



*Scale and color played a key role in changing the face of the Lister. An oversized reception desk was replaced with smaller, more personalized "pods." Deeper hues provide the right counterpoint to the drama of the artwork.*

*"We saw this redesign as an opportunity to play with all the elements of design—form, angle, scale, texture and light."*

—JOHN NICHOLSON, GENERAL MANAGER

"We wanted absolutely everything to be different," says John Nicholson, the general manager who oversaw the transformation of the subtly stylish 129-room O'Doul's Hotel into the seamlessly chic Lister Vancouver. "We were bored by a lot of the work we'd seen done in hotels over the last few years. And we were appalled by the fiendish lack of imagination rampant in our industry, particularly among the larger chains. We were impressed with the work of people like Ian Schrager and the leadership at Kimpton Hotels. These people seemed to make design and art a first priority. We knew we had the expertise within the hotel to make whatever we did functional. The only constraint we were worried about was our imaginations."

The interior design firm Henderson Ritter Design (HRD) had the benefit of starting the hotel's reinvention from a solid base. The building that housed the former O'Doul's Hotel was only 10 years old when the two-year renovation began in 1996. Both the architecture and basic design had been thoughtfully tailored to the needs of the business travel market. The "good bones" of the hotel and a careful maintenance program meant no major, or costly, structural changes were required to make the redesign work. →