

Gladstone Hotel gets a makeover

24 From a historical hotel to a hip haunt, the Gladstone Hotel has recently undergone a major overhaul.

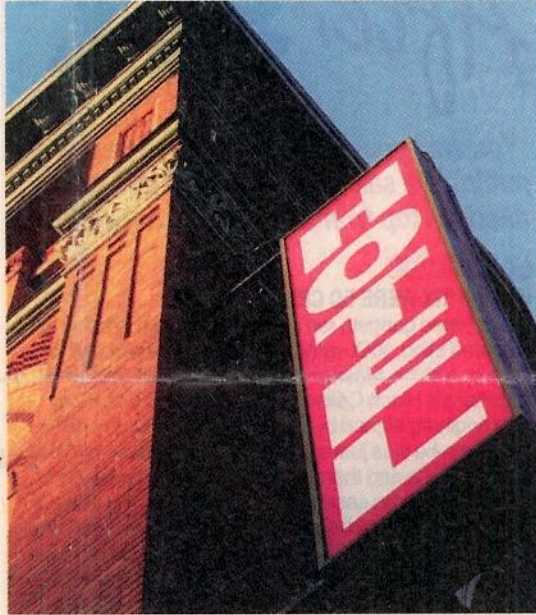
On the corner of Queen Street West and Gladstone, the hotel is a 116-year-old gem of Toronto history. After two and a half years of restoration work, the gem is once again shining.

"For me this place represents a giant playhouse, or fun house, for arts and culture and also for history to be relived," said owner Christina Zeidler. "So I think it's sort of the challenge and excitement of opening the building back up to the city."

Local artists have also been an integral part of the Gladstone's redesign. Every public space is brimming with creativity, including the artist-designed rooms as unique as the artists themselves.

"I know the talent in our city and I feel that sometimes it's untapped in our public buildings," said Zeidler. "So I knew without dropping a hat that we could have incredible rooms and I think that's really what you see — the amazing talent of the city."

One of those artists is



- Sun Media

The exterior of the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto.

Bruno Billio, who is known for his stacked sculptures of furniture and found objects. He's managed to mix the old with the new in the room he designed.

"I always try to bring in a contemporary aspect to my work and we live in a contemporary time so it's important to have those things, especially for the modern traveller," said Billio. "I really didn't want people to come into the

room and feel old and stuffy."

He said being part of the Gladstone's restoration was a fantastic experience.

"I'd been living here for two years. I was here before the restoration so to be here during the restoration and seeing it all happen was an incredible experience because everything they said they would do they actually did."

- Inside Jam, SunTV

Karen Bliss gets the lowdown on Jarvis Church's