

HOTELIER

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DESIGNER SHOWCASE

By **kostuch**

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HILTON GARDEN INN CALGARY

Looking to make the arrival process at the Hilton Garden Inn near the Calgary Airport more inviting to guests, Hilton approached Calgary-based Abugov Kaspar to refresh and update the hotel's pavilion.

"It was tired and [Hilton] wanted to give the pavilion a fresh and inviting face," says Sue Gloeckler, director of Interior Design with Abugov Kaspar. "The goal was to open up the space, make it more flexible and functional — to have places where guests could do some work but also be a place where people could gather and socialize."

The design firm was asked to work on the main floor lobby, including the entry and cupola, the front reception, seating areas, a focal wall, interior gazebo and fire pit, the conservatory and business lounge, as well as the grill, bar and chef's table. Hilton wanted the space to feel inspired by nature and to convey a theme of growth using floral- and forest-inspired designs and accents. The lobby uses an abundance of natural light and soft colours for the walls. Exterior walls of the gazebo and business lounge are glazed, giving the feeling of continuity between the interior and the natural shelter provided by the pine trees surrounding the hotel.

Furnishings took inspiration from Alberta's landscape, giving guests the feeling of being outside in the province's varied landscape and geography, Glocker says. Cool green accents are used throughout the lobby and on the hotel's reception desk. – *Tom Venetis*