

Capital Style

Tony Chi Marries Modernism and Classic Americana in the Park Hyatt Washington D.C.



Left: Chi wanted a lobby that was bold, simple, and exquisite; Inset: Tony Chi; Top Right: A view from the living room to the bedroom in the Park Suite; Bottom Right: The Park Deluxe bedroom

"The entrance needs to make an impact and tell guests something about the hotel," said Chi. "This is why the Park Hyatt Washington reception space uses its scale as well as different textures and materials to have an impact. It is the big gesture, bold and simple, yet exquisite."

The space, which boasts a gallery-style yet homey feel, features cherry blossom glass boxes, polished glass, stainless steel, limed oak, gray limestone, antique white flooring, American quilt patterns and persimmon colored burlap. Across from the double-height, sunken reception area—with its walnut plank flooring—are "living rooms" for guests to relax. Public spaces are filled with paintings by Japanese artist Kuzaya Morimoto, Windsor Style painted Waltham Rocking Chairs and tones of cream, taupe, beige and brown.

The 215 guest rooms (including 20 suites) are sophisticated and traditional all at once. Accommodations are complete with walnut flooring, limed white oak millwork, modern lighting, wooden blinds, authentic folk art, down duvets and a sitting area with oversized swivel chairs and a large flat-screen TV. The marble, spa-inspired bathrooms feature sculpted granite stone with a separate rain shower and deep soaking tub.

"The design brings together a dynamic and attractive modernism with classic American style," said Chi. "It is modern in that it has sharp and clean lines, a sophisticated yet bold use of colors and state-of-the-art communications and guest amenities. It provides an ambiance in which today's most demanding traveler would feel instantly comfortable."

Always ready for his next adven-

ture, Chi reflected on the Park Hyatt D.C. experience: "I found the project an exciting one, not merely because it involved an important renovation in a beautiful area of the nation's capital (and I love the challenge of renovations), but because its scope was so broad and challenging." **BD**



BY EMILY LIEBERT

Enter the lobby of the Park Hyatt—re-opened in June, 2006, after a \$24 million overhaul—and you'll see money well spent. Tony Chi, who was responsible for revamping all of the ground floor public areas, all guest rooms and their corridors, and the mezzanine floor, understands the weight of a first impression.