



Sofitel Wentworth Sydney

Sofitel wants you to feel at home... home of a Euro Billionaire, that is.
Text: Cat Strom

The historic Sofitel Wentworth Sydney has unveiled a \$10m facelift that introduces the elite Club Sofitel concept to Sydney. Created by Joseph Pang Design, the Club Sofitel provides a contemporary space in which guests can enjoy private breakfasts and all-day light dining; make use of the modern business facilities; or simply relax with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Club Sofitel guests can opt for private check-in at the club — an express service that allows them to bypass traditional check-in at the hotel's lobby. Other Club Sofitel facilities include state-of-the-art workstations with wireless Internet and audiovisual technology, meeting facilities, a quiet room and a recreation room with the latest plasma televisions and entertainment options. Joseph's team has skillfully utilised the space, including an open lounge and semi private enclaves as well as a private lounge room. These spaces have also provided functionality zones with facilities to meet requirement of the hotel guests. The Club experience has been further enhanced by the stylish contemporary and plush furnishing — a flow-on from the hotel lobby. The colour scheme is of a warm and rich palette, with a mix of soft leather and plush velvet, plus accent silk fabric cushions. Feature floor lanterns provide serene mood lighting in the evening.

Club Sofitel is located on Level 5, on the west wing of the podium, and its entry is located at the hotel lift lobby. Joseph and his team intended for the entry foyer to be of a same level of quality as the hotel main lobby, with similar material and finishes, also featuring a flower table and contemporary chandelier, creating a sense of arrival.

New Elements

Other new Joseph Pang Design elements include a new high-tech Executive Board Room and a redesigned Adelaide Room on the fourth floor, complementing the hotel's grand ballroom and other conference rooms on the third floor. The hotel's lobby and its well-known lobby bar have also been redesigned and modernised.

The hotel lobby features a grand colonnade of timber clad columns, crystal chandeliers, and a new formal seating area has been created in the centre of the lobby, with a feature 18-metre-long hand-made rug.



New custom designed furniture pieces are inspired by the renowned French furniture designer Ruhlmann; these new pieces are styled to reflect the French modern Art Deco style, while new sofas and chaises are finished in plush leather and velvet topped off with silk fabric cushions. Also new are the sideboards and consoles in dark ebony timber, and new floor lamps and table lamps in a mix of Art Deco and '60s style. The Lobby Bar is designed to be the 'lounge room' of the hotel. With a slate blue colour palette, the plush velvet upholstered sofa is complemented with modern styled leather fauteuil chair. Open armchairs also create a less formal feel in the lounge room. Different zones have been created for groups or individuals, while mood lighting in the evening creates intimate zones. New openings on walls create visual communication between the lounge and the hotel lobby.

Function Key

The new function centre, consisting of an executive boardroom and a function room, is located at Level 4. A rich and warm colour palette is a welcome departure from the normal corporate feel. Modern stripe-designed carpet creates counter balance to the linear space, while timber veneer wall panels are used as finishes to the function rooms. The executive boardroom utilises timber wall and ceiling panels complemented by architectural styled lighting. Textured glass lighting blades in the pre-function space create focal points, making this Level 4 Function Centre a departure from the bog standard vanilla-flavoured function venues. <<

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- » Joseph Pang Design Consultants: (02) 9904 4911 or www.jpdc.com.au
- » Dynalite (lighting control): 1300 554 178 or www.dynalite-online.com

» The new Sofitel Club's hi-tech business facilities allow time-poor suits to pretend to be at the office when, in fact, they're sipping single malt. Fiendishly clever.