



*The Teen Room, by Cecilia Berkovic, has a photo montage of teen stars.*

## TALK OF THE TOWN GLADSTONE HOTEL

BY TRALEE PEARCE

For an idea of how the Gladstone Hotel's much-anticipated restoration has gone down, you can start by asking about the bedding. "One of the regulars in the bar told us his brother did bedding," says project development manager Christina Zeidler. And now, sure enough, the brother's crisp, simple whites cover the beds.

This kind of happily tangled web epitomizes the modus operandi of Ms. Zeidler, a filmmaker and visual artist who took on the gig after her family bought the run-down but beloved 1889 hotel (famed dad, T.O. architect Ed Zeidler, oversees the historic restoration).

The results, on display during an open house this weekend, will ensure that the magnetic pull west spurred by that other hotel reno, the Drake, pulls harder.

Downstairs, window and doorway woodwork has been refurbished. There's a snappy new front desk, and they're fixing the hand-operated elevator, supposedly the last of its kind in Toronto.

The 51 guest rooms have all been remodelled in eclectic styles, but the highlight of the hotel is the set of 15 rooms decorated by wildly different artists.

In their chic minimalist space, architects Heather Dubbeldam and Tania Ursomarzo used exposed beams made of laminated strand lumber, mimicking what might be inside the walls. Day Milman created a Gladstone Toile made of hand-drawn images of the hotel's bar scene. Susan Collette and Penelope Stewart created an ode to travel with handmade fabrics featuring postcard messages. Cecilia Berkovic imagined a teen dream, complete with posters.

Proving the Drake and the Gladstone Hotels can share, Jenny Francis of 3rd UNCLE design paired up again with the Big Stuff's Charlene and Grant Gilmour (they worked on the Drake's décor) for a Canadiana room, with fragrant cedar walls and digital "forest" wallpaper.

To ensure the artists' works will stand wear and tear, Ms. Zeidler and her colleagues faux-stumbled from doors to beds as beery karaokeers from the Melody Bar downstairs might. "We did the drunk test," she says. All rooms passed.

*The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W.  
Preview, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grand reopening, September.  
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