

OPENING SPOT

A Thoughtful Restoration Resurrects one of Philadelphia's Grandest Hotels

An ornately carved clock, glass-roofed conservatory, and Parisian-inspired guest rooms set the tone for the Gilded Age landmark's next act.

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Courtesy of David McKeown

*Opening Shot is a column that peeks inside new hotels, restaurants, bars, and shops with designy interiors.*

**The Address**

**Location:** Philadelphia

**Designer:** Ward + Gray

**On Offer**

When the doors of The Bellevue Stratford opened in 1954, the French-Renaissance-style hotel was lauded as a beacon of Philadelphia's Gilded Age. Now, a thoughtful restoration has rebranded the "Grand Dame of Broad Street" as The Bellevue.

Artifacts of the past remain—an ornately carved four-time-zone clock, restored by local metal clock makers; a gold letter box bearing William Shakespeare's likeness; original Edison-era electric parlor—melding seamlessly with contemporary amenities. The 186 guest rooms, of which one steady suite has been christened the "Dark and Stormy" hallway suite, with intricate millwork and classical fireplace calling to Parisian guests to relax alongside marble-tiled bathrooms stocked with violet leaf and blonde cedar-scented products.



Courtesy of David McKeown

**Standalone Features**

Once an open-air rooftop dotted with greenery, the 19th floor now hosts Pergola, an airy all-day restaurant where expensive materials evoke the pastoral beauty of the Delaware River. An oak table from 1915 anchors the space, where guests can savor plates of cheesecake empanadas or longer over yarn-dyed cocktails.

Downstairs, a seven-story atrium conservatory welcomes natural light through a dazzling restored glass ceiling and basks in the glow of suspended glass lanterns by night. Up next for the historic landmark: Mr. Edison, a dining concept nodding to the American inventor and designer of the original property's lighting.



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