

hd expo preview

places

# las vegas

By JoAnn Greco and Stacy Shoemaker Rauert

## STRIP TEASE

Las Vegas is back, evident in the millions of dollars being spent across multiple properties. Here's an insider's guide to what's new and exciting—whether or not you're traveling to HD Expo.

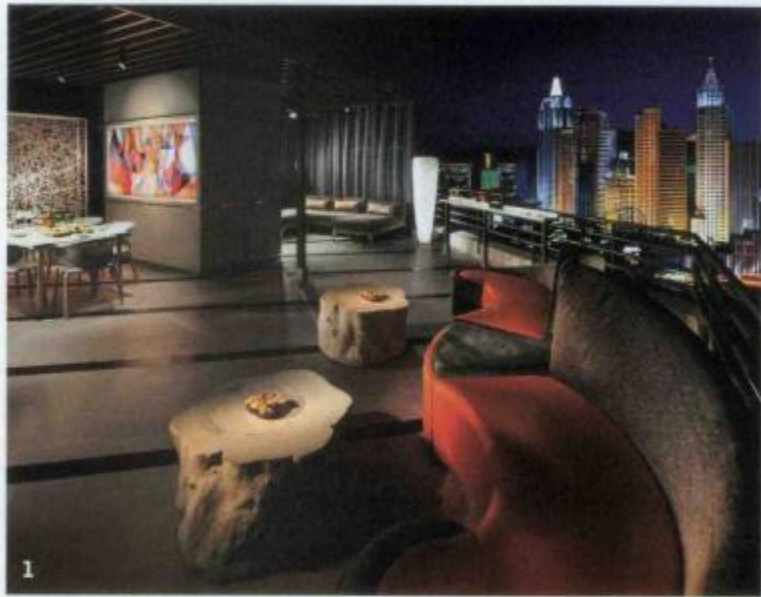


### MGM Grand

For the \$250 million room and suite remodel of the company's flagship property, it was important for MGM's in-house design team "to create something that was unique in terms of the experience—that uniqueness is a blend of comfort and the bling of Vegas," says Joyen Vakili, vice president of design and development, MGM Resorts International.

That translated into a backdrop of warm earth tones with splashes of color—tangerine and bronze in king rooms; fuchsia, platinum, and charcoal in queen rooms—found on luxe fabrics, artwork, and whimsical carpet patterns. The standouts: two-bedroom Skyline Marquee suites, which come stocked for entertaining with a billiards table and media area in the great room, and the two-story Skyline Terrace suites, which boast a spacious balcony and elegant furnishings.

MGM has also made headlines with its Stay Well collection of 42 rooms and suites designed to do just what the name implies. "We're finding that guests want to take their wellness lifestyle on the road," explains Vakili. The rooms include a variety of features meant to make guests feel better, from jetlag-reversing wake-up light therapy and an air purification system to shower water infused with Vitamin C and aromatherapy. And this is more than just a trend, says Vakili: "Guests have been paying a premium and seeking and asking for them. We are still in the pilot phase right now, but I think this is



1. Guests enjoy heady views from the balcony of MGM Grand's Skyline Terrace suite.

2. Bold colors and classic patterns mingle in Bellagio's Penthouse suite.



something we might start introducing in other...  
 "The screen element is a beautiful addition..."

water features, and screens, is another highlight.  
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3. A rendering of Mandalay Bay's Daylight Beach Club, which the Light Group's Andy Masi says evokes the party atmosphere of Ibiza.

4. The casual dining room of Citizens Kitchen & Bar.

## Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino

The 120-acre resort is undergoing a massive revitalization, most noticeably in its F&B components. Partnering with the Light Group, the hotel now boasts Light Nightclub, Daylight Beach Club, Citizens Kitchen & Bar, and Red Square restaurant.

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inspiration, so we put images of everyday activity of the walls—art, fashion, and hard-working real families," says Alessandro Munge, the firm's managing partner. Elsewhere in the almost 7,000-square-foot space (formerly Red, White, and Blue restaurant), Munge dressed the walls in walnut wood done in a warm white-gray wash and beveled hunter green high-gloss tile, detailed banquet-style seating with buttons and stitching, and scattered vintage-style Edison lights and metallic-toned fixtures throughout for a warm glow. "They were designed by us literally on a napkin," Munge says. He's now working on the Light Group's Japanese restaurant Kumi, set to open this summer, which will be outfitted in raw natural woods, hammered steel accents, touches of red lacquer, and a ceiling of gold leaf calligraphy set against a matte black background.

"Instead of being at a club and seeing an act and saying that's like Cirque de Soleil, this is actually Cirque," says Andy Masi, partner of the Light Group. Indeed, Light is the first nightclub that actually integrates Cirque performances—"they are happening all around you," says Masi—throughout the night, customized to the DJ and the experience. Set in the old Ram Jungle space and conceived by New York-based designer Josh Heid, the 40,000-square-foot space will essentially be a lab for Cirque shows thanks to an extensive state-of-the-art production system and theatrics.

For guestrooms, the MGM in-house design team partnered with the Four Seasons team to redo the 424 guestrooms and suites housed on