

Aloft at National Harbor

National Harbor, MD

PRACTICE AREA

Hospitality

CLIENT

The Peterson Companies

STATUS

Completed 2009

SERVICES

Architecture, Interiors



PROGRAM

A mixed use block consisting of a 7-story, 181-key hotel, 2 restaurants, a spa, 15,616-sf of retail space, 12,335-sf of meeting space, and a 10-story, 160-unit condominium building with 14,946-sf of retail space.

DESCRIPTION

This project, the second block to be built at National Harbor, takes advantage of a decidedly different set of design guidelines while still integrating into its surrounding context. The inspiration for this block came from the modernist influence of Starwood Hotels' new "Aloft" brand, a lifestyle hotel marketed towards young urban professionals that takes on a loft-like aesthetic on the interior. "Hip" and "cool" characterize the interior design of the Aloft Hotel at National Harbor: a combination of distinct shapes, a bright palette of accent colors, and a mixture of retro textural patterns all converge to give the space an intriguing, unique, and ultra-contemporary aesthetic. Areas of work include a communal lobby area with bar and balcony, loft-like guest rooms, hotel-wide wireless internet access, indoor pool overlooking an open courtyard area, large food and beverage area, well-equipped fitness center, and sizeable roof deck with sweeping views of the river.

The condominium portion of the block follows suit with floor-to-ceiling glazing that serves a dual purpose—it also exploits the waterfront location of the property. Fronting the two main pedestrian corridors of National Harbor, it was essential for Block K to help establish the urban fabric. Ground-level retail along these corridors activates the street, while parking and service entrances were relegated to secondary streets.