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JUDGES ANNOUNCED FOR 37th ANNUAL GOLD KEY AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOSPITALITY DESIGN

Winners to be unveiled Nov. 13 at Gold Key Awards Gala, held in conjunction with Boutique Design New York (BDNY) and HX: The Hotel Experience

CINCINNATI, OH, April 25, 2017 – A panel of thirteen hospitality industry leaders will serve as judges for the 37th annual Gold Key Awards for Excellence in Hospitality Design, the industry's oldest and most prestigious awards program, sponsored by *Boutique Design* magazine.

Winners in 21 categories will be announced at the Gold Key Awards Gala, to be held Nov. 13 at Gotham Hall, New York. The gala is presented in conjunction with co-located trade fairs Boutique Design New York (BDNY), Nov. 12-13, and HX: The Hotel Experience (formerly IHMRS), Nov. 12-13, at New York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

The Gold Key Awards program recognizes the most influential and innovative design work in the hospitality industry. To be eligible, new construction, conversion or renovation work must have been completed from May 1, 2016 to July 6, 2017. Finalists and winners are determined by a renowned panel of judges from the hospitality operations, development and investment sectors.

Judges confirmed to date for the 37th Gold Key Awards include:

Maki Bara, president & co-founder, **The Chartres Lodging Group, LLC**
Gary Dollens, global head, design/product and brand development, **Hyatt Hotels Corporation**
Timothy Griffin, director of North America, **Ennismore**
Verena Haller, senior vice president of design, **Equinox Hotels**
Nigel Hatcher, vice President, design & project management, luxury brands, **Marriott Intl.**
Diana Kessler, creative director, **Kessler Collection Design Studio**
Guy Lindsey, senior vice president, design & construction, **Park Hotels & Resorts**
Michael Medzigian, chairman and managing partner, **Watermark Capital Partners, LLC**
Jonathan Nehmer, president, **Jonathan Nehmer + Associates, Inc.**
Sangeetha Ramkumar, director - innovation & design - global brand leadership marketing, **InterContinental Hotels Group**
Jeanne Lynne Starling, director of design development, **MGM Resorts Intl.- Design**
Larry Traxler, senior vice president, global design, **Hilton**
Thomas R. Trout, vice president, architecture and design, **Dream Hotel Group, LLC**

Gold Key entries will be accepted through Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Complete submission guidelines, award categories, eligibility requirements and an official entry form are available at bdny.com and thehotelexperience.com.

ABOUT HMG

HMG is a privately held company serving the global hospitality and related industries and specializing in trade fairs, conferences and event management and development. Events in the HMG portfolio include: BDNY; BDwest; management of HX: The Hotel Experience (formerly IHMRS);

Boutique Design Forums; Boutique 18; Senior Lifestyle Design Match; and sponsorship of the Gold Key Awards for Excellence in Hospitality Design.

BDNY is produced by HMG in association with the Boutique & Lifestyle Lodging Association (BLLA); the International Society of Hospitality Purchasers (ISHP); the Hospitality Industry Network (NEWH); and the International Society of Hospitality Consultants (ISHC).

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