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Photography by Ema Peter Photography



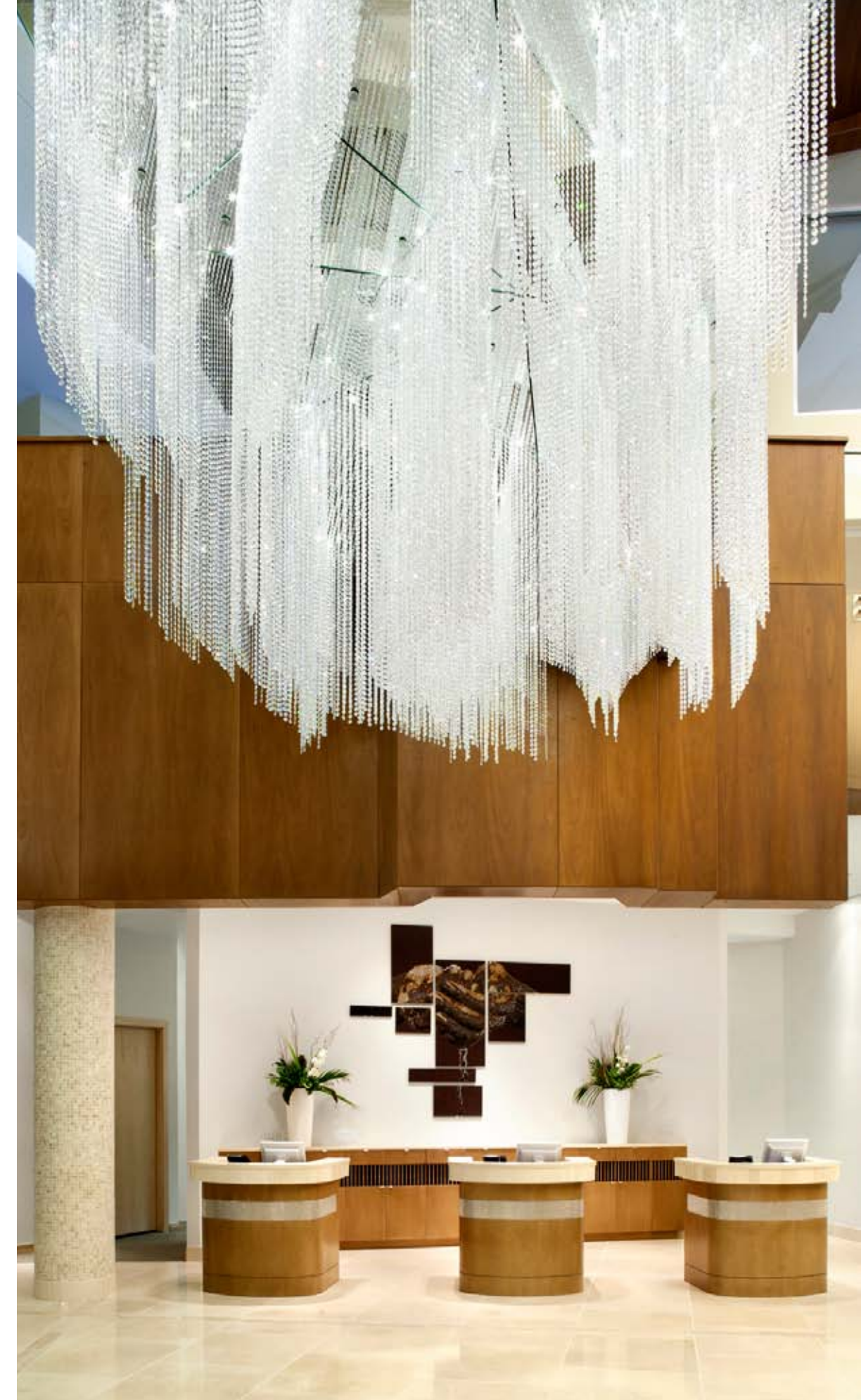
nice rock

Swarovski crystals dazzle a Canadian resort

This and opposite page, from far left: Swarovski crystals are found throughout Sparkling Hill Resort: in a crystal "rain" feature that hangs over the staircase leading to the wine lounge and coffee bar; in a curtain that greets guests at KurSpa; and a dramatic "waterfall" installation that cascades down from the ceiling in the lofty lobby.

The Sparkling Hill Resort in the Okanagan Valley is cut into a cliff of granite and overlooks Lake Okanagan and the Monashee Mountains, yet its connection to the stunning landscape is not the only alluring part of this jewel in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. The \$122 million development brings the European concept of longer-term restorative stays to North America, and also holds the distinction of being the world's first to incorporate crystalline architecture as a signature component of its design. In fact, it's the only place outside of the Swarovski showroom in Austria where all of Swarovski's design and technology can be experienced in one location.

Since resort owner Gernot Langes-Swarovski and fellow Austrian and CEO Hans-Peter Mayr desired a space that honored both the natural environment and the healing properties of the central 40,000-square-foot KurSpa while using the play of light on Swarovski crystal to reflect the shifting moods of relaxation and contemplation, the goal for Vancouver-based Seeton Shinkewski Design Group (SSDG) was to make the crystal a cohesive part of the understated elegance design theme. "Rather than a kid in the candy shop approach or using the crystal in a way that was overpowering, we wanted to set it off in the most innovative way and use lighting to create a three-dimensional quality," says Gerry Shinkewski, a principal in SSDG, who worked with the Swarovski design team to implement the crystals.





This photo: The spa's indoor pool, with its Starry Sky ceiling. *Opposite page, clockwise from top:* A guestroom features a crystal fireplace and a freestanding tub in front of floor-to-ceiling windows; the spa's serene Calming Room; and mountain views from the spa's outdoor pool.



This and opposite page, from left: PeakFine's crystal chandelier; the Penthouse Suite's bathroom; and the spa's steam and sauna area.

Ultimately, \$10 million worth of Swarovski crystal elements, including two million loose ones as well as luminaires and lighting systems, were used. One of the most captivating installations is the crystal "waterfall" cascading down from the ceiling in the lofty lobby. In the spa, a vertical curved curtain of sparklers greets guests at the entry, signage shimmers a different color for each area, and lighting in all treatment rooms dons the namesake as well. And light-reflecting crystal elements are found throughout the 152 guestrooms and three penthouses—in the cabinetry, the "Starry Sky" ceiling over the bath, and a large cluster in the fireplace that flickers with red light thanks to color-changing LEDs.

The rooms and the spa also take advantage of the incredible views. In the guestroom, other than a trademarked "power wall" made of ash that separates the wet and dry areas and holds the fireplace, TV, and mini fridge, a wall-to-wall window offers views from the open shower and bedroom. And in the spa, lounge areas

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boast floor-to-ceiling windows. "From the beginning this was a highly conceptual hotel and the owners wanted no barriers holding the guests back from the surrounding landscape," Shinkewski explains.

Besides views, the resort's surroundings, which he dubs "Napa North" due to the abundant vineyards, provided color inspiration and materials, such as the ledgestone that's prominent throughout the public spaces, and recycled wood from a 100-year-old barn torn down nearby found in the private lounge called

Gernot's. In the spa, colors—ranging from conch shell-inspired purple and turquoise to brown and cream—give each specialty area a unique identity. "We've juxtaposed smooth and rough textures and used the color palette of the area and custom furniture and millwork to create distinct spaces full of character," Shinkewski says. **hd** ssdg.com; www.sparklinghill.com

Sparkling Hill Resort
Vernon, British Columbia, Canada

Owner Sparkling Hill Resort
Architecture Firm Cannon Design, Vancouver

Architecture Project Team Christopher Rowe, David Wilkinson, Kevin Pan, and Jorge Remolina

Interior Design Firm SSDG Interiors Inc., Vancouver

Interior Design Project Team Gerry Shinkewski, Susan Steeves, Shauna Root, Jennifer Kurtz, and Kim Soper

Contractor PCL and RTIM

Purchasing Firm Sparkling Hill Resort

Electrical and Lighting Engineer AES

Mechanical Engineer Stantec

Structural Engineer RJC

Crystal Architecture D. Swarovski + Co., Circle of Innovation, Business Unit Architecture

Spa Consultant Thermarivm (sauna and steam rooms)

LOBBY

Stone and Tile Installation Ploutos

Millwork Fabrication Hart Millwork and CN Amac Inc.

Crystal Features Swarovski

Decorative Lighting Eurofase

Interior Glazing Raven Glass

LOBBY STAIR TO WINE BAR/VIP LOUNGE

Stone/Tile/Brazilian Cherry Hardwood

Floor Installation Ploutos

Decorative Lighting Schonbek

Crystal Features Swarovski

KURSPA AND POOL

Stone and Tile Daltile, Stone Tile, C+S Tile, Agrob Buchtal, American Olean, Julian Tile, Marazzi; installation by Ploutos

Plumbing Kohler

Millwork Hart Millwork

Laminate Formica

Fabric DesignTex, Bernhardt Textiles, Joanne Fabric, and Momentum

String Drapery Decorative Style

Decorative Door Hardware CBH

PEAKFINE RESTAURANT

Carpet Karastan Contract and White Space

Stone and Tile Floor Gres; installed by Ploutos

Millwork and Banquettes CN Amac Inc.

Crystal Features Swarovski

Decorative Lighting Eurofase and Eureka

GUESTROOMS

Crystal Features Swarovski

Plumbing and Custom Bathtub Kohler

Casegoods Designed by SSDG Interiors

Carpet Clayton Miller

Glass Shower Glass Canada

Washroom Accessories Taymor

Lighting in Penthouse Suites Swarovski

Penthouse Suites' Wallcovering Bolta, Odyssey, Maharam, Koroseal, Vescom, Metro Wallcovering, Vycon, Crown Wallcovering + Fabrics, Patty Madden, and Levey Industries

Trimings Kravet