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Spring 2004

A HOTEL BUSINESS SUPPLEMENT

## HOTEL BUSINESS

### Restaurant/F&B



## Rein Bar and Grill

**CONCEPT:** In business since 1874, The Garden City Hotel is steeped in tradition. In its decision to add Rein Bar & Grill near the 280-room property's Polo Restaurant, owners Fairhaven Properties, Inc., wanted design in line with the hotel's signature polo theme. Also, ownership wanted to offer a relaxed atmosphere for business professionals and leisure travelers, while promoting a sense of style and sophistication, with brilliant colors, modern technology and a first-class culinary experience, said Patrick Smalley, executive vp for The Garden City Hotel. For designers DiLeonardo International, the challenge was to create upscale, sophisticated spaces that could capture a dynamic audience, so the lounge could serve as a VIP nightspot woven into a five-star gourmet restaurant experience, noted principal Lia DiLeonardo.

— Stefani C. O'Connor

**EXECUTION:** Ownership had a number of must-haves on its wish list, including flatscreen plasma TVs and an inviting fireplace. DiLeonardo chose oversized lounge furniture of different styles and textures. Smalley noted the color scheme consists of red, bronze, black and gold with leather, stone and rich walnut paneling. "The window dressings comprise a warm red balloon sheer and large gold velvet drapery and the plush carpet is highlighted by paisley, Axminster design in shades of red and gold," he said. Final touches include a rear-lighted onyx bar with plasma TVs and custom artwork. Rein was part of a \$25 million renovation that comprised a new Grand Ballroom and the Polo Restaurant. The renovation was phased, said DiLeonardo, "Therefore, to create a sense of continuity was important to make the guest experience a pleasant one."



**RESULT:** There is an eclectic blending of materials and style that come together to form a very comfortable and exciting environment, noted DiLeonardo, adding, "All aspects of the space are memorable moments in the overall scheme." Smalley said since its debut, Rein Bar & Grill – open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a late-night menu – "has successfully established itself with guests and locals alike as a premier meeting place for discussion and fine dining."



## Design Details

**Designer:** DiLeonardo International, Inc. **Project Cost:** \$25 million **Theme/Influence:** Stylized Polo lounge and restaurant reflecting the upscale historic context of the Garden City Hotel **Signature Features:** Limestone fireplace; rear-lighted onyx back bar with drop-down flat-screen TVs **Purchasing Agent:** Integrated Services Corp. **Major Vendors:** Cibas Fabric; Couristan Carpet; Chairmasters; Murray's Iron Works; Maine Wool