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New Construction

Picture Perfect: The Panoramic Hotel Iguazú

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The Panoramic Hotel Iguazú

By Krista Reiner

Iguazú Falls in Argentina could easily be one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World — it has an earthly beauty and mystique like no other. Its most thrilling feature is Devil's Throat, an area through which the largest volume of water passes. On the edge of the escarpment over which the Iguazú River plunges, the falls are divided into some 275 separate waterfalls or cataracts. A 15-minute drive from this amazing natural phenomenon will lead you to the spectacular new **Panoramic Hotel Iguazú**. The beauty of the property mirrors its natural namesake; it is set magnificently on a hill where the Paraná and Iguazú Rivers meet, offering stunning panoramic views of the rivers, as well as the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. It is the sister property of the five-star Iguazú Grand Hotel Resort & Casino, a member of the Small Leading Hotels of the World, located about a mile away.

According to Laura Trelles, general manager of the **Panoramic Hotel Iguazú**, the location of the property has special significance. "The Group HCI obtained the grant — [after] 30 years — to rebuild the former Instituto de Previsión Social IPS, then tackled the recovery of Iguazú's emblematic construction. [It had been] abandoned for more than 20 years," Trelles relayed. "This means the rescue of part of the history of Argentine tourism, inspired by the architecture of the '40s, as well as by the works of the recognized Architect Bustillo. [The restoration] was meant to preserve the front of the building..."

There are many unique architectural and design features covering the whole property, but, as Trelles notes, perhaps none are as impressive as the location of the property itself. "Undoubtedly the most emblematic point of the hotel is its incomparable location. The **Panoramic Hotel Iguazú** is placed on a hill with a unique view of the Three Borders Landmark, a meeting point between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. From this place, it is possible to appreciate the union of the Iguazú and Parana Rivers, offering a spectacular panoramic view — a landscape to which the hotel owes its name," she said.

The project was developed by noted Argentinean architects Mónica Spodek and Carlos Sallaberry. Together the two carefully designed the Panoramic Hotel Iguazú atop the elegant stone and wood frame of the 70-year old Instituto de Prevención Social of Misiones. Spodek and Salaberry conscientiously designed the property with every effort to preserve the wild tropical forests of the area. As Trelles relates, the surrounding vegetation has been incorporated into the design of the property: "Thays Studio is the firm in charge of the design of the parks, which have been recovered from the existing vegetation and the marked slopes of the area. Both natural points were emphasized by lighting scenarios [that were] strategically created."

The property features 91 rooms outfitted in a boutique contemporary style with flat-screen cable TVs and Jacuzzi baths; these elements are magnified in the presidential suite, which offers even more

luxury to high-roller who travel to the exotic location. Trelles agrees that the interior design of the property is very modern: “Spodek Studio, [which was] in charge of the interiors, achieved a perfect balance between modern style and coziness.” The modern atmosphere was completed by using carpets and paint, as well as ceiling was in tones of black, silver, and strong grays.

There are many more features of **Panoramic Hotel Iguazú** that make it a dream vacation destination: a fine restaurant, a lobby bar, a panoramic bar on the top floor of the hotel, an infinity pool, a children’s pool, a solarium, conference and meeting rooms, a spa, a gym, opening in Sept. The design of the slot floor is also unique. “In the slots room, the ceiling was designed with different levels, curves and counter curves with a system of lighting that changes slowly, giving a special tonality to the whole room, which [will have] more than 100 slots machines and an electronic Roulette,” Trelles noted.

The **Panoramic Hotel Iguazú** is truly a remarkable property in itself, and, with the astonishing natural beauty that abounds in the Argentina landscape, tourists are sure to flock to its doorsteps.

Key Players

Contractors: TK

Architect: Carlos Sallaberry

Interior Designer: Mónica Spodek

Owner/Operator: James Shasha

General Manager: Laura Trelles