

Tishman Design Director Helps The Westin “Keep it Fresh”



The Westin New York at Times Square prides itself on providing respite for weary business travelers overnighting in the epicenter of Manhattan’s bright lights. The luxury 5-star hotel assures guests that even in the busiest part of town, “peace of mind is priority ... and rejuvenation is inevitable.”

But serving as an oasis in the heart of the trendiest city in America requires a distinct flare—a unique cross between luxurious comfort and refined style. As such, every room at The Westin seeks to literally

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Ron Kollar, Design Director,
Tishman Hotel & Realty

cradle its guests in class, soothing their senses and exciting their souls.

To stay ahead of the competition, The Westin renovates its guest rooms every five years. During its latest renovation in 2009, the hotel worked with hospitality design consultancy Tishman Hotel & Realty.

Tishman Design Director Ron Kollar wanted to find ways to “keep the rooms fresh,” while still providing The Westin’s trademark hybrid of style and comfort.

Since business travel is a large segment of the hotel’s business, each guest room is outfitted with a workstation, complete with ergonomic task chair. But for a hotel like The Westin New York at Times Square, not just any task chair would do.



CHOOSING THE CHAIR

As part of his role as Design Director, Kollar advises architecture and design firms on which furniture to specify for hotel guest rooms. So when Kollar made his recommendations to The Westin's design firm, BBGM Interiors, he specified only one task chair: Humanscale's Liberty chair.

"I was very impressed with the Liberty chair," Kollar said, "and for what The Westin wanted, it was the perfect choice. Design firms usually accept whatever recommendations I give them, and the Liberty was the only chair I specified."

As part of its procedure, Tishman mocked up several model rooms for Westin staff to test the new guest room additions, Liberty among

them. After three model-room reviews, the verdict was in.

THE WESTIN TAKES LIBERTY

Although Liberty's contract price came in about \$75 higher than Kollar's usual price tag for task chairs, he deemed Liberty's unique combination of pleasing aesthetics and ergonomic comfort well worth the price. Staff at The Westin agreed, as the hotel purchased 863 Liberty chairs—one for each guest room—to replace the Vitra chairs that had previously outfitted its workstations.

To date, Liberty has been met with universal enthusiasm from both Westin staff and guests. "It's a beautiful chair," Kollar said. "It looks great in the rooms, and it has been very well-received. Everyone [at The

Westin] is very happy with them." Now whenever a traveler—business or otherwise—seeks a spot of serenity within a sea of activity, the Humanscale Liberty chair is among the luxurious amenities waiting at The Westin New York. After all, a stylish task chair is right at home in a hotel that has built its reputation on class and comfort.

Because of its innovative design, Liberty was the only office chair included in the 2007 National Design Triennial at the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum. Its tri-panel Form-Sensing Mesh Technology offers perfect lumbar support for every body type without external devices or manual adjustments. And its weight-sensitive recline ensures that all users have perfect recline support without having to make a single adjustment. With 40% fewer parts and 40% less material than the average task chair, Liberty established a new bar for sustainability in the high-performance task chair category.