

# hospitalitydesign

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## sweet spot

lifestyle meets luxury



**HDexpo** preview  
hospitality design event



# projects

LE MÉRIDIEN/AC  
HOTEL DENVER  
DOWNTOWN  
p.182



ace hotel chicago 170

las alcobas napa valley 174

yurbban passage 178

hotel & spa

le méridien/ac hotel 182  
denver downtown



# off the vine

**A wine country hotel is one  
with nature**

By ALIA AKKAM

Photography by ALICE GAO and JASON DEWEY





**Dreamy views** of distant vineyards are pervasive in Napa Valley, California, but Las Alcobas, a Luxury Collection Hotel, flaunts the rare distinction of directly overlooking them. Adjacent to Beringer Vineyards in St. Helena, the 68-room property is the second from hotelier and founder of Las Alcobas Hotel Group Samuel Leizorek, who opened his first one in Mexico City in 2009. “I saw the location and I felt it was a brilliant place to replicate our hospitality model,” says Leizorek, who joined forces with Guneet Bajwa, codeveloper and managing principal of Sacramento-based Presidio Companies, for the project. “Mexico City and Napa Valley are two very different destinations, but the common thread between both hotels is the attention to detail and the level of refined design.”

Creating a sense of comfort and warmth was paramount to Leizorek. He once again



**1.** Some of the guestrooms at Las Alcobas Napa Valley boast terraces with fireplaces that overlook Beringer Vineyards.

**2.** A wraparound porch defines the original Acacia House, the 1905-built Georgian structure that includes six rooms, a boardroom, the lobby lounge, and eponymous restaurant.

**3.** Soft tones and a wood beam ceiling dress the light and airy lobby lounge.







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turned to Yabu Pushelberg to translate his Mexico City vision—which the Toronto and New York firm was also behind—to California wine country, working closely with the design team to thoughtfully consider every material. “The notion of luxury has changed since the first hotel. People have come to mistrust too much artifice,” says principal Glenn Pushelberg. Keeping in mind this growing predilection for simple and honest materials, as well as the bucolic locale, Yabu Pushelberg,

working with HRG Architects, treated the property like a resort, embracing subtle sequences and the intimate scale of an inn. “You feel your soul being replenished,” he says. “There’s a sense of serenity with the vineyard and colors of nature beside you.”

At the heart of the 3-acre property is Acacia House, which sets the tone for grandeur and relaxation with a wraparound porch. This circa-1905 Georgian structure original to the property was fully restored and encompasses six guestrooms, a small



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boardroom, an art-lined lobby lounge—a cozy space with wood beam ceilings and original leaded glass windows—and an eponymous restaurant led by San Francisco chef Chris Cosentino done in rich blue plaster walls and bronze-framed mirrors. Inside the earthy Atrio Spa, which is housed in its own barn-like structure, hanging lanterns and open trusses juxtapose deep gray lava stone floors and sliding barn doors fashioned from fumed oak. Heading outdoors, jute, cotton, and teak brighten the pool and cabana area, strengthening the connection to the surrounding landscape.

In the understated and inviting guestrooms—most housed in a series of

new gray and brick outbuildings connected by pathways—linen upholstered headboards contrast dark oak paneling and floors, while folk art sculptures channel the hotel's Mexican roots. Bathrooms contain devoted wet areas melding white micro-mosaic stone and blue-gray marble. "We try to limit materials. It forces you to be rigorous," says principal George Yabu. To take advantage of the setting, rooms boast terraces with fireplaces, and some have deep-soaking tubs. "It's about the outside coming in and the inside projecting outside," adds Yabu. "Here, the interior and exterior are blurred." **hd**

[hrgarchitects.com](http://hrgarchitects.com); [yabupushelberg.com](http://yabupushelberg.com); [lasalcobasnapavalley.com](http://lasalcobasnapavalley.com)

**4.** In Acacia House restaurant, bronze-framed mirrors and blue plaster walls project a sophisticated wine country ambiance.

**5.** Linen upholstered headboards juxtapose dark wood paneling in the cozy guestrooms, while a freestanding tub is set by the windows for heady Napa Valley views.

**6.** A series of new gray and brick buildings are connected by pathways and compose a majority of the resort's accommodations.

**7+8.** Natural materials like hanging lanterns, open trusses, deep gray lava stone floors, and fumed oak-clad sliding barn doors make a home in Atrio Spa.

**9.** The pool and cabana area mixes jute, cotton, and teak with the verdant landscape.

## Las Alcobas Napa Valley St. Helena, California

Owners and Developers **Las Alcobas Hotel Group and the Presidio Companies**  
Management Company **Marriott Architecture**  
Firm **HRG Architects, Sacramento** Interior Design Firm **Yabu Pushelberg, Toronto** and **New York** Interior Design Project Team **George Yabu, Glenn Pushelberg, Marcia MacDonald, and Kevin Storey** Contractor **Tricop Construction**  
Purchasing Firm **Las Alcobas Hotel Group**  
Lighting **Inverse Lighting** Graphics **New Inc.**  
Custom FF&E and Millwork **Casa Zeta**

### LOBBY

Art **Moss & Lam Furniture Custom by Yabu Pushelberg; manufactured by Casa Zeta** Area Rugs **Creative Matters** Lighting **Urban Electric Company** and **Schoolhouse Electric**

### RESTAURANT

Art **Moss & Lam** Accessories **L'Objet** Dining Chairs **Linteloo** and **Avenue Road** Banquettes and Tables **Custom by Yabu Pushelberg; manufactured by Casa Zeta**

### GUESTROOM

Art **Moss & Lam Furniture Custom by Yabu Pushelberg; manufactured by Casa Zeta**  
Desk Chair **Linteloo** Area Rugs **Sullivan Source**  
Drapery **Designers Guild** Bed Linens **Rivolta Carmignani** Wood Wall Planks **Casa Zeta** and **Delta Wood** Wood Floors **Casa Zeta** Lighting **Yabu Pushelberg** and **Vision Inc.** Faucets, Bath, and Shower Fittings **Dornbracht** Stone Sinks **Kreoo** Bathtub **Waterworks** Toilets **TOTO** Lava Rock Propane Fire Bowl **Paloform**

### SPA AND POOL

Wall Sconces **Davey Lighting** Art **Moss & Lam** Exterior Shower **Jee-O** Sunbeds **Paola Lenti Furniture Custom by Yabu Pushelberg; manufactured by Casa Zeta**