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# Case Study: Student Abroad Lifestyle of the Vantaggio Suites

By Miwa Yamamuro, Allied ASID

*Concept: To encourage the student abroad lifestyle with an urban, industrial, spontaneous, contemporary vibe that has fun graphic design elements.*

Many students from all over the world look forward to enjoying their stay in wonderful San Diego. Vantaggio Suites on State Street lies in the heart of Little Italy, a charming location surrounded by sidewalk cafes and numerous newly designed, hip and trendy restaurants. With 288 rooms catering to international students, business travelers, and short-term

renters, Vantaggio Suites desired a new look and identity. San Diego-based interior design firm Muro Designs created an environment appealing to a younger generation of globetrotters, while keeping a contemporary and sophisticated style that would attract business travelers and short-term renters as well.

The concept was inspired by a combination of a travel theme and San Diego's urban scene, while incorporating art, visually striking graphics, and industrial design influences. Natural

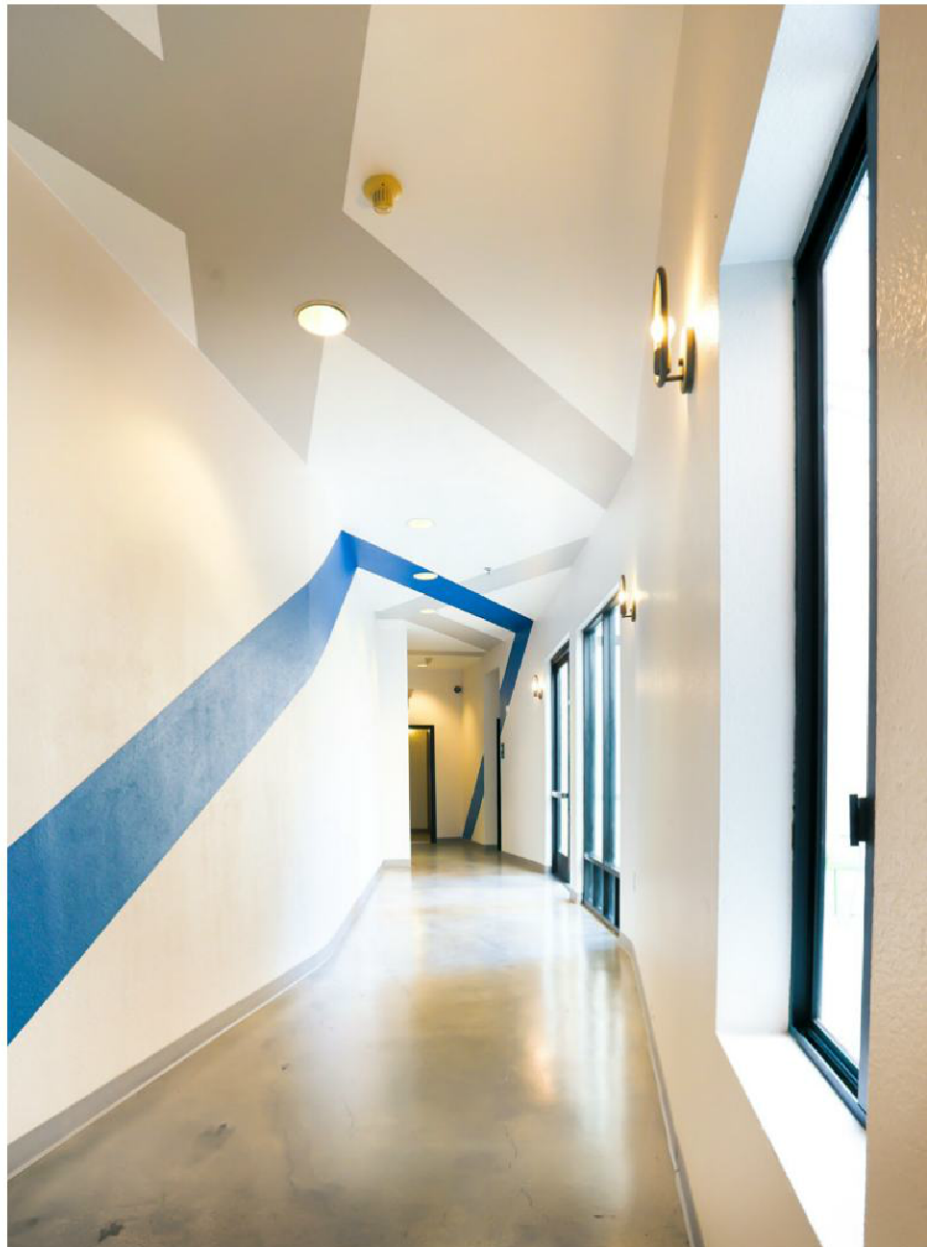
elements – such as reclaimed wood, polished concrete and large succulent arrangements – promote an earthy and laid back lifestyle. The design team's primary goal was to create a thoughtfully designed space that international students would enjoy and be proud to call "home" during their stay in San Diego. The new theme is intended to engage guests from around the world, and give them a taste of San Diego's rich urban, and innovative Little Italy scene.

Challenges for this project were the



issues of durability and maintenance of materials that would still be able to convey the earthy concept without having to compromise design. Another challenge was maximizing storage space for individual and shared rooms, as to alleviate the travelers' feeling of being crowded with all of their luggage and necessities. Important material and functional upgrades such as:

- Luxury vinyl tile planks replacing carpet flooring in the hallway.
- Engineered quartz at desk and sink surfaces that were once laminate counters.
- Split lighting controls for shared rooms for convenience and comfort for both users.



-General maintenance for guest bathrooms including the change of plumbing and light fixtures and using porcelain tile floors for better durability and easier maintenance.

-Polished concrete in the reception and lobby area floors to focus on durability and the new design concept of industrial, urban contemporary.

-New paint at existing dressers which were still in good condition. This gave them a high-gloss finish with pops of color for a fresh, vibrant look.

Design concept realized. Another example of how a designers vision can transform the experience of a space.