

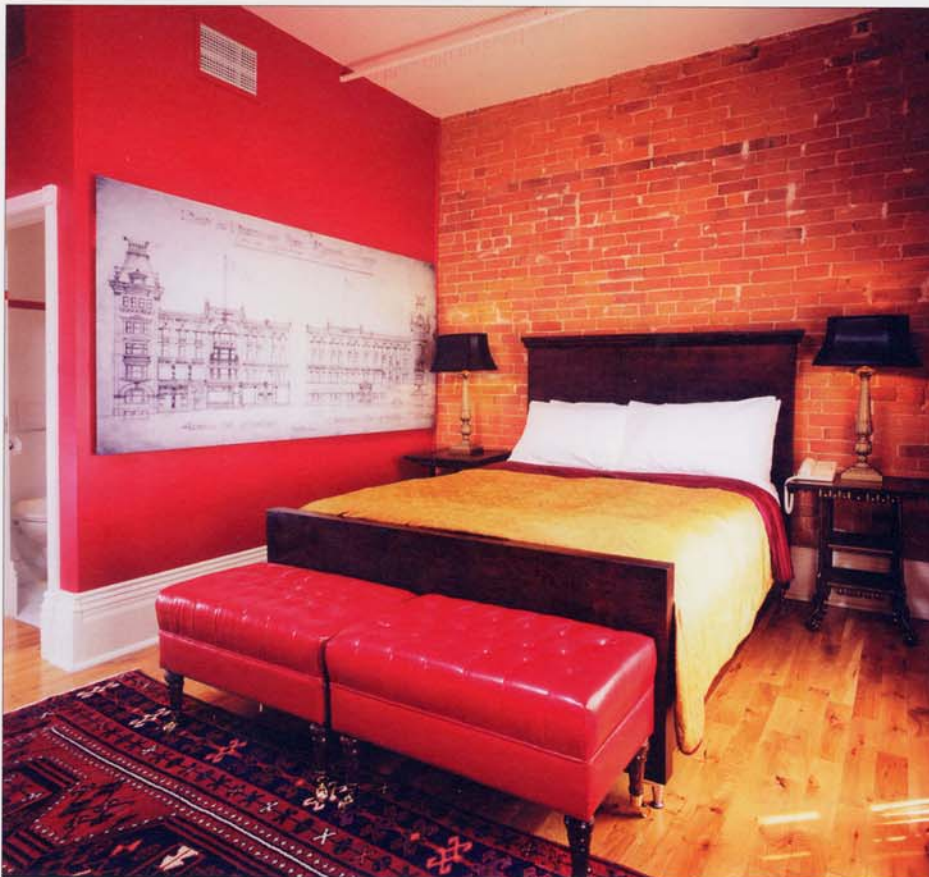
## One-of-a-Kind Hotel

Gertrude Stein was referring to Los Angeles when she famously complained, “There is no there there.” The same could be said of most hotel rooms the world over. But a newly renovated Toronto hotel offers design-minded travellers an opportunity to lodge themselves in one-of-a-kind rooms with décor styles ranging from minimalist to maximalist. The Gladstone Hotel, a fairly posh establishment when it opened in 1889 on Queen Street West, went through a long, 20th-century decline but is now making a bohemian comeback. Its new operator, artist Christina Zeidler, has commissioned an eclectic mix of design teams to create unique guest rooms. Artists, designers and architects have all played a role in transforming the hotel.

Potential guests can view their options and read the designers’ statements at [www.gladstonehotel.com](http://www.gladstonehotel.com). Artist/architects

Heather Dubbeldam and Tania Ursomarzo describe their sleekly cerebral Room 411 (“Offset”) as “an installation representing a cross-section through the primary planes of the building.” Visual and installation artist Cecila Berkovic took a totally different approach to Room 305: “‘Teen Queen’ is an homage to the young girls we were, feared, wished we’d been or wanted to date. Think purple gingham, wild horses, crimped hair, frosted lipstick, *Teen Beat* posters and unicorn love.”

Those seeking something a little more adult-oriented might opt for Room 318, the ultra sexy “Blue Line” room. Designers Barr Gilmore and Michel Arcand painted many of the walls Chroma-Key blue—thereby enabling guests to “make their own digital videos in the room and edit them later using whatever backgrounds they desire.” The Gladstone Hotel officially opens on December 2, but many of its rooms are already available to accommodate visitors and their fantasies. —*Pamela Young*



The Gladstone Hotel’s artist-designed rooms include (inset) “Faux Naturelle” by Allyson Mitchell; (clockwise from left) “The Billio Room” by Bruno Billio; “Blue Line Room” by Barr Gilmore and Michel Arcand (Ghost Design); and “Offset” by Heather Dubbeldam and Tania Ursomarzo.