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Vaughan Benz knows a lot
about perfectionism**



Vaughan Benz's Scott
Vaughan and David Benz

Project Warwick Suites



Suite Life

Hollywood royalty inspires Interior Design International's Warwick revamp

By Kathleen Kervin • Photography by Hechler Photography

Newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst left behind a complicated legacy and is often remembered for his sensationalist journalism techniques, extensive art collection, and as inspiration for Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*. But it was Hearst's love for his longtime mistress, film actress Marion Davis, that prompted him to commission the Warwick New York Hotel in 1926—a place with a storied history of housing Hollywood stars (and friends of the couple) filming in the city.

A renovation of five of the property's signature suites was led by Stephanie Ellis-Carmody, principal of Seattle-based Interior Design International, which also worked on the revamp of the Warwick Seattle. "Each of the suites was themed or given personalities," Ellis-Carmody explains, "by either famous Hollywood guests who had frequented the hotel, or by famous



This and opposite page, clockwise from far left: A palette of black, white, and gray dominates in the living room of the Marion suite; blue walls make a dramatic statement in the Randolph guestroom; and the Jane suite has a feminine feel thanks to a four-poster bed, a black and gold color scheme, and black and white photos of Russell and Marilyn Monroe.



venues that are next to the Warwick in Midtown Manhattan.” The design team collaborated with the hotel to choose the most inspirational personalities to define each room’s look.

For example, the namesake Marion Davies suite channels film noir—glamorous and dramatic with bold green tones accentuating a black and white palette; while the William Hearst suite is reminiscent of a study, with masculine rich navy and gold tones that complement its selection of classical and modern artwork, representing the mogul’s appreciation for art.

Ellis-Carmody embraced the 1950s pinup star’s style in the Jane Russell suite, where a framed maillot adorns the foyer, and a four-poster bed, gold and black palette, and portraits of Russell and Marilyn Monroe round out a feminine aesthetic. In Ziegfeld Follies suite—which displays portraits of the Follies girls of

Broadway fame—Bordeaux purple, rich gold, and soft pink accentuate the furniture that evokes the style of the Roaring Twenties. And the Modern Art suite, styled as a blank canvas, showcases the room’s traditional architecture and colorful works of art.

Art was an integral element within the rooms, helping to tell each suite’s story. “Each piece,” Ellis-Carmody says, “whether archival photography or limited-edition and original artworks, was carefully selected to evoke the rooms character or were inspired by muse itself.”

“Over the years, many design features of the Art Deco-era hotel had been stripped of their architectural character,” she adds. “It was important to replace or add back this charm into each of the rooms while meeting modern standards of luxury.”)))

Project Warwick Suites, New York

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Owner, Management Company, and Purchasing

Firm: Warwick International Hotels

Interior Design Firm: Interior Design International, Inc., Seattle

Interior Design Project Team: Stephanie Ellis-Carmody, Jamie Hysell, and Katie Sander

Art Consultant: Grand Image

Casegoods: Biscayne Hospitality

Casegoods and Upholstered Goods: AFM

Drapery: Hunter Douglas

Carpet: Bentley

Hardwoods: Nydree Flooring

Lighting: Arteriors, Robert Abbey, Troy, Hudson Valley Lighting, and Sonneman

Custom Lighting: Bloom Lighting

Fabrics: Maharam, Fabricut, S. Harris, Pollack, Architects, Mayer Fabrics, Wolf Gordon Textiles, Jeff Thompson, and Luna Textiles

Wallcovering: Color and Design and Muraspec

Wall Tile: Porcelanosa, Ann Sacks, Trend Vitero, and Provenza

Custom Vanities: Mark David

Plumbing: Kohler and TOTO

Accessories: Arteriors, Cyan, and Global Views

Mirrors: Foundations



From top: Art plays a key role in the Modern Art suite living room; and 1920s-inspired furniture defines the bedroom of the Follies suite.