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JOI-Design designs two Hiltons in Frankfurt's The Sqaire

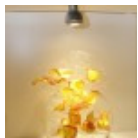
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Two Hilton hotels, both designed by JOI-Design, have opened in Frankfurt's The Sqaire, an oblong-shaped horizontal skyscraper.

The Sqaire sweeps over the ICE high-speed train station, sits alongside the airport and is flanked by two autobahns.

The Hilton Frankfurt Airport and the Hilton GardenInn Frankfurt both feature a bolder, sleeker design combining luxury details and leisure oriented elements, with a strong offering for business travellers.

The building is 660 metres long and 65 metres wide with 145,000m2 of façade that is three-dimensionally curved.

For the hotel interior designers, the size and shape were both a challenge and an opportunity.

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Two design responses which caused JOI-Design to be awarded the project: the large "golden wings" that extend over the reception, dining and retail areas, reducing the volume while allowing natural light to flow through from the atrium, and the silver mirrored globe, a building-within-the-building that accommodates the ballroom and function spaces.

The two golden wings are actually curved perforated metal sheets, which cushion the acoustics and set the scene for the flowing forms seen throughout the Hilton Frankfurt Airport.

The silver globe construction is at the east end of the building. Inside, the main space, which can seat 570 people theatre style, is theatrically illuminated with light flowing through curving ceiling recesses and captured in the Swarovski crystal strips inset into the timber wall panelling – a handsome and practical solution to the issue of acoustics and the need to hide ventilations ducts in this entirely contained space.

The lounge, bar and restaurant areas flow from the reception by a series of illuminated columns. Within, lighting, various floor finishes and a mix of different seating help to make the area suited to all needs and moods during day and night.

Oak timber flooring gives way to carpeting in the lounge, the bar's lighting changes pulse a little in the glass pendants above and in the corian that flows around it, while the design of the restaurant connects with the "golden wings" in its gold leafed ceiling panels.

Here, once again, the designers were dealing with a large area which could easily look empty at certain times of day. To reduce this, JOI-Design introduced high backed banquettes, sculptured timber features and a buffet area that could be screened by an acrylic and glass door that becomes a piece of art as it sparkles under nighttime lighting.

The 10th floor executive lounge features six enormous double-sided chairs. There are almost 600 bedrooms between the two hotels, where JOI-Design has used leather-clad wardrobes and stylised wing back chairs.

The Presidential Suite was created with a rich colour palette. Lounge details are in 18 carat gold leaf, furniture is in glossy ebony and all the artwork is original. The bathroom is clad in natural stone with black granite fixtures and a round whirlpool lit from above by Swarovski lights.

"It has been a great honour to work on such a high-profile project. The project was complex due to the building form, challenging because of the logistics on-site and exciting since we were being

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asked to set a new benchmark for Hilton,” said Peter Joehnk, joint managing director, JOI-Design.

“I am proud that we have managed to keep our original design through such a long programme and feel that the result is an experience that will touch guests at an emotional level. Design is an important factor in brand communication and The Squire is an international milestone for Hilton,” he added.

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