

# sleeper

HOTEL DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & ARCHITECTURE

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**ISTANBUL EDITION**  
GOLD STANDARD DESIGN  
FROM GABELLINI SHEPPARD

**ROGER THOMAS**  
THE LAS VEGAS HOTEL  
DESIGNER INTERVIEWED

**COWORTH PARK**  
THE DORCHESTER  
COLLECTION GOES RURAL

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# • sleeper india

HOTEL DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & ARCHITECTURE

The Oberoi - Gurgaon  
Hilton - Chennai  
Dragonfly - Mumbai  
Ritz Carlton - Bengaluru  
Zinc City - Kochi

## NAMASTE!

### India's hotel sector takes off

W Mumbai to launch at  
Namaste Tower

### Priya Paul

The Park Hotels pioneer  
on the boutique boom

### Taj Mahal Palace

An Indian icon is reborn

## PLUS...

The latest investment  
and development news,  
research and analysis





## Hilton Chennai

Words: Catherine Martin Photography: Courtesy of DiLeonardo

Design firm DiLeonardo has delivered contemporary interiors inspired by Southern India's cultural heritage for Hilton Worldwide's flagship brand.

**T**he opening of Hilton Chennai, a 204-room newbuild in the neighbourhood of Guindy, marks another milestone in Hilton Worldwide's plans to expand its footprint in key cities throughout India.

With three hotels operating in the region – Hilton New Delhi Janakpuri, Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi Saket and Hilton Mumbai International Airport – Hilton has a further six openings scheduled for 2011, more than doubling its portfolio before the year end.

Hilton Chennai is a newbuild ten storey hotel offering a range of accommodations, five food and beverage outlets, a 24-hour fitness centre, and 7,000ft<sup>2</sup> of events space. Its proximity to two major technology parks is expected to attract the business guest, while nearby tourist sites will be a pull for the leisure traveller.

Hilton Chennai is a new venture for owners Empee Group, which has diversified interests from alcoholic beverages to property development. Says Chairman M.P. Purushothaman: "This collaboration with Hilton Worldwide will add depth and breadth to our hospitality portfolio. We are confident that through Hilton Worldwide's award-winning international hotel management expertise and Empee Group's strong local



knowledge and network, Hilton Chennai will be the preferred hotel for local and international business and leisure travellers in India."

The hotel's interiors are the work of international design firm DiLeonardo, who were also responsible for The Oterra Hotel and Sheraton, both in Bengaluru. For Hilton Chennai, the brief was to combine contemporary design elements with Southern India's cultural heritage to create a sense of place. The state of Tamil Nadu, of which Chennai is the capital, provided much of the inspiration. "Convergence is the key word for our design," reveals Associate and Studio Director Jose Olivares. "We combined elements of the traditional Tamil culture with European contemporary design to create unique spaces. From stone and carpet patterns to chandeliers, each area designed by DiLeonardo provides the spirit of cultural convergence that inspired us."

## Convergence is the key word for our design... We combined elements of the traditional Tamil culture with European contemporary design to create unique spaces

*Jose Olivares, Associate and Studio Director, DiLeonardo*

Vibrant colours, rich textiles, and beautifully carved wooden panels characterise the public areas reflecting old Madras, as Chennai was once known. "For colour schemes we play with a palette that goes from soft beige tones to bright Indian orange and red accents," Olivares explains. "Furniture is inspired by European modern classics with clean lines and timeless simplicity, whilst materials range from luxurious marble to fine Indian silk and exotic crafted woods." He continues: "Henna patterns have been reinterpreted in the ▶

ABOVE: The 204 guestrooms and suites offer a tranquil, modern and sophisticated experience and feature the signature Hilton Serenity Bed, a spacious work desk, flatscreen LCD television, a walk-in rain shower, and luxurious bathtub



ABOVE: Hilton Chennai is a new venture for owners Empee Group TOP RIGHT: The all-day-dining restaurant Vasco's makes use of marble in countertops and columns, as well as carved wood and dark mirrored panels RIGHT: Henna patterns have been reinterpreted in floorcoverings and upholstery throughout the hotel

► carpet and textured fabrics, whilst the layering and detailing of Tamil Nadu temples has been transformed into rich architectural features for columns and portals."

Each of the five restaurants and bars are distinct spaces designed with subtle Indian elements in the furniture and finishes. Est is a casual contemporary café located at the lobby level with a glass enclosed live bakery. Intricately carved screens divide the space whilst a variety of armchairs and sofas reference European design.

Vasco's is an all-day-dining restaurant serving fresh, innovative global cuisine from four live kitchens. It's décor makes use of marble in countertops and columns, as well as carved wood and dark mirrored panels.

In addition, Vintage Bank is a chic wine and cheese bar, Ayla serves Kadoloram, or coastal fare, and the soon to be opened Q Bar is a poolside bar and grill on the rooftop.

The 204 guestrooms and suites offer a tranquil, modern and sophisticated experience and feature the signature Hilton Serenity Bed, a spacious work desk, flatscreen LCD television, a walk-in rain shower, a luxurious bathtub, and high-speed Internet access.

Hilton Worldwide has recently signed a management agreement with Eros Resorts & Hotels for two properties in Delhi, whilst in a second phase of development at this site, Empee Group has plans to add a further 150 rooms, expected to complete in 2014. ■

EXPRESS CHECKOUT

Hilton Chennai  
124/1 J.N. Salai  
Ekkaduthangal  
Chennai, India 600032  
Tel: +91 44 222 55555  
www.hilton.com

- ✈ 204 guestrooms
- 📍 Est, Vasco's, Ayla,
- ⌄ Vintage Bank, Q Bar
- 🕒 24-hour fitness centre, outdoor pool
- + Hilton Grand Ballroom

Developer / Owner: Empee Group  
Operator: Hilton Hotels & Resorts  
Interior Designer: DLeonardo