

hospitality design

July 2019 hospitalitydesign.com

next level
50 people to know

HDexpo
hospitality design expo

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On the cover:
Clockwise from top left:
David Gutstadt, Filtler Club;
Damon Lawrence, Homage
Hospitality; Ashley Stempler,
Provenance Hotels; Caroline
Grant, Dekar Design;
Marcus Carey, Homage
Hospitality; and Dolores
Suarez, Dekar Design. Photo
by Kevin Sturman; location
courtesy of 1 Hotel Central
Park.

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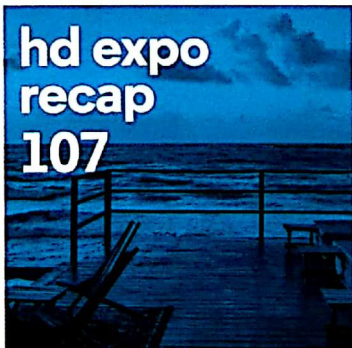
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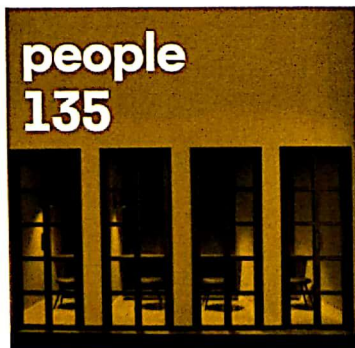
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more inclusive and welcoming industry

from the **editor**

sheer genius



Photo by KATE PREVITE

Innovator, gamechanger, entrepreneur, rising star. Those are just a few words to describe the 50 people featured in our annual July People issue.

Take a look at our cover. Marcus Carey and Damon Lawrence recently launched *Homage Hospitality*, one of the first hotel companies focused on the African American traveler, representing a more than \$60 billion industry. David Gustadt decided to marry the best of a fitness facility and a members' club with a hotel to create the unique *Fitler Club* in Philadelphia. Ashley Stempler, director of design for *Provenance Hotels*, is one of 11 from our impressive 2019 *Wave of the Future* class, those who are young enough to be considered visionary but still tested enough to be considered

accomplished. Finally, Dolores Suarez and Caroline Grant of *Dekar Design* are one of four design duos proving why two is better than one.

These six represent just a slice of the other bold thinkers in this issue, who are rethinking the status quo and overall bettering hospitality with new concepts and inclusivity. It's an exciting mix that showcases the incredible talent and trajectory of our industry.

We will be honoring a few more thought-leaders this fall. First, we are again partnering with our sister publications *design-retail*, *Contract*, *Healthcare Design*, and *Environments for Aging* for our second annual *Women in Design* luncheon on October 4th at the 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge, where we will recognize 10 leaders across the five design disciplines. Eight have been announced so far, and include Rosalyn Cama, CAMA; Abbie Clary, CannonDesign; Clodagh, Clodagh Design; Melissa Gonzalez, the Lioness Group; Lorraine Hiatt, Design Consultation Environments for Improv-Aging!; Aliya Khan, Marriott International; Kristina O'Neal, AvroKO; and Lauren Rottet, Rottet Studio. Go to womenindesignaward.com for more information.

On November 12th at the Conrad New York, we will host our annual *Platinum Circle Awards Gala*, where we'll induct a handful of luminaires into our esteemed society for their lifetime achievements. It's always a special evening where the industry comes together to celebrate not only the honorees, but hospitality as a whole. It's definitely not one to miss. Check next month's issue or hdplatinumcircle.com soon to see this year's honorees.

Tickets for both events will be available in the coming months, as well as the second annual *HD Elevate* on September 18th in New York, a one-day conference where we bring in some of the best of the best to look at how hospitality is inspiring other industries, and vice versa. Speakers will be announced on hdelevate.com later in July.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of our upcoming events. In the meantime, I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Stacy Shoemaker Rauén

Editor in Chief/Vice President of the Hospitality Design Group

Follow me on Instagram: @StacyRauen

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