Robe Hotel Re-Design

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The brief for my final piece outlined that the owners of the Robe Hotel approached me to re-design the accommodation space into a luxury boutique hotel with a contemporary beach-inspired aesthetic that creates a luxury resort experience for guests. As the owners are Robe locals, they asked for me to include iconic aspects of the town/Limestone Coast in the space such as Limestone to encompass the natural beauty of the small coastal town. To do this, the interior design proposal which includes a redesigned foyer and a room that has a balcony aimed to maximise the use of natural lighting, organic materials, and large open spaces. The choice of this topic was based on my growing passion and interest in architecture and interior design and my love for Robe where I grew up and have been visiting my whole life.

Upon initial research conducted online, I found that luxury hotels and resorts generally utilise a calming and aesthetically pleasing interior design, are spacious and often utilise elements influenced by the hotel's location. Interior designers Michael Schickinger and Annabell Kutucu who designed the five Casa Cook Hotels around the world were highly influential to my final piece. The neutral colour palette they utilised through the hotel spaces and smooth surfaces to create a minimalist and contemporary aesthetic, inspired my choice of tile for the bathroom in the hotel room design and the small shallow steps in the hotel lobby. Australian architects Ingrid Richards and Adrian Spence who designed the Calile Hotel in Fortitude Valley, Queensland heavily influenced the layout of the foyer and the room design. The hotel rooms in the Calile Hotel have a bath in the centre of the room which influenced my room design to have a centred composition. I then chose to continue this centred composition in the hotel lobby to create harmony throughout the entire building.

I used the application Sketchup to design my two-dimensional floorplans of each space and the three-dimensional renderings. The version of the software that I had access to was limited in its abilities, so Enscape was essential to create realistic and aesthetic renderings. Due to a lack of previous experience in navigating Adobe Illustrator, Sketchup, and Enscape, I watched hours of tutorials and videos to learn how to use each of the programs. It was extremely time-consuming to render the spaces, build elements, and import various materials from external sources. However, I did discover that whilst it was a time-consuming process the result was extremely professional.

I am confident that my design resolution successfully meets the parameters of the design brief. This is because I believe my designs of the hotel lobby and room create spacious areas that combine contemporary elements and organic materials to create a modern and natural aesthetic and therefore a luxurious experience for guests. I believe that in the process of researching various practitioners and creating my own designs, I have developed my own personal design aesthetic. I can confidently make the conclusion that a successful interior design requires a balance between form and function.