

Thompson Savannah

Thompson Hotels' debut in Savannah, Georgia celebrates the port city's rich history, while also nodding to the creative community—assisted by students and aspiring artists from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)—it embraces today. "Thompsons are sophisticated, central hubs evocative of every city they're in," says Kellie Sirna, principal and cofounder of Dallas-based Studio 11 Design. "Bringing a Thompson property to life in a way that tells the story of the destination's architectural heritage required a richly layered narrative."

Indeed, it is Savannah's indelible creative spirit that Studio 11 Design sought to capture for the lifestyle brand. "Savannah's stylistic vernacular is entirely unique," says Sirna, who used "rich jewel tones, soft leather touches, layered distressed textiles, and botanical accents," to evoke the city's natural beauty.

Situated in the Historic District along the Savannah River, architecture firm Smallwood strategically positioned the hotel

perpendicular to the river, allowing for sweeping views of the cityscape or water from all 193 guestrooms, including the 21 suites. Here, cognac leather headboards, velvet upholstery, and herringbone flooring create a sense of indulgent comfort.

In the lobby, a modern chandelier balances the dramatic geometric reception desk beneath, while a grand staircase leads to a second-floor pool deck, home to the Art Deco-inspired poolside lounge Sunroom. The hotel also houses a 10,000-square-foot multipurpose event space and two more restaurants from executive chef Robert Newton, the seasonally focused Fleeting and rooftop Bar Julian.

Still, it's the artwork throughout that cannot be missed. Lou Verne, Studio 11's art, curation, and styling vertical, collaborated with SCAD students for a collection of original paintings, illustrations, photography, and sculptures. They provide "a compelling sense that a new experience of Savannah's creative community can be found around every corner," explains Sirna, with artwork "that is incredibly detailed and locally inspired."



A modern chandelier balances the Thompson Savannah's geometric reception desk



The residentially informed Bar Julian features artwork by SCAD students



Guestrooms boast leather headboards, velvet upholstery, and herringbone floors



Seasonally focused restaurant Fleeting evokes Savannah's natural beauty



The second-floor pool deck includes an Art Deco-inspired poolside lounge



Strategic seating orientation maximizes views from rooftop concept Bar Julian



Jewel tones, soft leathers, and distressed textiles characterize the lobby

Photos by JULIE SOEFER