

# hospitality design

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## sky's the limit

unlocking  
creative vision

**HD**expo  
a hospitality design event

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Photos by SERGIO GRAZIA



## AccorHotels Arena

### Paris

The redo of the Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, Paris' most notable and largest events center, was no small feat for local architecture firm DVVD. "It took us a long time to think about what to do and not to do with such an iconic 1980s building," says president Daniel Vaniche. "We said to ourselves, 'why would we change the architecture because we like it or don't like it? Why would our taste be better than all the Parisians that like this building?'"

Now dubbed AccorHotels Arena, the edifice's blue metal truss and grass slopes remain, and, in just 17 months, the team extended and sculpted what was below while opening the stadium up to the city. New additions include a main hall (the "new identity" for the arena), a promenade around the building, various reception areas, a VIP hall, a glass canopy entrance on the River Seine side, and a walkway on the park side, as well as reconfiguring the arena to hold 3,000 more seats, 30,000 additional square feet of lounges, and 36 extra suites, among many other modifications. To play off the existing "beautiful concrete," the designers outfitted the spaces in oak, brass, copper, stone, steelwork, and glass—those that "would be comfortable, warm, and for some spaces, a synonym of luxury," Vaniche says.

