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perspectives 5 questions for

lenny kravitz

Founder Kravitz Design



- People know you as a musician and an actor, but how did you end up in hospitality and product design?
 I often found myself having a hard time finding the exact thing that I was looking for, which led me to create custom pieces.
 Working in hospitality allows me to create things that I can use in my projects and that I feel would appeal to others.
 - What hospitality design projects are you currently working on?

A nightclub and villa at the Baha Mar in Nassau, Bahamas; suites at the SLS Las Vegas; a specialty floor at Bisha Hotel & Residences in Toronto; and another nightclub in Paris.

- You're rather prolific on the product design side. What product collections are in your portfolio? We have worked on furniture with Kartell, lighting with Swarovski, wallpaper with Flavor Paper, and tile with Lea Ceramiche. Currently, we are working on a collection with Rocky Mountain Hardware. Quality and the desire to produce unique products are what draw me to any collaboration.
- You recently collaborated with BR-111, a hardwood flooring company. What drew you to them?

BR-111 is an innovative company that's looking to bring the highest quality product to the market. This aligns exactly with my philosophy. We were looking at a BR-111 product for a project of ours and asked if they could produce something that wasn't in their line—that led to the collaboration [pictured].

What does the collection offer?

Eight unique finishes that range from a very light, almost white oak, and moves through the spectrum to black. The collection was inspired by the architecture of Scandinavia and Japan. I wanted it to have a classic but modern feel.

projects marco island marriott beach resort

View

11**1**...

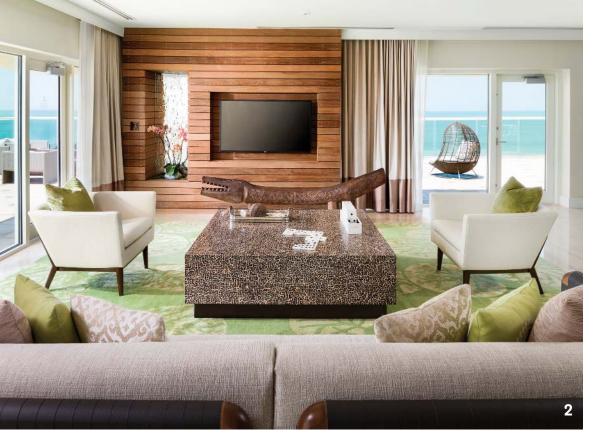
1. The Marriott Marco Island's presidential suite features an expansive 3,000-square-foot terrace with a hot tub and various lounge seating.

from the top

Balinese flair for a presidential suite in Florida

By JOANN GRECO Photography by MORIS MORENO PHOTOGRAPHY







Over the decades, various designers have tweaked the Marriott Marco Island here, added and deleted there. In recent years, the baton has been handed to Coral Gables-based Edge of Architecture (EoA), which expanded the Florida property's meeting and event spaces, as well as crafted rooftop restaurants and a third pool.

As the resort looks to renovate its guestrooms, EoA has developed a different approach, starting at the top with a showcase 1,800-square-foot presidential suite. "I dug into the roots of the resort," says EoA founder Malcolm Berg, "and came to understand that the original designers saw it as an island within an island: a selfreferential property with a Balinese spin. Instead of adding one more layer, I stripped away everything and returned to that notion.

"The presidential suite will be a baseline as far as quality and overall design direction goes for the rest of the guestrooms," he points out. Still, it features more than a few extra touches: a handcarved elephant, a water wall that's covered in mirrored mosaic and graced with a traditional wooden Balinese figure, polished limestone floors, a dining room that's capped with a hammered copper ceiling and sealed off by gauzy curtains, an ipe-clad feature wall, and a bathroom adorned with a mosaic wall and rich timber touches that are a nod to Indonesia. "It's a luxurious take on a modern Balinese aesthetic," says Berg.





The previous presidential suite sat in the same footprint, but in addition to the design update, Berg shifted and fine-tuned the layout. "Very often these suites feel way too large," he observes, "so with this one, we broke down the spaces into discrete introvert and extrovert personalities."

The lone bedroom is "womblike," he says, and adjoins a cozy reading nook and writing desk where a deep curved sofa is built into a platform that hugs an undulating wall. On the other side of that wall, the public space sprawls, beginning with the dining and boardroom, and extending to a living area 2. The suite's living room features detailed touches such as a crushed shell mosaic coffee table and wooden alligator bench.

3. A curved platform sofa, elephant figurine, rich timbers, and polished limestone floors in the bedroom reference a Balinese aesthetic. **4.** The dining area is set off from the other public areas by a gauzy curtain.

5. In the bedroom, a round leaf-patterned area rug evokes the local sea grape.



highlighted by quirky accents like a coffee table made from crushed shell mosaic and a sculptural bench carved in the form of an alligator. Wrapping around the entire suite is a 3,000-square-foot oceanview terrace with a bar, firepit, hot tub, and additional lounge seating, including a teak Balinese swing.

To marry those elements with the lush Florida setting, EoA adorned the space with celadon-hued textiles such as the silk and wool hand-tufted area rugs patterned with a round leaf that evokes the flora of the sea grape, a local, protected species. "Throughout, there's an emphasis on merging the indoors and outdoors," says Berg. "Instead of responding to trends, that's a sensibility that remains cohesive and timeless." hd

• eoa-inc.com; marcoislandmarriott.com





Presidential Suite at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort Florida

Owner

Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers Management Company Marriott International Architecture and Interior Design Firm EoA, Coral Gables, Florida Architecture Project Team Malcolm Berg, Viviane Savornin, Pablo Diaz, and Ross Downing Interior Design Project Team **Malcolm Berg and Leslie** Schultz Project Manager John Hardy Group Contractor **Heritage Builders** Purchasing Firm Summit Procurement Services Consultants Bluworld Engineering **Bob Rude Structures and** Jenkins Maag Associates DINING AND CONFERENCE ROOMS Art

Company Furniture

Millwork

Concepts

Bart Halpern and Jeffrey

Lighting

Illumination Lighting and **Arteriors Contract**

South Seas Trading Company Furniture Saccaro USA, Bright Chair, and Adriana Hoyos Textiles

South Seas Trading

Saccaro USA

Diversified Building

Textiles

Michaels

Tile

Tile & Marble Collection

LIVING ROOM

Art

Brentano Fabrics, Donghia, Architex, Sahco, and Maharam

Flooring **Bay Harbor Rug Gallery**

Accessories **Remanufacturing & Design**

Group

Tile & Marble Collection Drapery Controllers Somfy

BATHROOM

Tile

Bathtub Victoria + Albert Tile Casa Cielo Tile & Mosaic

Fixtures Kohler

STUDY

Textiles Bart Halpern, Jeffrey Michaels, Clarke & Clarke, and Architex Upholstery **Remanufacturing & Design** Group Art South Seas Trading

Company Millwork

Diversified Building Concepts Outdoor Seating **Neoteric Luxury**

GUESTROOM

Bench South Seas Trading Company Millwork **Diversified Building** Concepts Textiles Clarke & Clarke, Arc-Com Fabrics, and Architex Upholstery **Remanufacturing & Design**

Group Flooring

Bay Harbor Rug Gallery

ROOFTOP TERRACE

Outdoor Seating Skyline Design, JANUS et **Cie, and Neoteric Luxury**



6. The wraparound outdoor terrace also features a firepit.

7. A celedon wall in the shower set behind a standalone tub exemplifies the indooroutdoor vibe of the suite.