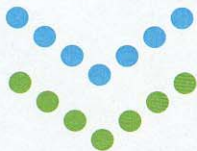


redefining Banff

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY AND POCKETBOOK-FRIENDLY JUNIPER HOTEL VAULTS THE ALBERTA MOUNTAIN RESORT INTO THE VANGUARD OF A POST-POST-AND-BEAM WORLD.



BY AMANDA ROSS

The mountainside modernism of Banff's renamed and dramatically reinvigorated Juniper hotel.

ORANGE SHAG, CUBE SEATING, RED-DYED FIR WALLS—Tribeca's newest hot spot? Guess again. Take that concept and plunk it down in the middle of the Canadian Rockies and you have the Juniper, Banff's first modern boutique hotel. Once the old Timberline Inn, nestled at the base of Mount Norquay, the Juniper has had a serious makeover and emerged as a bastion of hipness. While its ridiculously fantastic postcard views have always been fit for a king, its interiors had become something less than regal. The vistas are still intact, but the interior retrofit channelling '50s modernism makes this a hipster hot spot without alienating its down-to-earth faithful.

The 1.9-hectare site, a meeting and gathering spot for at least the last 4,000 years, pays homage to that convivial tradition but with modern amenities—like loos with Kohler

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sinks and the requisite mini toiletries you know you'll swipe. The hotel features 52 rooms on three levels, in addition to two free-standing chalets (think flat-roofed modern huts, not post-and-beam timber

ously offered. To wit: the grand old dame that is the Banff Springs Hotel has an awe-inspiring profile but even more awe-inspiring rates. Much of the rest of the accommodation falls into one of two cat-

Chef Tony Bielec's modern interpretation of mountain fare mirrors the hotel's ethos.

that's just so 2002). Starting with compact but cosy rooms with earth-toned duvets and linear cherry headboards to full-on suites with couches, movie-size flat-screen TVs and rain showers, the hotel promises vacationing scenesters a hangout with plush service.

The hotel's new concept came courtesy of a tripartite agreement among western Canadian hotelier Decore Hotels, Banff

categories: upgraded motor lodges or more sophisticated venues infused with the standard rustic mountain accompaniments like river rock and more timber than you can shake a stick at.

The Juniper manages to embrace its roots but with a smart new take. "The design needed to pay homage to the fact that it was sitting on a 4,000-year-old archaeological site of primitive pit



Fir floors and guest rooms that channel the 1950s are among the Juniper's attractions.

conservationist and environmental building developer Peter Poole and Michael Shugarman, the project's architect-cum-interior-designer-cum-furniture-designer. Add venerable legendary Calgary restaurateur Witold Twardowski on the restaurant/bar front and you get a package the likes of which Banff hasn't previ-

dwelling," explains Shugarman. "But it also had to respect the 1950s building that currently occupies the site." Ripe for a reno, the hotel came readily equipped for its makeover: modernist hallmarks like its flat roof, natural setting and existing palette of materials lent itself to its current manifestation. Underneath threadbare carpet