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BOUTIQUE DESIGN NEW YORK
November 11-12 • Javits Center North

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DEBORAH LLOYD FORREST
President
ForrestPerkins



The B.O.G. Hotel, named for Colombia's bustling capital, basks in a golden glow cast by LEDs that are embedded in the intricate ceiling.



Gold Play

Designer Nini Andrade Silva weaves together Bogota's ancient and modern identities at the B.O.G. Hotel.

BY MEGAN KRAUSE

While fast-growing Bogota has become one of the world's must-see metropolises, it also has deep-seated roots that drip luxury. So when designer Nini Andrade Silva was hired to design the Colombian capital's B.O.G. Hotel she drew inspiration from the country's natural resources: gold and emeralds. But rather than draping the interiors in precious gems, Silva used manmade materials that pay homage to the age-old minerals that inspired her. The result is a polished design that's suitable for a city of industry.

"I wanted to create something unique which echoes Bogota's mix of ancient and modern," Silva says. "I also like to do things with a dash of fantasy because it's not what you see that makes a place special, but what you feel."



Nini Andrade Silva, designer



To preserve the view, the rooftop pool is surrounded by transparent screens.

Creating that kind of dreamy atmosphere is one of Silva's strong suits. (Her theatrical design is also on display at Portugal's Hotel Teatro and Lisbon's Park Hotel, among others.) "If you walk in and don't say, 'Wow,' then my design didn't work," she says.

But Silva also has a knack for balancing practicality and play. This is especially evident in the B.O.G. Hotel's interiors, which she says were designed to offer functionality and economy, while still stimulating a guest's dreams and desires.

Part of that balance is achieved by mixing natural stone and bronze with modern materials such as mirrors, mosaics and tinted glass. Silva describes the overall design as pared back and restful. "I always like to try to give warmth to any design concept," she explains.

Color, tone and texture are used throughout the hotel as a subtle appeal to the senses. The palette of green, gray and beige, for example, adds a cozy air to the space, while highlighting its nature-inspired details.



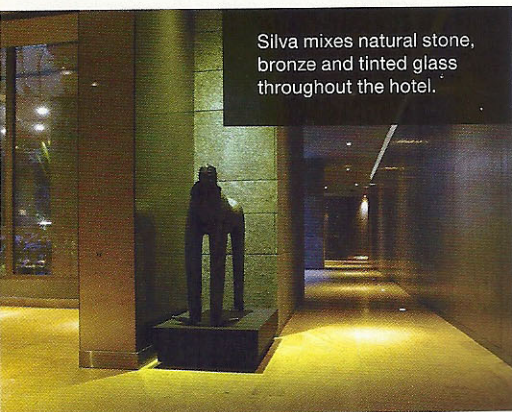
The hotel's rectangular exterior mixes natural stone and granite with glass and aluminum.

Clean and simple guest room design balances out the highly textured public spaces.



Kiko Kaluz

Silva mixes natural stone, bronze and tinted glass throughout the hotel.



The hotel's utilitarian exterior follows this theme, as well, combining glass and aluminum with natural stone and granite. But the real show-stopper is the hotel portico's ceiling, which features an intricate architectural detail that extends from the industrial exterior into the opulent lobby, restaurant and lounge bar.

The ceiling consists of oriented strand board created by using traditional craft techniques, and is meant to represent the faces of rolled precious stones. The highly textured ceiling represents the raw state of

gems, in contrast to their iridescent qualities that are mimicked elsewhere.

Because of the ceiling's nooks and crannies, Silva eliminated the use of large light bulbs and installed LED fixtures within some of the pockets. The resulting indirect light casts a golden glow over the public spaces creating luminous warmth. In addition, the ceiling serves as an acoustic barrier that helps reduce noise in the busiest social areas.

In the hotel's spa, Silva got away from the gold accents in favor of an emerald-inspired