

■ Fridays with KGD Lifestyle Interiors

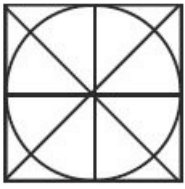


Nestled in the heart of the Arizona desert, the vibrant city of Phoenix played host to one of the most anticipated events in the hospitality industry of 2023 – The Lodging Conference. Throughout this week, starting on September 18t, hoteliers, industry experts, and innovative minds gathered at the stunning JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa to discuss the latest trends, share insights, and forge connections that will shape the future of lodging. In this blog, we will take you on a journey through the highlights of The Lodging Conference, where the hospitality industry came together to innovate and thrive.

We would love to hear from you, especially if you have an upcoming project that renovates an existing asset, converts a commercial office into a hotel, or brings online a new hotel or brand. In addition to being a multifamily architect and interior designer headquartered in Washington, DC, KGD designs boutique hotels, boutique fitness studios, and other hospitality spaces throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and in other major U.S. cities. In fact, we designed a new Kimpton slated to deliver next year in Denver.

Tina Delia, NCIDQ
Director of Lifestyle Interiors
"Fridays with KGD Lifestyle Interiors" Editor

♡ Tina Delia

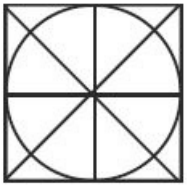


Welcome to Lodging



The Lodging Conference kicked off with an inspiring keynote address by Conference Founder and Producer Harry Javer, who set the tone for the days to come. The opening session addressed the theme of "Adapting to the New Normal," focusing on the resilience and adaptability the hospitality industry displayed throughout the challenges posed by the global pandemic.

The hospitality industry, often hailed as one of the most dynamic and thriving sectors of the global economy, faced unprecedented challenges in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted travel, tourism, and dining on a global scale, testing the industry's resilience like never before. However, as we look back on this challenging period, we can see that the hospitality industry as a whole has displayed remarkable fortitude to pivot and adjust. As attendees, we gained insights into strategies employed by industry leaders to weather the storm and thrive in a post-pandemic world.

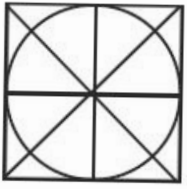


A View From The Top



The second day was filled with a diverse range of sessions, panel discussions, and workshops that covered the spectrum of hospitality topics. We had the opportunity to delve deep into subjects such as sustainability, technology integration, and the changing guest experience. One highlight was a panel discussion featuring renowned hoteliers sharing their hottest hotel design trends. Panelists shared experiences on implementing sustainable practices within their properties. Sustainability and eco-conscious travel were recurring themes throughout the conference, reflecting the industry's growing commitment to responsible tourism.

During the Resort Update discussion, panelists focused on current trends, challenges, and opportunities within the resort sector of the hospitality industry. Wellness and a fully integrated experience were among the notable highlights.

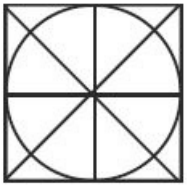


Technology & Integration



The third day of The Lodging Conference was all about the future of technology in the hospitality industry. Experts shared their views on the latest advancements, from contactless check-in systems to AI-driven guest experiences. We were introduced to cutting-edge solutions that promise to enhance operational efficiency, personalize guest interactions, and improve overall guest satisfaction. Technology providers also showcased their products and services in an exhibition hall, allowing attendees to experience firsthand the innovations shaping the industry.

The reigning sentiment throughout the day was that guests are demanding customized, flawless experiences. Hotels have one chance to get it right. Everything from check-in to the interior design package must be on point. Guests are not just looking for a place to rest their heads. They are looking for a more intimate and lifestyle-integrated experience.



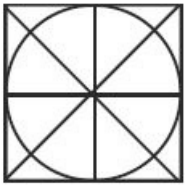
Boutique & Independent Hotels



In recent years, boutique and independent hotels have seen a resurgence and redefinition in the hospitality industry. These unique and often locally-inspired establishments are attracting a new breed of travelers seeking personalized experiences that go beyond cookie-cutter accommodations.

One of the hallmark features of boutique and independent hotels is distinctive, thoughtfully designed spaces. These properties invest heavily in their interior design and exterior aesthetics, often with a focus on local art and design elements. Each room is a work of art in itself, offering guests a one-of-a-kind experience.

During the conference, we learned that the acquisition of boutique hotels by major hotel brands is a strategic move that has gained momentum in recent years. This trend reflects the evolving preferences of travelers who are seeking unique and personalized experiences while also allowing major hotel chains to diversify their portfolios.

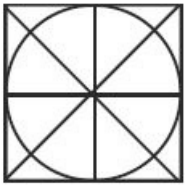


Key Takeaways



The Lodging Conference 2023 was a resounding success, offering a wealth of insights and opportunities for attendees. Here are some key takeaways from this year's conference:

1. Resilience and Adaptability: Industry leaders shared their stories of overcoming challenges and adapting to the "new normal."
2. Sustainability Matters: Sustainability is no longer an option but a necessity. The industry is increasingly focused on eco-friendly practices, from reducing carbon footprints to minimizing waste.
3. Technology is Transformative: Hoteliers must embrace innovative solutions to stay competitive in a rapidly changing landscape.
4. Collaboration is Key: The power of networking and collaboration cannot be underestimated. Building strong relationships within the industry is essential for future success.

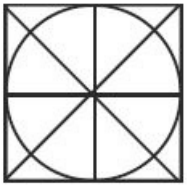


Wrapping It Up

As the curtains draw on The Lodging Conference, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of the organizers, attendees, exhibitors, and panelists. Your presence, insights, and commitment to the hospitality industry have made this conference an outstanding success. As I depart from this desert oasis, I carry with me the knowledge gained, the connections forged, and the inspiration sparked during these days.

Together, we will continue to shape the future of lodging, embracing innovation, interior design trends, and sustainability while providing unforgettable experiences for our guests.

Safe travels to everyone I met along the way. Until we meet again at the next conference, may your journeys be as enriching as the conversations we've had here in Phoenix. Thank you, and farewell!



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