

magazine

a selection of architectural projects around the world
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Thomas
Properties
Group

Walt Disney World
Disney Springs

westin bonaventure hotel

los angeles USA
marta fry landscape architects

Westin Bonaventure

As a contrast to the rectangular office towers that surround the site, the design for this 1354 guest room convention hotel consists of five low rise glass clad cylindrical towers. The project serves a unifying centerpiece for the Bunker Hill area of Los Angeles. Encompassing an entire city block, the hotel complex features a podium base containing a large ballroom, two junior ballrooms, 28 meeting rooms and an exhibit hall. Other amenities include restaurants, shops, boutiques, a cafe and a revolving rooftop cocktail lounge.

John Portman & Associates

John Portman & Associates, inc. (Portman) is an internationally recognized architectural and engineering firm with offices in Atlanta, Georgia and Shanghai. Established in 1953, Portman has 55+ years of expertise in designing offices, hotels, universities, trade marts, and mixed-use urban complexes. The firm provides design services in architecture, master planning, programming, structural engineering, and project management around the world. Portman strives for an architecture that is more than just the design of a building, but rather a creation of a place for people, that consciously uplifts a person through an enhancement of the human condition. Vision, creativity, and an entrepreneurial spirit are the fundamental factors that influence their design philosophy. Understanding human values and the human response to space, nature, and light is integral to the work. Nature and space – both external and internal – are indigenous to the firm's architectural approach.





Marta Fry Landscape Architects

MFLA Marta Fry Landscape Associates is a San Francisco-based urban design and landscape architecture Studio established in 1990 by Marta Fry. Believing that landscapes are one of the most potent and lasting forms of cultural expression, Marta leads the Studio in the exploration of the intersections and complex relationships between environmental, social and cultural systems. Trained in landscape architecture and urban design, Marta graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Design with a master's degree in landscape architecture coupled with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and Planning.

For Marta, the field of Landscape Architecture encompasses the interweaving of art and science and provides an opportunity to work on widely diverse scales, from larger master planning visions and designs for urban infill and re-development districts to finer-grained singular design commissions such as hospitality and residential design. This contrast of scales and project typologies provides for a stimulating environment of creative acrobatics. Based in San Francisco, the native Californian finds the Bay Area fertile grounds for exploration and innovation. Marta describes her environment as "a region with a rich history of invention, in some ways it still resembles the "Wild West" in which one can explore, investigate and re-invent themselves and their vision. It's a place that supports that, after much travel and residency on the eastern seaboard, I find this unique to the West Coast, it's a fertile and creative environment that transects disciplines and coupled with San Francisco's cultural diversity, it's provides a rich milieu from which to draw." For her, California continues to be a creatively emergent and progressive environment.



ESTIN BONAVENTURE

GUEST REGISTRATION

GUEST REGISTRATION



The project

The MFLA Studio is interested in the exploration of new materials and applications but the underpinnings of her Studio's work utilizes the most elemental forms, materials and expression in a minimalist manner. One such project currently under renovation is the iconic 1970's four-towered Bonaventure Hotel located in downtown Los Angeles. Originally designed by John Portman, the massive hotel provides the MFLA Studio with a bold palette of sculptural concrete and glass. Her design process of "stripping down" this mid-century behemoth to its basic elemental structure or bones provided MFLA with a canvas in which to build a fresh and appropriate palette of surfaces, textures and an organic overlay, feeling strongly that this overlay was required to temper the concrete, glass and metal surfaces. Atelier Vierkant vessels were introduced into the project in a number of applications. Strongly vertical, vessel seriality and repetition reinforces the entry porte cocheres while the use of massive lower bowls anchors the hotel entries, scaling and modulating the pre-existing architectural elements. The vessels' organic character and natural coloration of the clays in earth-based whites, greys and blacks and the hand molded patterning and texture provided her with a depth, richness and organic fabric in which to layer and build upon. Planted with boldly textured bromeliads, yuccas and succulents, the organic character of the vessels contrasts and balances the boldness of the horticultural forms.

Architects : John Portman & Associates
 Marta Fry Landscape Architects
 Photography : Undine Prohl