



THE JEFFERSON
WASHINGTON DC

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ForrestPerkins Spares No Detail in Inspired Redesign of The Jefferson, Washington, DC

Jeffersonian Touches and Delightful “Areas of Discovery” Mark the Transformation of a Beaux Arts Gem

World-renowned interior architectural and design firm ForrestPerkins is leading a renovation of **The Jefferson, Washington, DC** that will transform this 99-room Beaux Arts jewel into Washington, D.C.’s best small luxury hotel. In the process, no detail is being spared and even the smallest decisions are carefully considered. The result will be a hotel that feels like a grand and gracious home, with areas of discovery – from private nooks to Jeffersonian-inspired design details – that promise to surprise and delight guests at every turn.

“Our vision for the hotel was to keep its spirit intact and simply make it a better version of itself,” said ForrestPerkins principal Stephen Perkins, AIA. “Part of the allure of The Jefferson has always been its intimate, residential-like atmosphere and we sought to preserve and enhance its essence to make it the most luxurious small hotel in the city.”

Jeffersonian Influences

Thomas Jefferson’s aesthetic sensibilities will inform every aspect of the hotel’s design scheme – from his life at Monticello to his extensive travels to France – yet rarely in a literal way. The effect will be one of homage to The Jefferson’s namesake without creating a period interior.

“Most Americans know something about Thomas Jefferson, but not necessarily the breadth of his interest in culture, wines, plantings, and much more,” added principle Deborah Lloyd Forrest, FASID. “There are so many things that he was passionate and knowledgeable about, even fabrics and designs.”

From his French travels, for example, Jefferson brought back a variety of printed toiles and other textiles to enhance his home. Inspired by these acquisitions, ForrestPerkins has created two original toile designs for The Jefferson’s guest room

draperies – a pastoral print evoking the grounds surrounding Monticello and an architectural print depicting floor plans, elevations and details from five of his important buildings. The two designs will be available to the public in a line of textiles by Kravet Contract, while the colors produced for The Jefferson will be reserved exclusively for the hotel and its guests.

The Arrival

The Jefferson’s original Beaux Arts exterior – the work of Jules Henri de Sibour – has been retained in its entirety, preserving a cherished piece of city history that dates back to its 1923 origins as an apartment house for Washingtonians in-the-know.

Entering the lobby, the effect will be one of arriving at the private estate of a close friend. Notably absent will be the imposing front desk typical of a hotel lobby. Instead, arriving guests will be ushered to one of two seating areas facing residential-style desks where they will be invited to settle into a comfortable chair for a more intimate check-in experience.

Past guests of The Jefferson will recognize the original plaster detailing, much of which has been retained throughout the public spaces, along with an extensive collection of artwork and artifacts from the hotel’s previous incarnations. These include original documents signed by Thomas Jefferson, a period portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette, and a collection of 18th century McKenney Hall American Indian engravings.

Places to Gather and Dine

Just beyond the lobby, a grand iron gate will grace the entrance to **Plume**, the hotel’s signature restaurant, with its beautifully restored glass barrel vaulted ceiling. The gate will stand open during the day, allowing guests to pass through the light-filled winter garden to the restaurant, and will close in the evening so that dinner patrons will enter the restaurant through the bar, creating two distinct arrival experiences for day and evening dining.

Plastered over in one of The Jefferson’s earlier renovations, the skylight will once again allow daylight to stream into the room below and will bathe the restaurant in light as well. Soft lighting at night will accent the skylight’s design details and provide a lovely glow. Atriums on either side of the skylight, formerly open to the outside air, will be enclosed with glass roofs and will offer intimate seating areas around their original limestone fountains, which will be restored to working order.

One of The Jefferson's most exciting design features will be the restaurant's main dining room with its hand-painted silk wall covering, which will depict the grounds of Monticello in a 360-degree sepia-toned landscape mural that will surround guests in Jeffersonian ambience as they dine. A cozy fireplace and intimate corner tables for two will create an intimate, upscale dining environment that will underscore The Jefferson's time-honored reputation for discretion.

Thomas Jefferson's love of wine will be reflected in the restaurant's **private dining room**, with its plaster groin-vaulted ceiling, wine display cabinets and private wine lockers.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "I cannot live without books." His love of literature has inspired the creation of a **Library** for The Jefferson – a room whose full-height, built-in book cases will be stacked with leather-bound books on subjects relevant to the Jeffersonian era. A working fireplace with a custom limestone mantel will add to the residential ambience of the library. Guests will find the room an inviting spot to curl up with a book or enjoy quiet conversation, surrounded by a rich color palette of deep emerald greens and golds that will complement its warm wood tones.

Even more discreet will be the hotel's two **Jefferson Cabinet** rooms. These cozy, private rooms will seat no more than four and will be equally ideal for business interviews and personal proposals. Both will feature floor-to-ceiling stained wood paneling, pocket doors, coved lighting and built-in flat panel televisions. The rich colors of the hotel's collection of McKenney Hall Indian engravings will inform the palette in both of these intimate rooms.

The same palette will be reflected in **Quill**, the hotel's bar and lounge, which will also be the setting for one of the hotel's more literal Jeffersonian influences: the recreation of the parquet flooring pattern that Jefferson designed for Monticello's main salon. Gracing the walls of the bar area will be a collection of 18th-century maps that follow Jefferson's wine journey through France, Germany and Italy.

Guest Rooms

To reach their rooms, guests will pass through hallways with warm, golden walls accented with framed historical prints and coved ceilings. Three-inch-thick casings, like those at Monticello, will frame the doorways.

There will be two design schemes for the elegant guest rooms, allowing guests to vary their experiences from stay to stay. One will feature a soothing palette of cream and

white with green highlights. The pastoral custom toile will dress the windows in this scheme. The other, a bolder tan and graphite with accents of cadmium orange, will feature the architectural toile.

European influences throughout the rooms will evoke Jefferson's time in Paris, while an extraordinary attention to detail will further the sense that one is staying in a private residence. Crown mouldings will grace the coved ceilings and panel mouldings will add architectural interest to the walls. Beds will be fully framed, with leather-upholstered headboards and footboards, draped in duvets, and accented with coverlets and bolster pillows. Desk chairs covered in dupioni silk will pull up to elegant writing desks. Windows will open to the outside air. And, in one of the more inspired technological touches, a simple wall-mounted panel of two electronic buttons – one marked “housekeeping” the other “do not disturb” – will inform hotel staff of the guest's desires by triggering a subtle light in the hallway outside the guest room door.

Bathrooms with hand-cut Italian stonework will offer oversized walk-in showers and some will feature deep soaking tubs, along with abundant counter and shelf space for personal items.

A third design scheme – gold and cream accented by a rich chestnut brown – will be featured in some of The Jefferson's selection of spacious suites. Marble-tiled entryways will lead to gracious parlors with parquet flooring, beautifully hand-crafted chandeliers, and salon-style furnishings including velvet couches and whitewashed desks. Guests might find a book on Monticello placed on a side table, or perhaps a vintage copy of *Goode's Best Addresses*. Each suite bedroom will have a four-poster bed with a velvet settee at its foot. Suite bathrooms will offer double vanities and radiant heating above the deep-soaking tubs and one, the **Spa Suite**, will also feature a private steam shower and a separate, two-person spa treatment room.

Presidential and Bridal Suites

The top floor of the eight-story hotel will be dedicated to two expansive specialty suites: The 1,900-square-foot Presidential Suite and the 1,100-square-foot Bridal Suite. Both will feature nine-foot ceilings and French doors that will allow daylight to stream in and will open to exceptional city views.

The **Presidential Suite**, with its southeastern orientation, will overlook the Washington Monument and White House and its rich scheme of celadon, caramel and gold will reflect the personal taste of the hotel's owners. The suite will encompass a

spacious grand salon with walnut parquet flooring and a baby grand piano, as well as a dining room, bedroom, and a master bath with a free standing soaking tub at its center.

A dreamy palette of creams and grays will be accented by a pale, Tiffany-inspired blue in the romantic **Bridal Suite**. An intimate dining room will encourage private, candlelit meals *en suite*, and its bathroom will feature a soaking tub for two.

About The Jefferson

A 99-room Beaux Arts gem, The Jefferson, Washington, DC has an illustrious history catering to Washington's elite. It enjoys one of the city's most prestigious and strategic locations, at the corner of 16th and M Streets – just four blocks from the White House and within a short walk of museums, monuments and embassies. It is convenient to the dining, shops and nightlife of Georgetown and Penn Quarter, as well as the downtown business district and Dupont Circle.

The Jefferson first opened in 1923 as a luxury residential building that was the address of choice in Washington's diplomatic and social circles, and was converted into a hotel in 1955. It is currently undergoing a full-scale renovation that represents its most significant transformation yet, and will reopen in mid-2009 as Washington's best small luxury hotel.

For more information, visit www.jeffersondc.com.

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