

# Grande Entrance

*Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel & Yacht Club emerges in vibrant style.*



The Grande's lobby and, below, a bedroom.

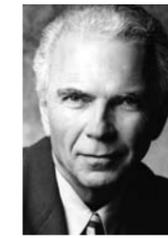
Urban interiors flowing into Intracoastal vistas, high-tech enhancements and the celebrated China Grill restaurant. A \$63 million renovation has transformed the former Fort Lauderdale Marina Marriott into the Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel & Yacht Club.

The curvilinear lobby welcomes with globes of light illuminating chartreuse and orange accented crescent-shaped furnishings. Just outside, the lower-level deck beckons with a gas-fed fire pit, built-in seating and marina view. In this indoor/outdoor setting Antea offers light fare, cocktails and appetizers in the evening as well as breakfast and lunch during the day. The G restaurant, overlooking the 33-slip marina and redesigned tropical pool deck, presents casual dining with a side of scenery. China Grill, expected to open mid-March, will serve Asian-inspired world cuisine in a chic setting that blends hot interiors with cool Intracoastal views.

Already a popular site for meetings and celebrations, the hotel provides more than 20,000 square feet of event space, including outdoor catering decks and two state-of-the-art ballrooms. Guest rooms feature European-style bed linens, mosaic-tiled bathrooms, flat-screen TVs and, perhaps best of all, room service from China Grill.

Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel & Yacht Club, a member of LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels, 1881 SE 17th St., Fort Lauderdale, 888-554-2131, [fortlauderdalegrande.com](http://fortlauderdalegrande.com).

## Grande Design



From Tokyo to Rome to Beverly Hills, Robert Barry has created award-winning interiors for hotels and restaurants. We caught up with the president of Robert Barry Associates at his base in Los Angeles and asked his thoughts on the recent redesign of the Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel & Yacht Club.

### **Describe your design approach for Fort Lauderdale Grande?**

The Fort Lauderdale Grande now integrates a contemporary style, with a fresh and dynamic ambience. The design was influenced by the hotel's dramatic location along the Intracoastal Waterway. I wanted to capitalize on the tropical surroundings as well as the hotel's waterfront setting. My approach was to re-establish the synergy between nature and interior spaces. It is a balancing act to maintain the history of a place while offering luxurious amenities and a sophisticated décor.

### **How did your selection of materials and colors support your goals?**

Inspired by the hotel's stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean, we combined a striking mix of subtle and bold colors to connect the interior and exterior spaces. Starting with the lobby, we used vibrant hues of chartreuse greens and oranges, balanced by rich alabaster and lush stones, forming a unique environment. The color palette used for the guestrooms is a neutral sand tone accented by cool blues and greens. The use of glass and mosaic tiles throughout the bathrooms, along with clean finishes, fosters a sense of serenity.

### **What was your greatest design challenge? How did you overcome it?**

A: Much of the space was broken up in disjointed sections; our task was to unify the areas and modernize the lobby. The inherent challenge of redesigning this property was promoting a sense that you've arrived. We reclaimed the original retail space and developed a sophisticated lobby and bar entertainment area. Replacing outdated walls and columns with oversized windows added depth to the design concept. We created a space with its own identity.

### **Q: You have renovated hotels all over the world, what distinguishes this one?**

The colorful South Florida locale and its culture. Fort Lauderdale is a truly dynamic city that is redefining itself, and I was thrilled to be part of it. In addition, I was drawn to the challenge of creating a hotel that is luxurious, functional and approachable.

