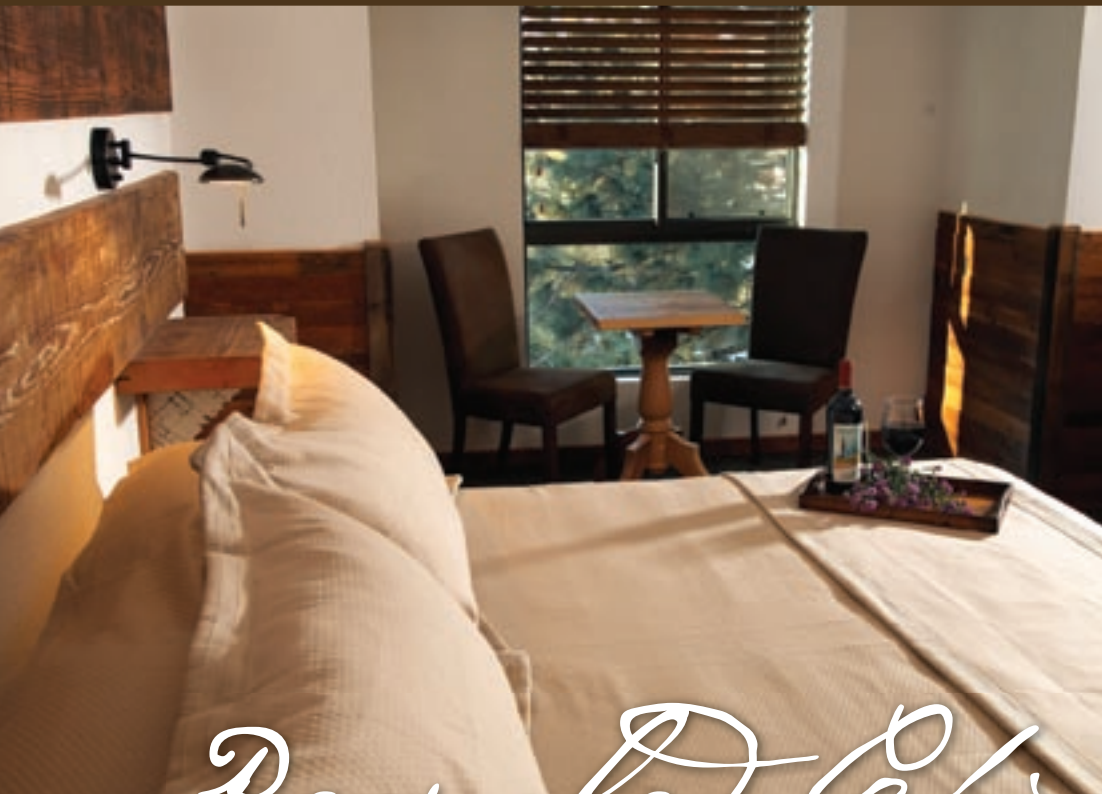


Architect: Kurt Reinkens of MWA, Inc.
Builder: Sierra Sustainable Builders
Interior: David and Solomon Aflalo of G8 Partners
Year completed: 2008
Square feet: ±38,000



Story by Alison Bender | Photos by Jeff Katz



Recycled Chic

A dilapidated motel gets an eco-friendly facelift.

(above left) The rooms at 968 Park Hotel are finished in American Clay, zero-VOC paint, reclaimed Douglas fir and American Recycled Timber furniture. **(above right)** The hotel exterior's low-maintenance Cor-Ten steel siding lends a timeless look.

When the Days Inn at 968 Park Avenue in South Lake Tahoe was bought at auction in 2007, it was in desperate need of an overhaul. The exterior was the embodiment of bad 1970s architecture and the interior stank of cats. Yet, it had potential.

"I was kind of shocked at how beat up the old building was," says architect Kurt Reinkens of Truckee's MWA. "It was in bad shape visually, but we found that it had good bones."

The goal of the new owner, Southern California-based corporation G8 Partners, was to turn the neglected hotel into eco-friendly lodging. South Lake's Sierra Sustainable Builders, owned by Danny Webb and Cory Hannaford, was chosen to oversee the project. Their team gutted the structure, and then began the process of transforming the building into 968 Park Hotel. They used products that were dominantly "green, organic, natural or sustainable," says Hannaford. "Those were our parameters."

In the lobby, carpet was removed and the floor ground and polished. Walls were insulated with repurposed denim, and carpet made of recycled, sustainable fibers was laid in each of the 58 guest rooms.

Reclaimed wood was repurposed as the building's exterior, interior trim and baseboards. Fencing from the old Days Inn now serves as furniture and other decorative features.

Reinkens designed the exterior with Cor-Ten steel and reclaimed wood, the same materials he used on The Rock (see page 110), a development that caught the eye of G8 Partners and led to his involvement on this project. The siding can be easily removed for maintenance.

To make the interior as unique as the outside, Hannaford and his crew reached into their supply of scrap wood to create the white, green and red wall mosaics in the lobby. Reclaimed wood headboards in the guest rooms contribute to the "rustic Zen" feel. Chimney-free fireplaces near the entry are fueled by denatured alcohol.

"It's a different aesthetic," says Hannaford of the overall project. "It's a much classier, timeless look."

Reinkens agrees. "I found it very rewarding and refreshing to work with a development team of such high eco-integrity goals," he adds. "I hope that more people think along those lines rather than bulldozing." **TQ**

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