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Five deco design tips inspired by The Royal Connaught

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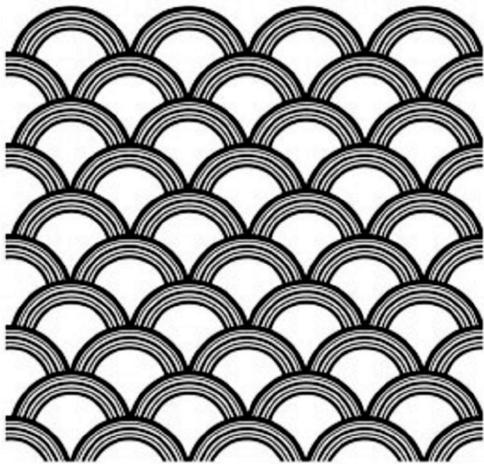


By Lisa Boyer

The Royal Connaught was Hamilton's answer to the Edwardian obsession. The hotel in the city's core was once a playground for the rich and famous. Visiting celebrities, athletes, royalty, business elite and politicians performed, wined and dined in the landmark hub over its 88 years in operation. After sitting empty for the past decade, the Connaught will be revived as the highly-anticipated Residences of the Royal Connaught.

The hotel's indelible three story art deco lobby will be refurbished, highlighting the original glass staircase, mezzanine and architectural columns. With 700 new condominium suites, the lobby will be restored to a bustling hub featuring a sleek coffee bar and a baby grand piano.

I've been busy working on the final embellishments for the lobby launch. In the meantime, I'm eager to share of my design inspiration. Here are my top five deco design tips:



Art deco pattern from Dana Decals at danadecals.com

Introduce geometric patterns: This can easily be done by using bold wallpaper on a feature wall in your home or laying a statement rug down under a symmetrical seating arrangement. Hunt for chevrons, zigzags, exaggerated herringbone and linking geometric patterns to execute this desire for all things BOLD!



Anzio venetian mirror from Korson furniture

Reflective surfaces: The art deco period was all about glam, so all that sparkles is gold! Introduce lacquer, glass, mirror and steel into your interior. Consider a mirrored chest of drawers on either side of the bed to bring glitz into the bedroom. In the foyer, try mounting an over-scaled sunburst mirror above a statement black lacquer console.



High-contrast colour scheme: Dramatic monochromatic colour can make a bold statement in any room. Get daring with your paint brush and

wrap your walls into a soft cream backdrop. Then add interest by painting all of your interior doors a dark moody black. I like Benjamin Moore's: Black Jack 2133-20.



Brighton four-door storage cabinet from Korson furniture

Exotic woods: An exotic wood piece is a must-have to contrast all the polished items that prevail in an art deco interior. Introduce one over-scaled statement piece like a buffet in the dining room made from warm wood such as, Madagascar ebony or walnut. Keep the lines clean and avoid any fussy detailing.



Meurice rectangle chandelier by Jonathan Adler from Robert Abbey Furniture

Glamorous and romantic Lighting: Use dimmers and layers of lighting to place accent on prized items like a gallery-style art gathering. Oversized wall sconces that radiate light upwards and downwards create a moody sultry glow.

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