

HOME

Aspen Meadows Resort is Getting a Bauhaus-Inspired Renovation

The Aspen destination's meticulously updated guest suites debut this spring, showcasing a beautiful merger of old and new design.

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March 22, 2023



A renovated living room is furnished with a Michael Suomi-designed banquette, pendant lamp, table lamp, floor lamp, sofa, blue side table, coffee table, and stool. The restored Harry Bertioia Side Chairs are by Knoll, and the table has a vintage Lowenstein tube table base in chromed steel. The Ferenc Berko "Music Tent Abstraction" photos are from 1950. Photo courtesy of Aspen Meadows Resort

How do you reimagine a property with a renowned architectural legacy? Just ask Michael Suomi. The acclaimed designer and president of Manhattan-based [Suomi Design Works](#) has tackled historic projects including the [TWA Hotel](#) at JFK Airport and the [Eliza Jane](#) in New Orleans while also creating fresh interiors for Limelight hotels in Aspen and Snowmass. So, when he was offered a chance to restore and reinvent the 98-suite [Aspen Meadows Resort](#)—a mid-century marvel located on the 40-acre Aspen Institute campus—he didn't hesitate to accept the challenge.

“The Aspen Institute is not a hotel company; it has been around since the 1950s, and it has become known for very meaningful gatherings of people from all different walks of life to make the world a better place,” Suomi says. The campus was conceived as a total work of art, with sculpture and architecture carefully integrated into the contours of the landscape. “It was designed by Herbert Bayer, and several other former Bauhaus people also came and worked on various buildings on campus,” Suomi explains. “It has this really incredible architectural heritage that is both historic and very important in the introduction of modernism to the United States.”



The bedroom's custom headboard, nightstand, bed, and dresser were designed by Suomi Design Works and matched with a bold Bauhaus Color Block Throw by In2Green. Restored mid-century pieces include a Chrome Dome Table Lamp by Walter Von Nessen, a Harry Bertoia Bird Chair and Ottoman by Knoll, and an Eero Saarinen Tulip Side Table by Knoll. Photo courtesy of Aspen Meadows Resort

Some of the guest suites are finished already, with all 98 expected to be complete by April. So far, they're a hit with visitors. “Our guests have absolutely loved the renovation, saying the rooms are thoughtfully upgraded and comfortable without being stuffy or overdone,” says Aspen Meadows Resort's general manager Justin Todd. “They stay with us because we aren't another bland, luxury hotel that could be anywhere in the world; we have a much more interesting story to tell.”

And what does Suomi think Herbert Bayer would say if he could witness this new chapter in the Aspen Meadows story? “My hope is that he would smile, and laugh, and say that I did a pretty good job.”