



## Beantown Test

A challenging guestroom renovation for RDH & Associates

Photography by Robert Miller

“We learned so much and enjoyed every bit of it.”

Above: A renovated suite parlor at the Omni Parker House in Boston.

**Challenge** Renovate everything in the 551 guestrooms and suites of the Omni Parker House in Boston except for the wallcovering in the rooms, the headboards, and some of the desks and mirrors, plus address the lack of storage space in the bathrooms, all while keeping the traditional feel of the historic hotel and appealing to the hotel’s many business travelers. “We were told that there were approximately 25 types of guestrooms (that grew to over 100 once we did the walk through) and that the occupancy in the hotel was always over 90 percent...no problem right?” says Stacy Elliston, principal, RDH & Associates in Addison, Texas.

**Solution:** Thanks to the more than 100 room types, the designers had no real or correct drawings to rely on. So they went back to basics, walking into every single room with drawings, pencils and tape measures to verify current furniture and electrical layouts, and took down any dimensions that were missing. For more storage space, the designers changed the mirror style to give more room on the wall and added a shelving unit over the toilet. In working in a very busy hotel, they had to coordinate with the general contractor, Suffolk Construction, to coordinate correct deliveries from the warehouse since there were no staging rooms. And, for the design, they embraced the history of the property while blending modern luxury into the experience. They kept the general color palette (think red and gold hues), but added more of a transitional feel with new art (inspired by Parker House artifacts) and draperies, more modern pattern scales, and pedestal sinks in the bathrooms. In some rooms, they kept the existing desk; in others, they designed a traditional style desk/dresser combination done in mahogany that would accommodate the dresser and TV on one side, and the work surface on the other. For the extremely small rooms (what are dubbed the library rooms) they created a built-in corner work surface.

“This was such a great project for us. We learned so much and enjoyed every bit of it,” Elliston remembers. “I’ll never forget the day that we had this huge matrix in front of us and we kept counting the rooms over and over again only to come up each time two rooms short of our 551. This exercise had been going on for days. After several attempts, we finally found our lost two rooms, and a huge scream could be heard for miles coming from the conference room that all the rooms and types had been accounted for.” >

# design 101 hotel guestroom



## Omni Parker House

Boston

[www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com)

**Interior Design Firm** RDH & Associates, Inc., Addison, Texas

**Interior Design Project Team** Stacy Elliston, principal; Leslie Eiland, senior project manager/design; Kimbra Elgin, senior design manager; and Scott Samuels, project manager; Randall Huggins, principal

**Sconce** Barbara Cosgrove Lamps

**Artwork** C. Smith Fine Art Advisory

**Drapery, Shade, Shower Curtain, Pillow Fabrication** CDI (Contract Decor International)

**Bed Bench/Bath Mirror and Shelf** D' Style

**Fabrics** Duralee Fabrics, Fabricut, Exotica Textiles, Kravet Fabrics, Loomsource

**Chair Seat Leather** Edelman

**Sofa Re-upholstery** Five Star Restorations

**Shower Curtain Liner and Rings** Katri Sales Company, Inc.

**Coffee Table/Desk and Lounge Chair/Vanity Stool** Mark David

**Throws** Morgan Collection

**Desk/Demilune/Nightstand/Dresser/Lowboy/Vanity/Headboards** Philadelphia Furniture

**Floor Lamps** Reliance Lamp Co.

**Bath Wallcovering** Seabrook Contract

**Bed Sets** Serta

**Desk and Console Lamps** Spectrum Lighting

**Shower Curtain Rods** Wingit Innovations ■



Above, from top: A suite and guestroom at the Omni Parker House, both updated with new art, draperies, and modern touches.