

Hemispheres

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Toronto

THE STAY

By Judith Fein



What's Old Is New

Ancient ruins inspire an Albuquerque design hotel

When architect Adam Gumowski was named design director of Albuquerque's Hotel Chaco, he decided that he wouldn't find soulful inspiration working at his desk. "If this hotel were to speak to the history and spirit of Chaco Canyon," he explains, "we'd have to go there with absolutely open hearts and minds and no preconceived notions."

For three days, Gumowski and two other architects camped out at Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a 1,000-year-old UNESCO World Heritage site about 150 miles northwest of Albuquerque. One of the most significant Native American archaeological finds in North America, Chaco Canyon contains the ruins of buildings that were the largest on the continent until the 19th

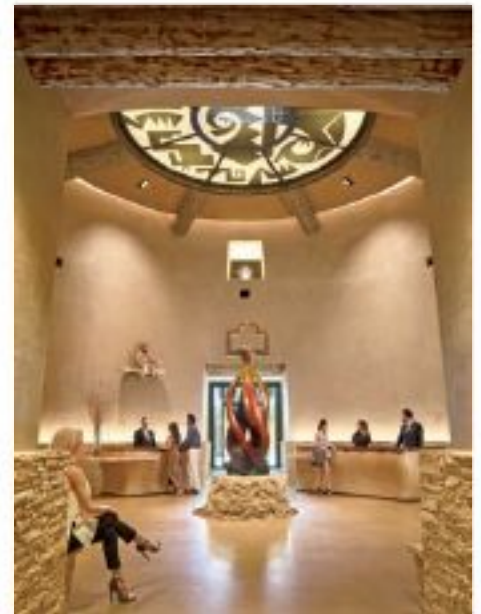
century. On hikes, Gumowski and his fellow architects photographed, sketched, and studied the textures and patterns of the brickwork and the harmonious play of light between the natural and the man-made. "We tried to imagine and feel the emotions of the ancient creators of Chaco Canyon and to translate that into a physical manifestation in the hotel," he says.

For guests, that infusion of spirit begins immediately upon arrival. The driveway is constructed from handmade textured pavers, which unconsciously connect visitors to the craftspeople who made them. "The big, heavy doors at the entry are a threshold you cross," Gumowski says. "The sound from the water features echoes around the hard surfaces, and then you enter the heart and soul of the project, the

round lobby area, where social interaction takes place." The inspiration of Chaco Canyon is everywhere: in the juxtaposition of horizontal and vertical lines; in the color palette, a natural gradient from oranges to sandy earth tones; even in the alignment of the hotel and the curving garden wall, which are laid out based on the ancient solar and lunar calendars.

The interior design, meanwhile, was done by Kris Lajeskie, who has spent years working with the Pueblo and Navajo communities. Each guest room contains an original handwoven Navajo rug from the historic Toadlena Trading Post, and Lajeskie commissioned a contemporary Native art collection, even hiring potters to recreate Chaco Canyon's black-on-white ceremonial cylinders. (Some staffers wear black-and-white uniforms that echo the ancient ceramics.)

Inspired to see the canyon for yourself? The hotel's tour company partner, Heritage Inspirations, offers day hikes and overnight glamping trips—scheduled, naturally, around solstices and equinoxes.

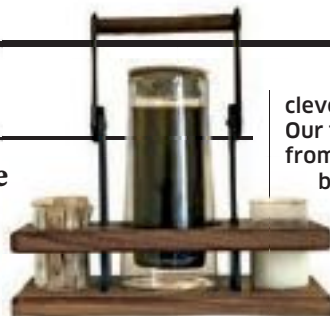


Nick Merrick

THE DETAIL

Custom Coffee Caddies

The new Nashville boutique hotel Noelle is filled with



clever amenities from Music City makers. Our favorite is the in-room coffee service from Andy Mumma and Chris Ayers, of beloved area mini-chain Barista Parlor. They partnered with South Nashville's Steric Design to create custom caddies that deliver fresh-brewed coffee to guests in less than 10 minutes. The simple caddies, which hold a glass

decanter of joe and beakers of milk and sugar, are even made from local materials, as Steric Design's Jonathan Malphrus sourced solid walnut from a nearby sawmill. "Something can be beautiful and functional at the same time," Ayers says. "We didn't want to interrupt someone's morning; we wanted to be a part of making their morning better." —Kelsey Ogletree