

International House

Beaux-Arts sophistication juxtaposed by artfully modern interiors

New Orleans today, more than ever, is a city of culture and commerce, teeming with entrepreneurial passion – from the most minute details of craftsmanship to the most audacious grand plans. Its premier boutique hotel embodies this spirit and anchors the central business district from its outstanding location only two blocks from the French Quarter and one block from the St. Charles streetcar line. Infused with the rich and lively culture that surrounds it, International House invites you to experience the true soul of the city, its energy and its repose.

The Beaux-Arts landmark that is International House has had many lives, each of them progressive, dynamic, and important. In the arc of this bold continuum, the hotel is a modern classic.

The distinctive style of International House reflects the artful collaboration between owner Sean Cummings and designer LM Pagano, who defines her own style as "pristine but tattered grace, with unexpected moments vital to creating a unique sense of time and place." The hotel presents a sensual yet restrained state of glamour, in step with the worldly sophistication of International House's core clientele. Here, the influences of Africa, France, Spain, and Italy encounter a distinctly contemporary local edge reflective of a *new* New Orleans, still taking shape.

Each of the 117 rooms, suites, and penthouses is designed to uplift the human spirit. Spacious bathrooms, architectural artifacts, complimentary 40meg WiFi, Sony and Sharp LCD televisions, iHome micro-stereos, Modern Fan Company fans, Aveda bath amenities, beds dressed in layers upon layers of crisp white linens, and distinctive furnishings of Pagano's own design create sexy, sophisticated, spare, and soothing places for sleep, work, and play. Subtle icons and motifs refer to the richness of ritual and spirituality woven through the fabric of New Orleans.

Eight "Rockstar" Rooms on the eleventh floor offer the luxury of deep quiet, the handsome grittiness of brick walls, and -- no windows. Preferred by touring band members, these are the rooms for those who cherish their sleep, at all hours.

Queen Rooms celebrate contemporary New Orleans style, with spa-like bathrooms, abundant natural light, desks topped with Carrera marble, and original black-and-white photography from the hotel's extensive collection. King Rooms are roughly 15% larger, with even more breathing room afforded by the 12' ceilings. Double Bedded Rooms feature views of the serene interior urban landscape or the lively streetscape.

The Apple King Rooms pay tribute to the "creative ones," and are naturally favored by entrepreneurs on pilgrimage to New Orleans. Larger than the other Kings, each has a wall mounted Sony LCD screen connected to Apple TV; a custom closet by Louisiana Closets,

and three Jack & Jake's locally grown organic apples. The three Garden View King Rooms are notable for their quiet environment, and their proximity to the hotel's fitness room; each faces an interior garden of indigenous landscaping, showcasing works of local sculpture.

Eight Panoramic Corner King Rooms make maximum use of the hotel's natural geometry, featuring two dramatic window-walls clad in theatrical sheers and velveteen draperies, and imparting an especially liberating sense of space. Two Terrace King Rooms open on to a terrace with outdoor seating and views of the city skyline. Like New Orleans itself, there is an ecclesiastical and handcrafted element present in these rooms, in Gali Art's wrought-iron bedside tables with cruciform feet, and local artist Erica Larkin's totem-inspired café tables. The designer's own "LM Chairs" provide a chair-and-a-half of plush antiqued velvet comfort. Generous bathrooms feature uncommonly elegant vanity lighting dressed in cascading strands of Swarovski crystals. Customized closets make these rooms popular for extended stays.

The loft-like space and cavernous bathroom containing the hotel's longest vanity and largest glass shower distinguish the Metropolitan Master Suite; its ample "living room" includes a second LCD screen, two crystal chandeliers, and a remarkably deep, plush sofa, chock-full of throw pillows. The Cosmopolitan Corner Suite feels like a sophisticated pied-à-terre, making it a favorite for privacy and romance. It has the hotel's only spa-tub, and a window-wall fitted with a limestone window seat affording an excellent view of the streetscape below.

Two expansive skyline havens top the hotel with captivating views, terraces, and interiors. Like the suites, their design is rich and eclectic, handsome yet restrained, and replete with furnishings evocatively upholstered in antiqued velvet and tonal damasks; unstintingly luxurious lighting; and the most welcome technology. The flooring in these one-bedroom, one-point-five bathroom penthouses is reclaimed wide-plank pine, topped with handsome hand-woven rugs by Spain's Studio Nanimarquina. Their four-fixture full bathrooms are clad in floor-to-ceiling slabs of honed Calcutta Gold marble. The spacious shower, seemingly carved into a wall of marble, looks directly across at the Dornbracht platinum-nickel faucets that pour an elegant cascade of water into a 7' CUBE soaking tub. Over the tub hang multiple mirrors and a Swarovski chandelier; and two Aquos flat screens, Apple TV, and iPod players sit within easy reach throughout the space.

The penthouse known as Cityscape Terrace, with its expansive wall of glass doors opening onto a wrap-around terrace overlooking the city reveals, arguably, the most compelling views in the entire hotel. The lofty space with its creamy Champagne palette benefits from an extravagantly sized damask ottoman in shades of chocolate and café au lait, together with a pair of designer LM Pagano's copious tufted-velvet chairs-and-a-half, washed in the warm light of her silk-swathed crystal chandelier.

The Muse Terrace Penthouse overlooks the Mississippi River and the French Quarter. An ebony baby-grand piano beckons the muse within, as does the massive "playpen" daybed covered in cozy Italian chenille. A worn 6' Carrera marble slab resting on vintage European Champagne racks makes a highly serviceable dining table / desk. A crystal chandelier dressed in diaphonous amethyst silk glows in one corner, while washed velvet draperies in shades of putty control the natural light over white batiste sheers. A set of painted bronze

Fortuny velvet panels parts to reveal a dramatic 8'x 11' linen damask headboard towering over a sumptuously dressed bed.

Fine old architecture, bold contemporary vision, subtle sensuality, and genuine luxury pervade these elegant interior compositions.

Honoring New Orleans' timeless energy and confident style with every element of its design, International House lives and breathes the city's seductive magic and mystery. The true soul of the city is here.

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