

# STONEHILL & TAYLOR

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## Historic Portland Newspaper Building is Reborn as the City's First Independent Lifestyle Hotel

New York (May 2015) – The resurgent cultural scene in Portland, Maine, gives way to a stylish new hotel in the city's Old Port district. The Press Hotel, housed in the renowned Portland Press Herald building, is slated to open as a 110-room hotel with a contemporary vision conceived by the New York-based design firm Stonehill & Taylor.

The modern aesthetic of the hotel's public spaces – reception, four lobby lounges, a local art gallery and bar - exude an urban sophistication, while allowing guests to experience the building's history and celebrating the writer's trade in a sincere way.

A sculptural light fixture, with glowing cubes against dark walls, floats above the entryway leading to the reception. The reception area, painted in a "greige" color has reclaimed wood columns, herringbone-tiled floors, and original coffer ceilings. Natural grey and navy tones dominate with pops of orange accents. A ribbed design carved into the front of the wood reception desk recalls the skeleton of a ship - a reference to Portland's port and shipbuilding trade. On the wall behind the reception desk, a large dimensional art piece made of large painted type letters adds a pop of color. The lobby bar has a fireplace and walnut millwork; certain tables and benches were made in local woodshops and while others were made by metal craftsman.

The hotel serves as a showcase for Portland's emerging artistic expression. The lobby lounges, a dedicated gallery space, meeting rooms, and guestrooms all showcase art from hand-picked local artists. The design team did studio visits, gallery tours and in-depth research to find the best representation of Portland's artistic talent.

Referencing the building's history, Stonehill & Taylor worked closely with Press Herald editors on selecting content from the newspaper's pages that were weaved into the design. The lobby lounge tables feature newspaper headlines from the Press Herald that span the last 150 years. Meeting rooms downstairs resemble private residential libraries. Each meeting room has custom carpeting that highlights a different element from the production of a newspaper. In the guestroom corridors, actual headlines from the Press Herald were used to create newsprint-inspired wallcoverings. Built into the original basement floor is a scale, originally used to weigh newspapers, repurposed as a unique art piece in the fitness center.

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The guest room design is inspired by a 1920s writer's office. Wood floors with herringbone area rugs give a residential feel. Burnt orange and navy are weaved in as accent colors throughout the room. Prints by local artists decorate the walls. Artist Angela Adams, from Portland, designed a woven wall tapestry for the guestrooms. The desk, styled after a vintage writer's desk, stores all appliances. A newspaper rack hangs current copies of periodicals, putting print back into the room. The back of the leather office chair is embroidered with the classic phrase containing every letter of the alphabet: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog". The bathroom with a reeded glass door similar to those in historic newspaper offices, has walls made of culcutta marble and a large danby marble counter.

The hotel has nine suites including three one-bedroom suites, two junior suites, and a Presidential Suite with exclusive rooftop access.

The property will be targeting LEED silver certification and will be part of the Autograph Collection, a group of more than fifty unique luxury hotels around the world.

## ***About Stonehill & Taylor***

Stonehill & Taylor is an architecture and interior design firm based in New York City. The firm uses a collaborative approach to produce unique design stories. Its successful projects range from interiors, new building construction, renovations and historic preservation including: The Ace Hotel, Novotel Times Square, Refinery Hotel and The Paramount Hotel's Diamond Horseshoe. Stonehill & Taylor is at the forefront of sustainable design, developing projects that are conscious of their impact on local communities and the world. The firm designed the first LEED Gold hotel in New York, The Crosby Street Hotel, another with The NoMad and was responsible for the most recent renovation of Hyatt Regency Minneapolis using locally-made goods. For more information, visit: [www.stonehilltaylor.com](http://www.stonehilltaylor.com)