

hospitality design

hospitalitydesign.com

growth spurts

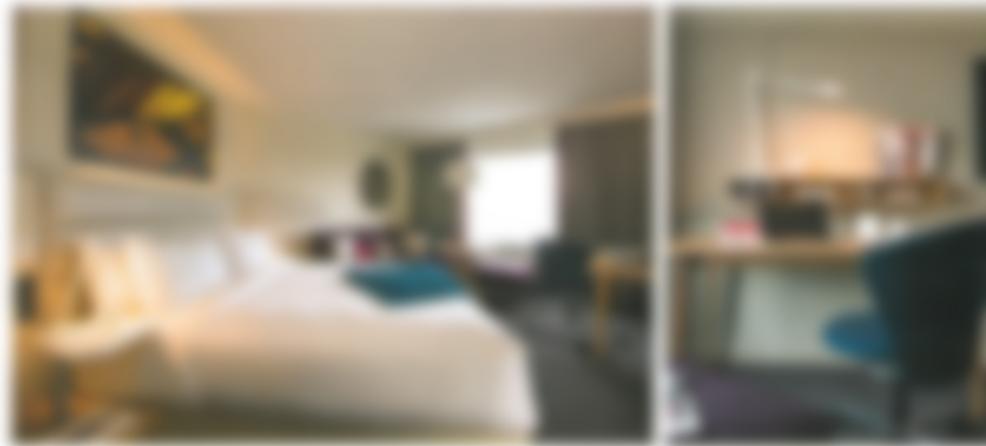
nine destinations
to watch

HD expo
hospitality design event

perspectives

sketchbook

crowne plaza



the gates

→ With its "cheeky, thematic vibe, Key West has not typically been a sophisticated hotel market," says Andrea Henzlik, the Atlanta-based designer recently charged with introducing a new option to the popular Florida resort town. "With the Gates, Highgate Hotels was looking for a more residential approach," she says, adding that she landed the job because one of the property's owners lives in Atlanta and was familiar with her residential work.

And so her first hotel project—the solo boutique option in a multi-hotel development from Highgate—opened in December. Henzlik introduced a luxe condo feel with custom pieces such as cypress platform beds finished in the same whitewashed tone as the wood floors. The 100-room property (which boasts a rum lounge and pool deck) is swathed in a monochromatic palette, offset by the vibrant sea and sky imagery of local photographer Jorge de la Torriente. The lobby features petrified wood tables, a bar imported from Bali, custom rugs, and—in place of a



registration desk—check-in podiums outfitted with iPads.

From the barnacle-like ceramic installation and antique horsehair chest in the lobby to distinctive finishes such as the black pebble walls in the public restrooms, "there's not one thing in the hotel that's mass-

marketed," Henzlik says.

"Because I didn't have any kind of reference point from a designer's perspective," she adds, "I thought a lot about what I love and don't like about hotels from the standpoint of a guest."