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Hot Openings: Kansas City hotel showcases European vibe

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By [Oriana Lerner](#) on 1/12/2015

Sense of place is a hot item on designers' priority lists, no question. But, that might not have to be so literal. Dawson Design Associates' brief for the Hotel Sorella in Kansas City's Country Club Plaza is a case in point.

The plaza takes its design cues from the style of Old World cities like Seville. So, principal and art director Andrea Sheehan and her team decided to use a palette of classically luxe materials to give the hotel an opulent aura that melded the Spanish flair of the plaza with the escapist indulgence of a Mediterranean villa.

The statement starts as soon as guests enter the lobby. Marble and hand carved wood paneling pay tribute to historical grandeur. Venetian chandeliers finish off the ambience. Glass and steel curtain walls provide a contemporary counterpoint. The guestrooms continue the same approach of rich materials and a balance of old and new styling.



A blue chandelier accents the lobby.

“As a collaborative design team, we strive to push beyond the ordinary to reach the extraordinary,” Sheehan said. “Our vision is to create an experience that provokes strong emotions and lasting memories. Our goal is to open people’s eyes and minds to discovering the surprise and delight of a unique hotel experience. Our interiors are our canvas. The guests, our audience.”

