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HOTEL MANAGEMENT

THE LEADING HOSPITALITY NEWS AUTHORITY SINCE 1875 | Vol. 237, No. 5 | June 2022

GETTING UP TO SPEED HOTELS PLAY CATCH-UP WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY



TOP 41 PURCHASING COMPANIES

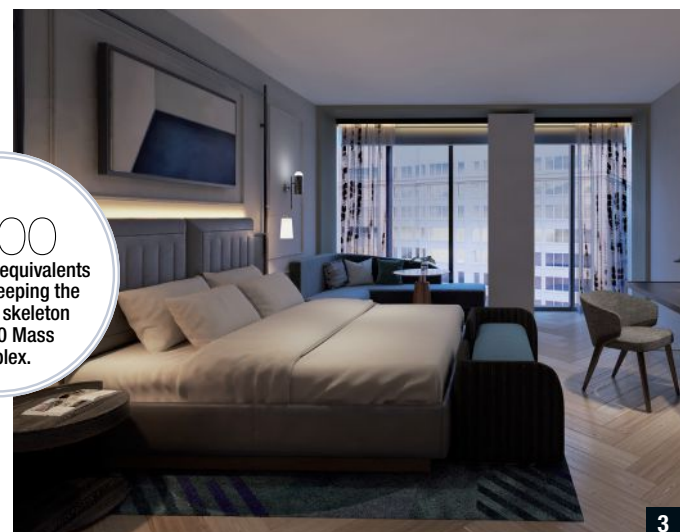
AAHOA UPDATE

Fair franchising tops new leader's agenda

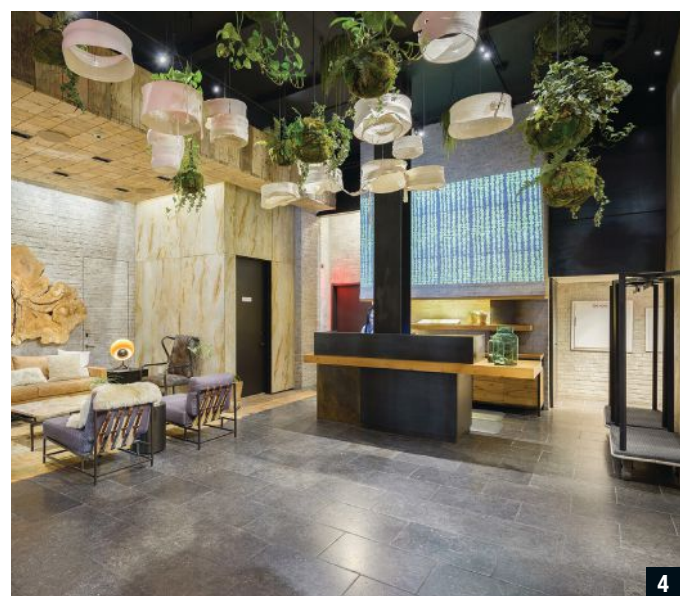
TECH TAKES CENTER STAGE

This month's issue takes an in-depth look at the hotel industry's relationship with technology—including how it affects operations and what tech will have the most impact during the rest of the decade. The issue also features profiles of technology companies in advance of the upcoming HITEC event.





WELLNESS HEALTHY HABITATS



1. LOW VOC DESIGN: Nelson Worldwide designed Marriott International's dual-branded W and Element hotel in Philadelphia, incorporating several wellness elements into both the public spaces and guestrooms. The building's interior materials have low volatile organic compounds content, said Cheryl Smith, VP Northeast regional practice leader at Nelson Worldwide. "The use of light-colored and warm natural materials within the Element brand also promotes a feeling of healthiness," she added.

2. LIGHT AND AIR: Walter Beal, project executive at the CNY Group, said that designers are improving natural light and ventilation in hotel public spaces like gyms and spas. "Travelers often want a property that feels 'tranquil' and promotes eco-consciousness," he said. For the 1 Hotel Central Park in New York City, CNY Group created a three-story-tall living green wall with more than 8,000 individually irrigated pots of ivy over the building's façade.

3. REDUCING STRESS: Architecture and interior design firm Leo A. Daly is overseeing the \$200 million adaptive reuse of a Washington, D.C., government office building into 20 Mass, a mixed-use development that will include the Royal Sonesta Washington D.C. Capitol Hill. Mark Pratt, VP global hospitality practice leader at Leo A. Daly, said the team is working to minimize carbon emissions and source materials responsibly. "Design strategies such as natural light, views and natural materials help reduce stress," he said, noting that touchless fixtures reduce the transmission of germs.

4. HIGH-TECH WELLNESS: Beal said nature-inspired design that promotes clean air, open space and sustainability is becoming an industry standard. "In addition to that, a trend that we believe has similar staying power is the increased use of technology in hotels, primarily contactless and voice-commanded functionality," he said. "Integrating technology within hospitality settings not only promotes wellness through cleanliness and hygiene in a post-pandemic world, but also creates a more inclusive environment for people living with disabilities."

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