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hospitality **design**

old places,
new faces,
the renovation issue

By Roberta Klein
Photography by Mary McAleer and Mark Milroy

speedy delivery

High season and
a hurricane call for a creative timeline



After purchasing the popular Registry Resort & Club along the Gulf Coast in Naples, Florida, LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels selected Los Angeles interior architecture designer Robert Barry for a massive renovation. (In fact, the project is part of LXR's several hundred million dollar overhaul of 29 of its properties.) What first met Barry's eye was the hotel's ground level social area. Planters appeared like obstacles near a huge, noisy stone fountain between two escalators, and restaurants and bars were totally separated. "It was kind of a 1980s transitional style with heavy crown moldings," Barry says.

With blessings from the owners, Barry created plans to transform the newly named Naples Grande Resort & Club into a cutting edge, modern, multi-use experience. Initially, the area was completely gutted, but not before Barry and project designer Jinous Nichols were forced to resolve a Herculean challenge: they had only seven months to complete the entire project for Naples' "high season." To compound matters, they lost two weeks from Hurricane Wilma. "We didn't [even] have time to finish our design work and presentations," Barry recalls.

Left: Lobby seating at the Naples Grande Resort & Club. *Above:* A red-embazoned carved glass wall mimics fire behind reception.



Below: The Chill-Out Lounge. *Opposite page, top:* A new large circular water fountain stands between escalators leading to the second-level ballroom and meeting rooms. *Opposite page, bottom, left to right:* The bar; restaurant seating.



Determined, he and Nichols divided the work into two phases, closing off half of the space to work on phase one, and while producing phase one's working drawings, they designed phase two. Fortunately, the city allowed the designers to pull permits for each section separately.

First and foremost, they replaced the original fountain with a huge, satin and brushed stainless steel ring-shaped water feature that quietly emits a thin veil of running water around the perimeter. Behind reception, a red-embazoned carved glass wall mimics fire. On the opposite back wall, square faux windows evoke varying moods through different colors, which also enhance the restaurant, bar, and a relaxing "Chill-Out Lounge," which was created to provide a quiet, intimate respite from the large open public spaces.

With the goal of creating a museum quality throughout, vein-cut travertine panels sheath the walls and three-by-three-foot travertine panels cover the floor. Shaded squares of onyx and terrazzo imbedded in the travertine define the way to the main restaurant; a variety of resin materials coat the restaurant's walls, bar top, and communal table, while LEDs and fiber-optic technology add a dramatic cache throughout. "The client was open to new ideas and concepts to attract a younger crowd, but the space is so inviting, it is attracting all generations," says Nichols. **hd**

Naples Grande Resort & Club

Naples, Florida

Owner LXR Luxury Resorts

Architecture Firm BSSW Architects, Naples, Florida

Interior Design Firm Barry Design Associates, Los Angeles

Interior Design Project Team Robert Barry, Jinous Nichols, Dawn Chun, and Anthony Agriam

Contractor Kraft Construction

Purchasing Firm Gerry Brown Associates

Lighting Consultant Lighting Design Studio

Engineer CHPA Electrical Engineers

Graphics Arias Associates

BAR

Bar Chair/Lounge Chair/Arm Lounge Chair A. Rudin

Fabrics Momentum Textiles, Opuzen Design, and Donghia

CHILL-OUT LOUNGE

Fabrics Unika Vaev, Larsen, Designtex, Arc-Com Fabrics, and Pindler & Pindler

Carpet Decorative Carpets

Custom Lounge Chair Vaughan Benz

RESTAURANT

Tables/Dining Chair/Banquette Vaughan Benz

Bar Chair at Gang Table and Dining Table Base Andreu World America

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