



Editorial No. 1

"Test Guest" at the Hilton Munich Airport

For me, the most rewarding part of being a designer is when, at long last, you get to touch, feel and absorb the atmosphere of your design as one of its very first guests. That moment always thrills me - yet it also brings up questions: Does everything work the way it's supposed to? How does it *feel* to be in the room? Is the bed comfortable? Does shower work at full flow? Does the bathroom provide enough light to apply my makeup? Does it function well as work environment like we had planned? So many questions, but so exciting!

We had the honour of being amongst the first to experience the new guestrooms at the Hilton Munich Airport. In truth, it wasn't a total surprise since we had designed the model room built a couple years earlier in the basement of this new extension. So we, along with the many committees that had checked, rechecked and refined its every detail, already had a good idea of how the atmosphere would feel and function as a "real" hotel room. In particular, we had considered the lighting. It's such an important factor in giving guests a sense of wellbeing, and our designs always consider how the illumination needs to adapt according to the time of day. In the morning, the lighting should create a bright and energising space, and in the evening, it should feel relaxing and calm.

So how did it feel to be one of the first guests?



First impressions...well, to be honest, the actual room will always feel slightly different to the model version, so we were curious to see what might have changed. There was a real sense of excitement as we walked along the corridor, passing many rooms until at last we reached ours. We relished the anticipation as we opened the door and could at last see our vision alive in its final form.

As we took in the view of the mountains from the window, we also noticed the effect of light entering the space. We were delighted that, even more than we'd hoped for, the natural light and shadows not only enhanced the interior design but also reinforced two key elements of

our design vision: the contrasts between "international" versus "local" and "high-tech" versus "nature". The hotel has a contemporary, global buzz from its airport location, yet it also expresses Bavarian warmth through design details and proximity to the Alps, as seen through the window. The result was a harmonious balance of these contrasting ideas.

A strong sense of modernity emphasises the unique character of the space. The position of the round, multifunctional table in front of the full-height glazing results in a greater sense of spaciousness and freedom of movement within the room.

We designed some aspects for their appeal to women.

In the bathroom, there's plenty of space for toiletry storage and the ambient lighting works wonderfully for applying make-up. The nature theme extends into this space, too, with faceted tiles reminiscent of the shapes of glaciers and mountains. Dimmer accent lights along the shower emphasise the tiles' texture and create a tranquil atmosphere. The no-touch, hands-free toilet flush is both modern and hygienic.



Moving back to the room itself, we designed it to have LOTS of storage space – essential for handbags, luggage and shopping bags to ensure stress-free unpacking! Thanks to the layout there was plenty of closet space and numerous hangers. My heart sang with joy! Sometimes it's small touches like hangers and luxurious amenities that make me (and many other women) happy – although in this case, we as designers had no say in these matters. Paying attention to the details that guests love can go a long way towards giving them a positive impression of the hotel.



We also considered business travellers when designing the room.

Would they enjoy working here? My husband Peter accepted the challenge to test it out. The round table can be used for working, eating and storage, with the benefit that he didn't feel like he was working, even when he was! The fact that the table is situated away from a wall really

made a difference, and the issue of power access was resolved via the socket integrated into the bench behind him, meaning that for once he didn't need to scramble around on hands and knees under a desk to unplug a lamp in order to access the outlets. As you know, this can be quite annoying and stressful, especially when your phone's battery is at 1% and you desperately need to recharge and reply to that one message! Check: the work environment was easy and efficient.



Lastly, how can we not tell you about the wonderful launch party?

Standing alongside the official photographer, Peter captured the moment when the red ribbon was cut, and then the flowers were presented to the Head of Housekeeping, a truly special woman. We, of course, know her personally since she has been an important member of the team throughout the whole process, so it felt good to recognise her contribution and guidance. We were so pleased when earlier that day she let us know how much she loved the design. Having had so much input along the way, it is great to know she will be happy welcoming guests into these beautiful new surroundings. To conclude, we would like to couple further photos, a lovely shot of her and Peter, and one of the team who implemented the project, including, alongside Peter and myself, Thorsten Sacré, JOI-Design's construction manager who excelled in realising our vision to perfection.



With my best wishes, Corinna Kretschmar-Joehnk