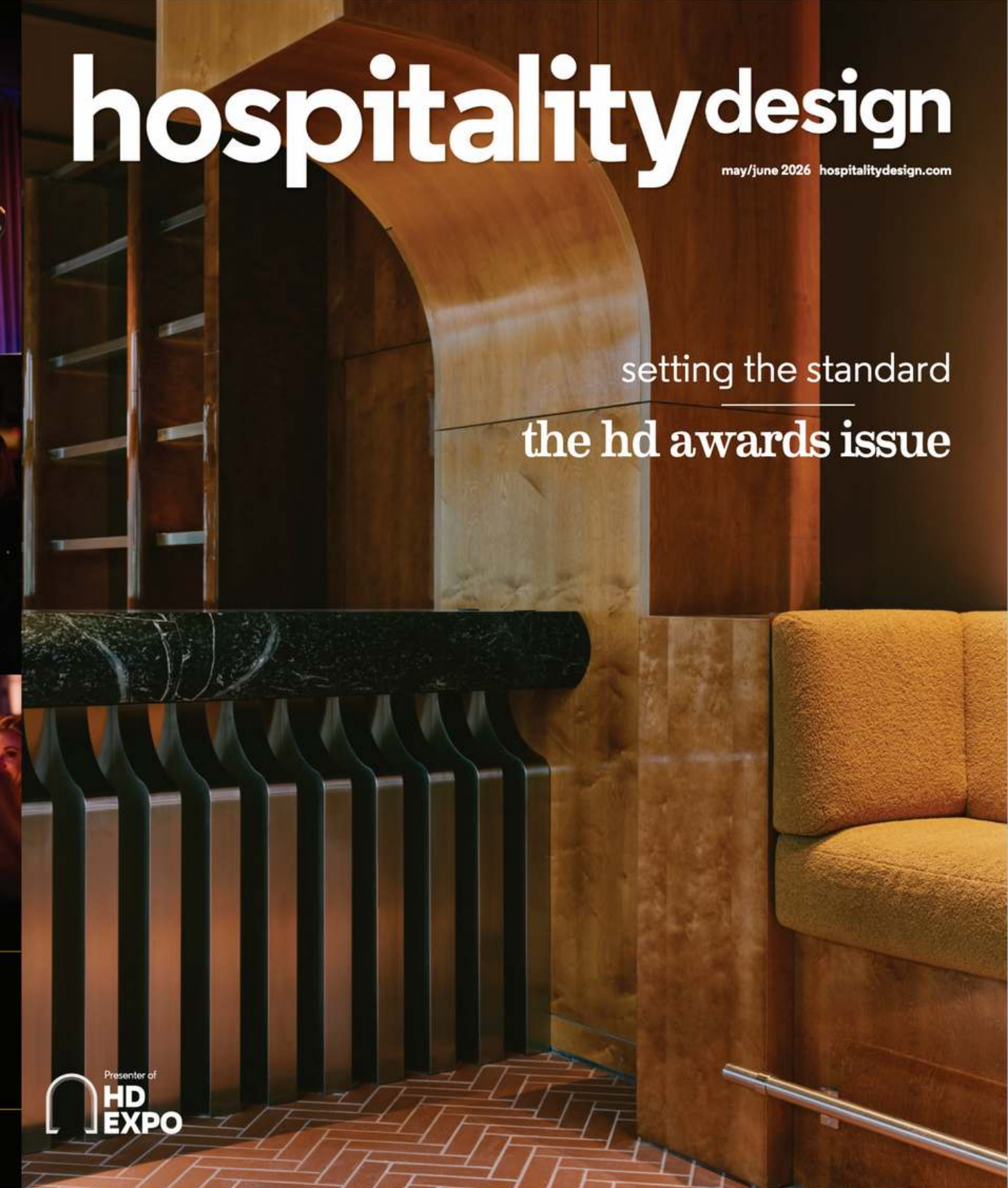


hospitality design



may/june 2026 hospitalitydesign.com

setting the standard
the hd awards issue

Presenter of
**HD
EXPO**



Gonzalo Bustamante, Starwood Hotels, and **Staver Gray**, Ward + Gray, winners in the Sustainable category



Hospitality Design editor in chief **Alissa Ponchione** and managing editor **Caitlin St John** emcee the event



Joey Navedo and **Casey Baxter**, HBF, winners in the Casagoods + Furniture and Textiles + Fabrics categories



Mike and **Gabrielle McGirr**, Red Design, winners in the Upscale Hotel category



Daniel Pierce and **Nina Grondin**, Curioso, the 2026 Design Firm of the Year



Rafael Micha, Grupo Habita, winner in the Small Hotel category as well as this year's Hotelier of the Year honoree



Tyler Kleck, INC Architecture & Design, and **Nicholas Fils-Aimé**, Tishman Speyer, winners in the Lifestyle Hotel Public Space category



Sue Han and **Kristen Lien**, Frank Architecture, winners in the Midscale Hotel category



Allie Dineen, **Kelly Houlihan**, and **Laken Boeckel**, HF Hospitality/Jay Franke Design



Adele Chan, Fairmont Designs; **Paolo Ferrari**, Studio Paolo Ferrari, winner in the Guestrooms and Suites categories; and **Grace Escaño-Maniatis**, Auberge Collection

products

A thoughtful selection shaped by materiality, detail, and performance

MODERN CASEMENTS
FROM FABRICUT
CONTRACT
p. 037

profile **virginia sin** 035
window coverings 037
outdoor furniture 038
seating 040
wallcoverings 043

See more at hospitalitydesign.com/products



“It feels vintage but also modern and new.”

—HD Awards judges

winner

The Lido collection is the debut lighting line by Ward + Gray for their brand **Bohème**. Finding inspiration in the barrier island of Lido and its maritime heritage, the line features organic silhouettes, sea-inspired hues, and antiqued brass detailing, all crafted using traditional glassblowing and metalworking techniques.

BOHEMESHOP.COM



finalist

The Yvette pendant from **dumæ** reinterprets decorative lighting as a sculptural element inspired by organic shapes and natural landscapes. Defined by a softly contoured shade, vertical stem, and clay bead detailing that conceals the suspension wire, the fixture offers visual rhythm and tactility.

DUMAE.CO



finalist

Defined by illuminated opaque ellipsoids positioned above and below a sculptural brass armature, the *Perla* sconce by AvroKO for **SkLO** combines handblown glass with fluid brass detailing, delivering both softness and stylistic appeal.

SKLO.COM



finalist

Preciosa Lighting's Crystal Links is defined by geometric metal frameworks and illuminated crystal intersections. Bubbled, handcut, and silvered crystal elements provide layered optical effects, while customizable finishes and advanced LED options enable installations to shift in mood and scale.

PRECIOSALIGHTING.COM

hd project awards

This year's HD Awards entries showcased hospitality at its most compelling: thoughtful, experiential, and deeply connected to place and community. Across nearly 900 submissions, projects of every scale and type demonstrated the transformative power of design in shaping how people gather, travel, dine, work, and unwind. Over two days of judging via Teams, eight industry leaders across design, ownership, operations, and brands came together to discuss and debate an exceptional field of entries. Their careful deliberations resulted in a remarkable group of 128 finalists and winners.

The projects featured on the following pages—from hotels and restaurants to student housing and wellness destinations that opened between December 2024 and February 2026—reflect the ambition and ingenuity driving hospitality forward. Together, they offer a snapshot of an industry that continues to evolve while remaining rooted in creating experiences that bring people together.

Congratulations to the 2026 finalists and winners!



The 2026 judges:

Cori Tahara, the MINA Group; Ethan Gabany, Weller Development Partners; Hilari Jones, HKS; Jessica Werner, Sage Hospitality Group | Sage Studio; Joon Kim, Wimberly Interiors; Linda Boronkay, Boronkay Studio; Nick Solomon, Hilton; and Sarah Doyle, Design Hotels

The Sanderling Outer Banks, North Carolina

An Outer Banks fixture since 1985, the 123-room oceanfront Sanderling resort commemorated its 40th anniversary with a full-scale refurbishment. By bringing together aged woods, handwoven wickers, floral patterns, and soft linens with a coastal palette, Ward + Gray elicited a timeless beach house ambiance. "We designed the lobby desk to feel like a Gustavian antique, chipped limewash painted wood and all," says principal Christie Ward. Theodosia, the moody restaurant named for 19th-century politician Aaron Burr's daughter who was lost at sea, shuns predictable shades of blue and green for bold red tones reflected in bespoke mermaid motif tiles, burnt bamboo bar stools that resemble antiques, and shell grotto grasscloth wallpaper, "which brings in an added layer of that Haute Bohème feel we were infusing throughout the property," adds Ward + Gray principal Staver Gray. "The design is intended to evoke a feeling of home, with a focus on a lived-in and collected interior. This is a space where guests feel not only at ease but also enveloped in a sense of familiar comfort."

Interior Design Firm **Ward + Gray, New York** Owner **Brookfield Properties** Purchasing Firm **HPGI – Cole Rothrock** Photography **Michael Clifford**

"There's something so endearing about it."

—HD Awards judges



1 Hotel Melbourne Victoria, Australia

Goods Shed No. 5, a once-thriving late-19th-century cargo hub, has been restored and integrated as the primary architectural framework for the 277-key LEED Silver-certified 1 Hotel Melbourne. As a result, material waste was significantly reduced, with construction achieving a 96 percent recycling rate. "More than 2,000 original elements were salvaged, cataloged, and reincorporated," says Gonzalo Bustamante, Starwood Hotels' senior vice president of design. Reclaimed timber and more than 7,000 plants are incorporated into the spaces. "Together," he says, "those choices create an experience where sustainability feels inherent rather than performative." Additional eco-friendly details include the reception desk fashioned out of elm trees pulled from the ground during Melbourne's Metro Tunnel works, the lounge staircase born from decommissioned railway bridges, and restaurant ceiling portals formed from the shed's support beams. Re-milled subaquatic pier timbers recovered from an adjacent wharf now grace guestrooms as well. "Nothing was selected simply because it looked good on a moodboard," adds Bustamante. "Every piece has a story and a prior life."

Interior Design Firms **ODO, Victoria, Australia; and Ward + Gray, New York** Architecture Firm **Fender Katsalidis (FK Architecture), Victoria, Australia** Owner **Riverlee** Operator **Starwood Hotels** Purchasing Firm **Hotel Purchasing Group International** Photography **Mikkel Vang**

"Sustainability is not an afterthought here."

—HD Awards judges

