



CHECKING IN TO A NEW ERA

An open, flowing floor plan welcomes guests into the new interiors of the Sofitel Brisbane, created by specialist refurbishment company ISIS Hotel Projects

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Below ISIS created the new fit-out for Sofitel Brisbane. An open-plan foyer flows through to the restaurant.

Below left, clockwise from top left From the main entry, the reception area is clearly visible; stainless steel and veneered sculpture screens rise out of marble bases in the foyer; an island buffet is used to present condiments, breads and cheeses to guests; rich reds and velvet fabrics make up the interior scheme, which evokes ideas of spice and freshness.

When it comes to designing a new interior in an old building, an element of surprise can be created by contrasting old with new. The 1980s shell of this Sofitel Brisbane hotel – the former Sheraton – gives nothing away in regards to its flowing, contemporary interiors, constructed by fit-out and refurbishment company ISIS Hotel Projects.

ISIS was engaged as project and construction manager for the interior fit-out, which was designed by architects and design consultants Perrott Lyon Mathieson. The build was so successful that it saw ISIS being presented with the 2008 MBA State Housing and Construction Award in the Commercial Refurbishment/ Renovation \$3-12m category. The company has since been nominated for a national award to be announced

in Canberra at a later date, says project manager Scott Conners.

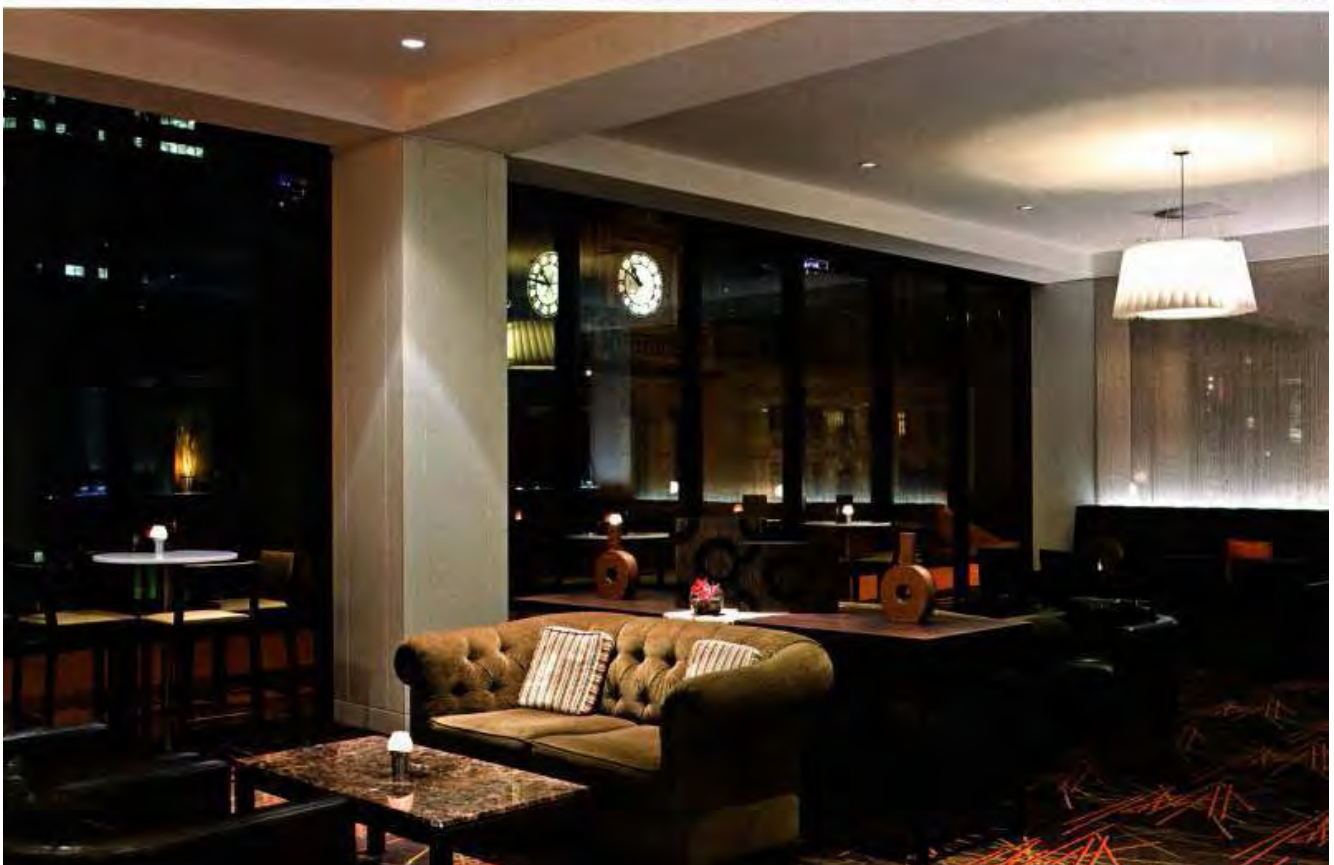
"The Sofitel Brisbane fit-out has been a success for ISIS, but it is also a success for the hotel itself. The streamlined design with its lush, warm colours and high-end materials means that visitors and guests at the hotel can now experience a relaxing fit-out that is inspiring to be in."

The design involves two main sight lines from the hotel entry to the reception, and through to the dining area. Clean lines are aided by the use of timber veneer joinery and wall panelling, with brass detailing. Materials create balance and contrast between the established formality of a hotel lobby and a feeling of movement, which is created by patterns and reflection





Trends
01/12/2008
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Region: National
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Left A screen wall separating the restaurant from the bar displays metal tubes and vases for flowers.

Below left Lounge areas are decorated with warm, contemporary colours and comfortable seating.

Right The Cuvee lounge bar features rich red velvet booth seats and a chain link shimmer screen that sparkles at night.

Below right Under-counter lighting makes the foyer bar stand out and creates a fun atmosphere for an evening drink.

from mirrors, glass, metals and beading.

ISIS was heavily involved during the planning phase to ensure that several elements of the design – which are key to the overall concept – could be achieved.

“These included four 3m-high sculpture screens in the foyer, created from veneer and stainless steel light sticks rising from a marble slab to create a splintered effect,” says Conners. “There is also a full-height screen wall separating the bar and dining area in the restaurant, which doubles as a display for flower vases and stainless steel tubes. We sourced sculptors to create these features.”

A cold-food buffet is a key feature in the restaurant.

An interactive kitchen was created, complete with pizza and tandoori ovens, a wok cooking area, seafood shucking station and refrigerated cake displays. ISIS played a large part in both the design and installation of this area, ensuring the buildability challenges were easily resolved.

During the refurbishment, the hotel experienced minimal disruption, and it managed to maintain an 85% occupancy throughout. This is a credit to sympathetic work methods initiated by ISIS.

For further information, contact ISIS Hotel Projects, Level 8, 9 Sherwood Road, Toowong, Qld 4066, phone (07) 3871 3800, fax (07) 3871 1100.



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