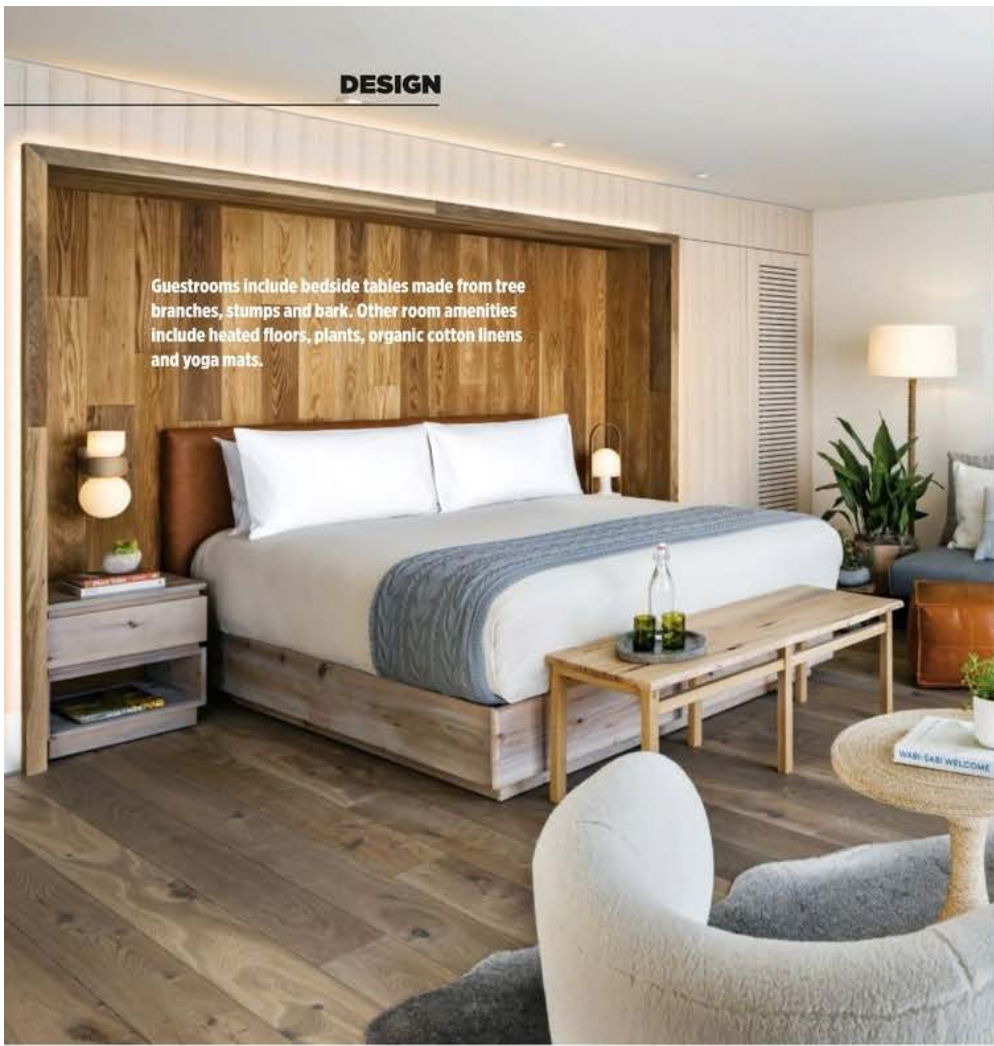
Guest room amenities include organic bath products.



Skyline Suite living room

DESIGN

Guestrooms include bedside tables made from tree branches, stumps and bark. Other room amenities include heated floors, plants, organic cotton linens and yoga mats.



Earthly Kitchen Toronto includes cold-pressed juices at the bar.



Earthly Kitchen Toronto is the all-day restaurant boasting a menu that features plant-based dishes and sustainably harvested fish and proteins.

in their lumber yard, including restaurant Casa Madera's host stand and live-edged table tops, all hewn from one immense reclaimed tree. Reclaimed Elm wood flooring and shelving sourced from a dismantled barn in nearby Blyth, Ontario, appear throughout the property, from the check-in desk and lobby to guest room corridors and Harriet's Toronto, the rooftop bar, where sliding glass walls and a retractable roof blur indoor and outdoor living while revealing city and lakeshore views.

Rockwell designed the 112 guest rooms, which includes 21 suites, to emulate the quiet oasis of a lakeside retreat. Sliding timber barn doors separate the bedroom and bathroom, while art and bedside tables are made from tree branches, stumps and bark.



Sullivan says 1 Hotel Toronto is anchored by its efforts to lessen environmental impact and use biophilia to promote wellness and resiliency. This, added to the increased desire for personal connection sparked by the pandemic, builds momentum for the wave of nature-oriented urban hotels on the horizon.

“We all had a taste of disconnection this past year and a half, and crave the ability to touch, feel, smell, and see the distinct characteristics that make cities unique,” Sullivan says. “There’s a power now in the post-pandemic city, an electricity of live-ness and togetherness, which we can harness in the ways we design and build.”



Indoor and outdoor venues allow a versatile setting for meetings and celebrations