



hotel phillips

→ Originally built in 1931, Kansas City, Missouri's 217-room Hotel Phillips is an Art Deco marvel that had lost some of its grandeur in past renovations, a trend that Arbor Lodging Partners aimed to reverse when it purchased the property in 2015. "We realized we had a once-in-a-century opportunity to revitalize a hotel with a remarkable history," says principal Sheenal Patel.

Impressed, Patel adds, by the firm's approach to "comfortable luxury," Arbor Lodging hired Chester, New Jersey-based Kraig Kalashian Architecture & Design to create a cohesive identity that will pay homage to the hotel's past when it debuts late this fall as part of Hilton's Curio Collection.

Led by firm owner Kraig Kalashian and senior designer Laura Partica, the design team enhanced the original craft and detail with custom millwork, upholstery, metalwork, lighting, tiles, and wallcoverings. Materials such as marble, aged brass, leather, velvet, and dark wood create a rich, timeless palette that complements the original bronze and nickel metalwork, walnut paneling, and black glass detailing. "Our biggest challenge has been trying to seamlessly mesh the new and the old together," says Kalashian. "No one should be able to tell what is new against what is old."

Guestrooms feature moldings with custom aged-brass fixtures and residentially inspired furnishings, while public areas are outfitted with custom fixtures with built-in technology. To connect the property to the fabric of the city, the team also added a cocktail lounge on the lower level and a street-level coffee bar.

Art also plays a major role. Part of a vibrant arts scene that includes the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, and Crossroads Arts District, the hotel will showcase gilded murals, as well as works by the property's artist in residence, currently locally based sculptor Megan Lou Gallant.

