

Interior designers Marcel Bequillard and Paul Brigido of MBID have taken inspiration from the Ballet Russe for his designs at Moscow's latest luxury hotel.

Renaissance Monarch Centre

Moscow

Words: Matt Turner Photography: Courtesy of Renaissance Hotels

Operated under a franchise agreement with Interstate Hotels & Resorts, The Renaissance Monarch Centre Hotel is Moscow's largest conference and convention facility, and the 24th Renaissance in Europe.

It forms part of a newly built mixed-use complex in the commercial / business district of Moscow, close to the ExpoCentre and the Hippodrome, and is conveniently located close to new developments in Moscow City such as the Federation Towers and Sheremetyevo Airport. In addition to the hotel, the Monarch Centre comprises a three storey shopping mall, as well as a 30+ storey office tower.

Interior designer Marcel Bequillard of MBID has taken his inspiration for the design of the hotel from the Ballet Russe, first introduced in Paris in the 1920's, and known for its artistic costumes, designed by the likes of Joan Miro and Pablo Picasso. Inspiration was also taken from the movement of dance and motion, as seen in the fluid patterns used

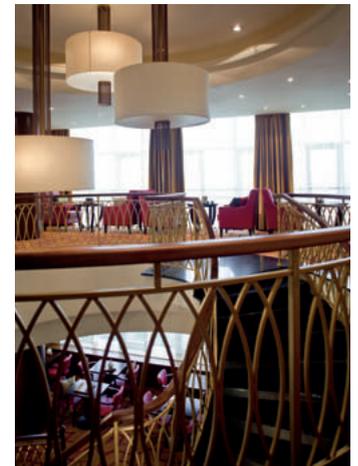
for the hotel's interior architecture, custom lighting, carpets, textiles and artwork. Finishes of Macassar ebony, gold leaf, and other exotic woods are inspired by Parisian interiors of the 1920s.

Guests entering the lobby will begin to experience these curves and lines of movement in the ceiling coves, as well as the design of the reception pods and their shimmering background. A seating grouping sits in front of a double height, colour changing LED crystal curtain backed with gold and silver glass mosaic to create the feeling of a stage curtain, behind which a performance is about to begin.

The hotel's two restaurants are located at ground level. 'Mozaic' offers all-day dining and a breakfast buffet, whilst specialty restaurant 'Premier' offers a concept based on the combination of European and Asian culinary traditions, offers a blend and fusion of the cultures and culinary specialties of the cities along this route from Venice to China.

The design of 'Mozaic' is vibrant and cheerful yet creates a sophisticated space that absorbs different moods and feelings of the different times of the day. The carpet uses bright colors and curves again reflecting the influence of the Ballet Russe. The buffet room is surrounded by shimmering glass mosaics in rich red/orange and amber tones, also picked up in the bubbles design of the central custom designed light fixture. The dining chairs are in an Art Deco style, alongside dining tables enriched with wood inlay patterns at the top. Wood and frosted glass doors to the buffet room are backlit in the evenings to create the effect of a backlit wall.

In the Premier restaurant, the design carries the influences of the many different cultures along the route, from Venetian style lighting, to the Persian style gold and wood open screens, the abstract Chinese cloud design of the carpet or the Italian glass mosaics of the open kitchen. Tabletops are inlaid with embossed leather with geometric patterns. ►



THIS PAGE (LEFT): A sense of arrival is created in the lobby with a dramatic shimmering gold mosaic. Brintons' extensive design archive – dating back to 1791 – was used to provide inspiration for MBID's carpet designs. Working closely with Marcel Bequillard, Brintons used its design archive to inspire the development of contemporary Axminster carpet designs for 22 separate areas at the four-star hotel, totalling an area of 21,000m² (ABOVE) The Welcome Lounge (TOP) The Executive Lounge



► The ceiling is an antique gold, which gives a sense of the exotic and also reflects the tones of the LED lights in the coves above to set the mood.

The second floor of the hotel features the expansive ballroom – the largest in Moscow – and meeting rooms including a boardroom accessible from the lobby either by elevators or a grand staircase. Here, a crystal curtain combines with a large carpet patterned in fluid lines and shapes, reflected in the ceiling chandeliers, all of which are different shapes, yet designed in various standard sections used in different placements. The wall material is a shimmering soft pattern by Ulf Moritz, surrounded by millwork and columns in Macassar Ebony using chevron pattern inlays. Guestrooms and suites follow this theme in the use of colors, carpet patterns, and motifs. Rosewood veneers were used on the casegoods, and the custom designed lamps are in antique bronze. Abstract artwork continues the themes of dance and movement, within traditional frames which invoke the richness of the era of the czars.

The Presidential suite has a dining room,

living room, library and Master Bedroom with a private seating area, as well as a state-of-the-art bathroom featuring a shower with body jets, steam aromatherapy and a bathtub with built-in colour LED for a relaxing colour therapy experience.

The hotel also features a two level Executive Lounge, with stunning views over the nearby hippodrome. Breakfasts and light refreshments are served on the first level, whilst the second level featuring private seating groupings as well as private computer stations. Here, the carpet patterns depict shapes and lines found in traditional Russian Architecture, alongside library-style bookcases, accessories and art which create a residential living room feeling, with MBID's work at the Renaissance Monarch Centre has allowed Renaissance Hotels to add another gem to its global portfolio of more than 140 hotels. The brand is a key element of Marriott International's plans to double its presence in Europe by 2015. Three more Renaissance properties are expected to open in Europe in London, Amsterdam and Budapest by 2013. ■

EXPRESS CHECKOUT

Renaissance Moscow Monarch Centre
31A bld.1 Leningradsky prospect
Moscow, 125284 Russian Federation
Tel: 7-495-995 0009
www.renaissancemonarchmoscow.com

🏠 267 rooms , 99 suites
🍷 Restaurant Mozaic, Premier
🍸 Allegro Lobby Bar & Lounge
🏊 Fitness Center and Turkish HAMAM
Swimming pool, Whirlpool
+ 12 meeting rooms, 2,500m² of meeting space

Developer / Owner: The Monarch Concern
Operator: Interstate Hotels & Resorts.
Interior Design: MBID