

# SLEEPER



## Q&A: Avenue Interior Design discusses the impact of coronavirus on the hotel landscape

Countries around the world are making tentative steps towards recovery following an unprecedented year, yet there remain concerns amongst operators and travellers on what will become of the hospitality industry.

To explore how Covid-19 has already transformed the hotel landscape, we caught up with Andrea DeRosa and Ashley Manhan, founders of Los Angeles-based studio [Avenue Interior Design](#), whose recent projects have included [Palms Casino & Resort](#) in Las Vegas, [The Ramble](#) in Denver, and [SLS Baha Mar](#) in The Bahamas.

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### How has the pandemic affected the design of hotels, in particular public areas?

Lobby lounges, meeting spaces and restaurants within hotels inherently emphasise shared experiences. The pandemic has required all of us – designers, owners, operators and guests alike – to redefine our experiences within, as well as our expectations for, these spaces. At the onset of Covid-19, there was an abundance of sorrow, disappointment, a longing to go back to our ‘normal’ way of life. As restrictions and use guidelines were modified, so did our mindset. Suddenly, we were happy to just be able to dine out – never mind the temporary FF&E or limited menu. The new guidelines and restrictions instituted on our daily life have reinforced the importance of the hospitality industry and its profound effect on our health and happiness.

### Have you had to make midstream adjustments in projects you had begun before Covid-19?

Cleanliness has always been of paramount importance within the hospitality industry, but the dialogue surrounding the maintenance and durability of materials and finishes for these spaces is certainly front of mind as a consequence of the epidemic. As such, we’re starting to use more vinyl for upholstered seating, glass and stone tops on tables and staying cognisant of vertical surface finishes in heavy communal areas, knowing that disinfecting procedures in hotels can often wreak havoc on finer finishes and materials.