



# Canada's Largest Shower System Supplier

## Vast Inventory & Quick Lead Times

### Cultured Marble Shower Systems

- Shower Pans and Wall Surrounds
- All major sizes and patterns
- Brand Approved

### Tile Ready Shower Systems

- Standard Drains or Modern Linear Drains
- Manufactured in Edmonton, AB, Canada

### Shower Doors

- Latest Styles
- Latest Colors including Gold
- Brand Approved

# Showers for Hospitality

## Beautiful Showers Made Simple

### Also Suppliers of:

Acrylic Shower Pans, Steel Shower Pans, Bathtubs, LED Mirrors, Grab Bars, Soap Dishes, Towel Bars, Toilet Paper Holders, and other Bathroom Accessories



ADA Showers Available

## Simple Shower Solutions

PH: 587-523-2345 [simpleshowersolutions.com](http://simpleshowersolutions.com)

Breakfast bar and seating are at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba.

● Design  
By Brennah Doyle



# Where Function Meets Flexibility

*A move from the traditional static hotel layout is being washed out, inviting a newer more sociable space for guests*

### SUITE ADAPTABILITY

A major trend for hoteliers today is providing guests with more freedom by creating an adaptable room creating more independence in how guests use their space. This shift towards adaptability allows each suite to accommodate a wide variety of guest needs.

“Designing for brands like Marriott, Hilton and Tapestry Collection, we are seeing a major shift from standardized hospitality to highly adaptive, personality driven spaces. They want to give their guests flexibility,” says Zoya Yahya interior design manager at API Development Consultants Inc.

Jessy Nerval vice-president of Nerval Corp notes that Choice, Best Western, IHG, and Wyndham have a clear shift toward brighter, more natural palettes.

“The darker, traditional wood grains that were once standard are being replaced by lighter browns, grey-browns, and even solid-color finishes that give spaces a cleaner and more modern feel. At the same time, brands are getting more comfortable using colour, whether it’s an accent wall, a pop in the

In recent times, brands and hoteliers alike are increasingly focused on responsibly sourced materials. Sustainable spaces are becoming standard practice for hoteliers. In addition to sustainability, guests are searching for suites that give them a sense of independence and more control over their stay at the hotel, and suite adaptability provides them with just that. A move from the traditional static hotel layout is being washed out, inviting a newer more sociable space for guests. In terms of guest room design, there has been a notable shift toward lighter neutral tones which in turn are often paired with subtle pops of color like muted blues, greens, or terracottas.



Homewood Suites by Hilton in Markham, Ontario was a renovation using many customized features culminating in a harmonious space courtesy of API Development Consultants.

upholstery, or a feature in the millwork.” Nerval shares.

A great example is the TOOR Hotel, an upscale hotel in the heart of downtown Toronto, that balances modern finishes with warmth and texture. The atmosphere is inviting, distinguished by the blend of elevated suites and the open view of the lake.



Zoya Yahya interior design manager at API Development Consultants Inc.

On the other side of the spectrum, older properties are being reimagined in creative ways like the Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel, a historic property that first opened in 1911. Located in downtown Thunder Bay the Prince Arthur Waterfront hotel offers the best spot in the city.

“Projects like this show how modern finishes and updated FF&E can refresh a space while keeping its original character intact. Overall, the hotels that resonate most today are those that layer texture and material contrast rather than relying on one uniform look.” says Nerval.

The API approach on the interiors team is to move away from static hotel layouts.

“Lobbies aren’t just for check-in anymore — they’re becoming social living rooms. A single space now needs to function as a cafe, coworking space used for remote workers, meet up hub, and late-night lounge all at once,” says Yahya.

With furniture that can suit a variety of occasions, bars in particular are becoming shapeshifters. It can be versatile, used as a breakfast coffee bar, afternoon work lounge, evening speakeasy, all in one footprint.

Yahya isn’t the only one who has noticed the trend leaning toward simpler, more efficient layouts. Sabrina Walizai, project and operations manager at BCM notes the Tru Hilton prototype as an example.

“90 keys fit into just 45,000 sq. ft., showing how developers are prioritizing smaller footprints with higher key counts. Public spaces are also becoming more practical, with an emphasis on multi-use areas rather than large, single-purpose rooms that remain underutilized,” says Walizai.

## RESPONSIBLY SOURCED

Sustainability has become standard practice and is becoming part of more conversations, especially from the brand side.

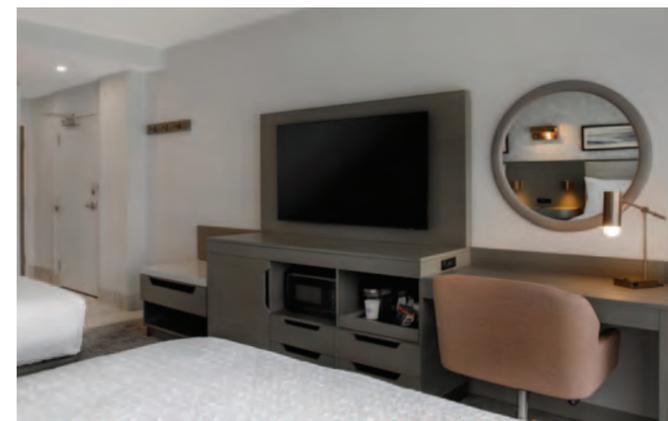
“One of the strongest approaches is Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) construction, which provides a much stronger concrete-and-rebar structure, lowers heating and cooling costs, improves soundproofing, and uses locally available materials,” Walizai shares.

Similarly, owners are investing in reflective roofing systems with higher insulation values and high-performance windows that allow natural light and reduce environmental impact while helping with operating costs.

Brands tend to be more interested in where materials come from, how they’re made, and how long they’ll last. Responsibly sourced wood, recycled metal components, and low-VOC finishes that contribute to healthier indoor air quality are rising in popularity.

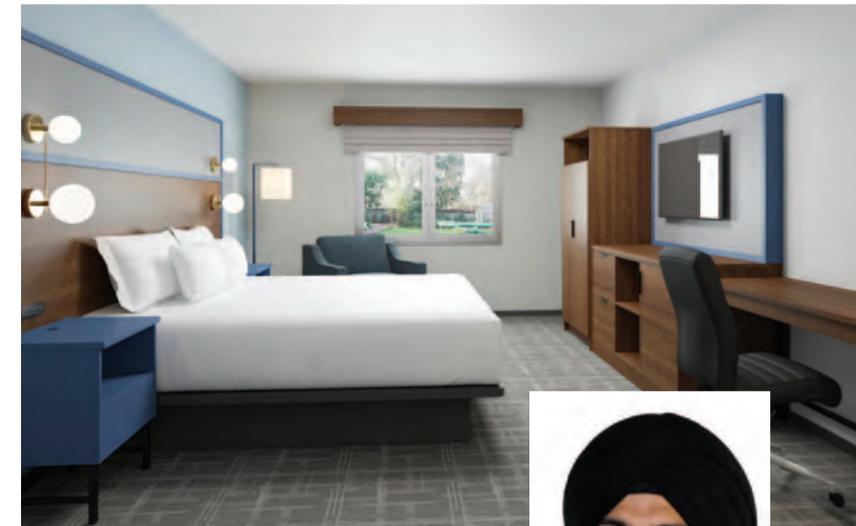
“Small decisions like choosing regionally crafted finishes, creating interior details that are intentional or upgrading lighting control systems have a ripple effect when scaled across a brand portfolio,” says Yahya.

But sustainable design isn’t just about material choices; it’s about long-term thinking. For API that means designing spaces that operate efficiently, are easy to maintain, and remain flexible enough to adapt without a full renovation. Energy efficiency is another big theme.



A two-bedroom suite with a balcony at the Hampton Inn by Hilton in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba courtesy of API Development Consultants.

A furniture style from Nerval Corp. with laminate construction, stainless steel legs, and customizable hardware.



The AmericInn Pursuit furniture and the Holiday Inn H5 furniture from Nerval Corp.



Jessie Nerval, vice-president at Nerval Corp.

## GUEST ROOM DESIGN

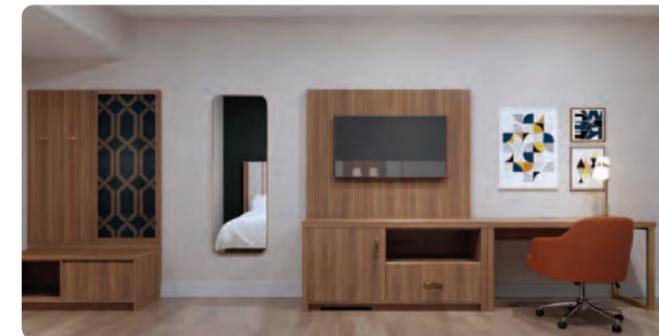
Nerval Corp has seen a shift toward lighter and more neutral tones like warm browns, greys, and taupes for example. These neutral tones are often paired with subtle pops of colour like muted blues, greens, or terracottas.

“The goal is to create spaces that feel calm and welcoming but still have character,” says Nerval.



CUSTOM MANUFACTURING OF HOTEL FURNITURE

At Nerval Corp, we manufacture products such as casegoods, soft furniture, lighting, washroom fixtures & more. We give you factory-direct pricing, reliability, and peace of mind.



READY TO SHIP PRODUCTS

Our Sherwood Park, Alberta headquarters houses a wide range of in-stock products ready to ship, including:

- LED Mirrors
- Bathroom Hardware
- Sinks, Toilets & Faucets
- Lamps & Lighting Fixtures
- Desk Chairs
- Platform Bed Bases



Let's Talk

780-452-1111

info.ffe@nervalcorp.com

APPROVED VENDOR OF MAJOR HOTEL BRANDS



The Tru Hilton prototype is an example of how developers are prioritizing smaller footprints with higher key counts.

Natural materials are trending including lighter woods, textured laminates, stone accents, and woven fabrics are all in high demand.

“There’s also a strong interest in layered textures; fluted panels, matte finishes, and soft upholstery that invite touch.” Nerval notes.

Metal finishes have diversified too; rather than sticking to one tone, designers are mixing brushed brass, black, and bronze to add depth.

“From an FF&E point of view, these choices make sense; they’re timeless, practical, and easy to refresh with accent pieces over time. The best interiors we see today don’t try to impress with flash; they rely on warmth, texture, and thoughtful detailing that quietly elevate the guest experience,” says Nerval.

Yahya states that tactile materials with intentional, well thought out detailing is key for guest room design. The challenge is designing spaces that feel upscale but still lived-in and welcoming.



The Hampton Inn project portrays the shift toward modern blue-gray tones, and warmer natural shades like gold, green, and auburn.

“Earthy tones, textured layering of neutrals with a moment of surprise that ties in cohesively with the various brands we work with. Quiet luxury is having its moment. Not in a cold, minimal way, but in a tactile, emotionally intelligent way. It’s about materials that age well and details you only notice when you slow down,” Yahya shared.

Walizai has seen a shift leaning toward modern blue-gray tones, and warmer natural shades like gold, green, and auburn.

“Both are visible in recent Hampton Inn projects and reflect broader design preferences across the industry,” Walizai says.

Ultimately the focus is on durable and sustainable finishes that can withstand heavy use while maintaining a timeless look. Guest experiences in the end, are greatly improved when hoteliers carefully consider how room design, responsibly sourced materials, and suite adaptability, will blend together in the eyes of their guests. ●



Sabrina Walizai, project and operations manager at BCM.



# From Independent to Iconic

As a Motel 6 owner, you get the best of both worlds - a globally recognized brand powered by G6 Hospitality and the local support of the Canadian-based experts at Realstar Hospitality.



realstar hospitality  
REALSTARHOSPITALITY.COM

OWN AN ICON  
WITH MOTEL 6.



WESTERN CANADA'S LEADER IN  
HOSPITALITY CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION



Hotel/Resort Renovations & Construction

Hotel/Resort Refurbishment

Conceptual Budgeting

Value Engineering

We understand the needs of our hospitality clients!  
Let us deliver your vision on time and on budget.

Toll Free: 1-844-CORMAC1 EXT. 101  
hospitality@cormacprojects.ca

www.cormacprojects.ca

CONTACT US  
FOR A QUOTE



# Your hospitality partner in streamlining operations

LOC International handles the essentials, so your team can focus on what matters most.

Equip your rooms with appliances and electronics designed to:

Reduce maintenance needs to free up valuable time.

Simplify check-ins and check-outs to keep front desk lines moving.

Minimize disruptions and complaints.



Explore our catalog +1000 products



We excel at hospitality, like you do!

locinternational.com  
info@locinternational.com

## Refrigeration

By Robin Brunet



photo courtesy shutterstock.com

# HOT TIMES FOR COLD TECH

## Leading suppliers unveil the latest refrigeration products and trends

Often overlooked, refrigeration is actually a key component of hotel operations whether the appliance is an icemaker, minibar or beverage dispenser. As with other types of appliances, ice machines need to be dependable in order to minimize staff intervention and prevent costly repairs; plus, guests simply expect clean, quality ice to be available at all times.

One solution comes from food equipment distribution company Western Refrigeration, whose ICE Series icemakers

are constructed from stainless steel on the inside and a combination of stainless steel and industrial-grade fingerprint proof molding on the outside.

While icemakers are a staple of the guest experience, Chris Midbo, sales, marketing and new business development at Western, points out that a relatively new and rapidly growing trend across the entire hotel sector (regardless of size) is small convenience stores within properties “that satisfy the grab and go impulses of guests. I’ve been in one Calgary hotel that has no less than 12 vending machines, and a Hilton I recently visited in Toronto had a front area dedicated to grab and go items. More and more of these venues are cropping up, and we’re supplying coolers and freezers originally developed for stand-alone convenience stores to satisfy demand.”

## PRODUCT SHOWCASE

### DRIP NO MORE

The Quest Elite 4000 post mix dispenser available from Western Refrigeration handles a wide range of products including juices with pulp, teas and cold coffees; a patented mixing system does away with stratification, slugging and dripping.



### BLUEAIR GOES GREEN

The Blueair BSR23G-HC glass door reach-in refrigerator from Western Refrigeration contains no hydro-fluorocarbons; its stainless steel interior and exterior (galvanized steel back and bottom) accommodates epoxy coated wire shelves with adjustable shelving height.



### SMART CHILL

Minibar Systems' SmartFridgeECO is billed as the most intelligent hotel guest fridge on the market: it has the longest useful lifespan of any hotel fridge, only cools when guests use it, and delivers a financial return on investment through maximum energy savings.



### HEY, GOOD LOOKIN'

The Minibar 550 AS from LOC International, originally developed for cruise lines, provides big energy savings as well as aesthetic benefits, including an optional glossy finish door, furniture panel and soft close door.



*Chris Midbo, sales, marketing, and new business development at Western Refrigeration.*

Midbo adds, "We've been swamped with work, and most definitely this trend will continue to grow. It's gotten to the point where guests find it bothersome if there's no grab and go section near the front desk."

Walt Strasser, executive vice-president at Minibar Systems (a leading hospitality supply company that has installed over two million minibars and safes in thousands of hotels), reports that his company has completely redesigned both its automated and non-automated minibars.

He says, "They now employ thermal electric cooling, which uses a cooling wafer coupled with heat exchange and fan technology. This results in the same great energy efficiency as our earlier models but is way better for the environment — which is always a consideration for hotel guests." Strasser adds that Minibar's automated models are great for big hotels and achieve financial returns in a short space of time, while the simpler non-automated models are perfect for smaller venues.

As for in-room fridges, Minibar is expecting great success in 2026 with the introduction of the new SmartFridgeECO, which, like the automated minibars, hook up to the hotel's property management system. "The cost of energy to run this model is about \$6 to \$8 per year compared to about \$30 for other models," Strasser says, adding that



*Walt Strasser, executive vice-president at Minibar Systems.*



# MEET THE EXPERTS

Over 75 Years of Combined Industry Experience



**Jo-Ann Kuney**  
Vice President

- Over 38 years of leadership at Minibar Systems
- Expert in FF&E, sales & marketing, and minibar operations
- Pioneered successful launches of SmartSnax, Minibar Rx, and global safe systems
- Works closely with designers, purchasing firms, brands, and management companies
- Dedicated to customer satisfaction, innovation, and operational efficiency



**Walt Strasser**  
Executive Vice President

- Joined Minibar Systems in 1989
- 36 years of experience spanning operations, production, logistics, sales & marketing
- Integral in product launches that shaped the hospitality industry
- Built lasting professional relationships with global brands and hotel partners
- Brings unmatched knowledge of quality standards and operational expertise



#### SmartFridge & GuestFridge

SmartFridge User Control Panel | Quiet Compressor Technology | Internal Automatic LED Light | Strong Universal Door Hinge | Multiple Door Options & Fridge Sizes Available



#### SmartBox NG Safes

Emergency Opening and Safe Audit With Override Unit | Solid Steel Bolt Locking Mechanism | Anti-Tamper Labyrinth Construction | 4-Digit Code LED Display and Keypad

### Why Choose Minibar Systems?

Decades of industry expertise | Proven track record of innovation | Strong relationships with top hotel brands | Unmatched commitment to service and quality

Contact us today to learn how Walt, Jo-Ann, and the Minibar Systems team can bring lasting value to your property.

[www.minibarsystems.com](http://www.minibarsystems.com)



## SEATING FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Whiteshell Chairs is a custom furniture manufacturer providing premium quality products for the hospitality and food service industry.



**WHITESHELL CHAIRS IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY PRODUCTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICING**

For more information please call: 1.866.959.4247 • Fx: 204-348-2548 • email: sales@whiteshellchairs.com

[www.whiteshellchairs.com](http://www.whiteshellchairs.com)

Pools & Spas ●  
By Brennah Doyle



photo courtesy shutterstock.com

### THE VALUE OF POOLS AND SPAS

Guests on the lookout for leisure spots lean towards hotels that have invested in spa and pool amenities. These perks are often rewarding for hoteliers as they amplify both guest attraction and revenue for the property.

#### GUEST SATISFACTION



Tom Denstedt, general manager at PPL Group.

According to Tom Denstedt, general manager at PPL Group, hotels will typically evaluate the addition of a pool and spa based on the marketing and ROI potential of the amenity.

“A pool or spa can transform a property from a standard accommodation to a luxury hotel. Furthermore, providing a suite with a private terrace commercial hot tub can allow hoteliers to market these rooms as high-end luxury suites,” says Denstedt.

Frequently working with hotel owners, Sabrina Walizai, project and operations manager at BCM says it is essential to evaluate whether amenities like pools and spas make financial and operational sense in new developments.

“Drawing from our two active Hilton projects. Hampton Inn - Lincoln and Tru - Milton, and insights shared by one of our long-term clients who owns four hotels (two with pools and two without), we’ve seen firsthand how design, cost, and market positioning all influence these decisions,” Walizai shares.

The decision of whether or not to add pool or spa amenities is often based on market positioning, brand standards, and the owner’s long-term operating strategy.

One of the projects at BCM is the Hampton Inn in Lincoln which includes a brand-standard pool suited to families and leisure travellers. On the other hand, the Tru Hilton in Milton shares a single pool with the adjacent Home2 Suites by Hilton.

“This shared-facility approach allowed the owner to increase room count, lower operating costs, and reduce staffing needs while still meeting guest expectations,” says Walizai.

As noted in conversation with one BCM client, pools remain a highly valued amenity, even when many guests don’t actively use them.

“The key lies in balancing construction cost, maintenance, and space efficiency while ensuring the amenity aligns with the property’s market segment,” says Walizai.

#### MAINTENANCE & UPKEEP

A major question for hoteliers considering implementing pools and spas on their property is the cost of constant upkeep. Namely, chemical treatment, mechanical maintenance,



The Toronto Marriott city centre hotel's pool and hot tub located at 75 Lower Simcoe.

humidity control, and compliance with safety and brand standards for the amenities are costly. Additionally, ongoing expenses such as energy use, staff certification, insurance premiums, and equipment replacement can add up quickly.

"One owner emphasized that while pools are essential to guest satisfaction, they come with continual and significant operational costs that must be carefully planned from the start," Walizai shares.

Focusing on sustainability when planning these facilities is one of the most critical factors in long-term cost control according to Walizai. Pools and spas are among the most energy-intensive areas in any hotel, so sustainability and efficiency must be part of the discussion from the early stages.

"At BCM, we encourage owners to evaluate long-term operating costs and system efficiency before finalizing design decisions. In Milton, the choice to share one pool between Tru and Home2 Suites significantly reduced energy use, staffing, and maintenance needs without affecting guest satisfaction," she states.

For Denstedt, sustainability is essential and can lead to cost savings in the long term even with higher upfront costs.

"Hoteliers who achieve a LEED certification can use 25% less energy and 11% less water than conventional buildings. The buildings also had 19% lower maintenance costs and 27% higher occupancy satisfaction," he says.

Marrying this with pool and spa installations Denstedt suggests installing UV sanitation systems in order to reduce daily chemical usage.

In today's market, thoughtful planning and efficient design not only benefit the environment but also contribute to a hotel's long-term profitability.



Sabrina Walizai, project and operations manager at BCM.

## BENEFITS

Despite these ongoing costs, investing in spa and pool amenities significantly improve hotel performance while increasing revenue.

A spa adds perceived luxury and value, allowing properties to command higher rates while improving year-round appeal, especially in colder climates says Denstedt adding that hotels that introduce high-quality spa amenities "often see ADR increases of 5-20%, depending on market and presentation."

Occupancy and revenue increase when they align with the target market and brand strategy.

One suggestion from Denstedt advises hoteliers to consider incorporating their spas into bundled offers, like a couple's wellness weekend for example. This promotion seen visually through digital and social channels drives direct bookings. Moreover, encourage private bookings or small-group rentals for private or semi-private facilities for an added fee in order to truly capitalize on a spa investment.



The luxury HydroTher H-1200c commercial hot tub from PPL Group, a twelve-person commercial spa sized 144" x 92" x 42.5" deep.

**"A SPA ADDS PERCEIVED LUXURY AND VALUE, ALLOWING PROPERTIES TO COMMAND HIGHER RATES WHILE IMPROVING YEAR-ROUND APPEAL, ESPECIALLY IN COLDER CLIMATES."**



Rawley Resort Spa & Marina's outdoor hot tub located at 2900 Kells Road in Severn, Ontario.

As noted by Walizai, owners with multiple Hilton-branded hotels observe that properties with pools tend to attract more families and maintain higher occupancy in leisure markets.

"One hotel that operated for several years without a pool saw a clear drop in bookings and guest satisfaction until a new pool was added, proving that perceived value often influences guest decisions as much as actual use," she concludes. ●



Easy Touch Control in 34 Languages



**Expert Design and Consultation**

- Render Your Plans
- Parts Availability
- Convenient Locations Across Canada
- Bilingual Services

**Guest Laundry**



**No Coins Required!**

**CONTACT US**

sales@harcoco.com

Toll: 1-800-387-9503

**www.harcoco.com**



## HYDROTHER COMMERCIAL HOT TUBS

**WHY HYDROTHER?**

Expand Your Amenities with Ease

Add a Commercial Hot Tub—  
No Headaches, Just Opportunity

905-890-3111  
@hydrother  
www.info@hydrother.com

**MODEL TYPES**

Fit every space.  
Meet every code.  
Elevate every experience.

**H-1200**

**H-1000**

**H-1100**

**H-600**

**H-800**

**COMMERCIAL HOT TUBS**