

## The Willard InterContinental Washington Washington, DC



Willard Room

At first glance, a refurbishment of the window treatment, carpet and upholstery of a formal hotel dining room might seem a straightforward task. But when that room is as much of an icon to a city like Washington, DC, as the Willard is, the notion of how to change its look while maintaining its cachet requires considerable deliberation.

Giving careful consideration to a design concept that would unify the majestic room, ForrestPerkins decided that everything from a decorative standpoint should contrast with the original boiserie to accentuate its volumptuous swagged fruit garlands, carved columns, ornate cornices and freize. Window treatments were designed in vibrant yellow damask to emphasize the play of light and dark in the room and soften the architecturally powerful space.

After extensive research in the archives of Brintons, the British carpet icon, the designers chose a documentary design from Versailles for the wool carpet. Their adaptation incorporated fruit garlands and floral motifs in grass greens, rich golds, and shades of pink and red to reflect the room's paneling. Yellow table skirts were fashioned to contrast with crisp white linens, providing a splash of color throughout the room and a beautiful backdrop for the Willard Room's monogrammed china and artful food presentations.

As with any project undertaken by ForrestPerkins, this deceptively simply commission received the same attention as a multi-faceted project. The sensitive treatment of this soft goods renovation has delighted Willard Room patrons and attracted newcomers to this Washington institution.



Willard Room Dining



Willard Room Detail

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Guestroom



Red Guestroom

Guest Bath

Taupe Guestroom

Opened in 1903, the Willard InterContinental is an impressive Beaux-Arts structure with resplendent public areas evocative of the Federal and Edwardian eras. ForrestPerkins turned to design details found in the public areas as inspiration for the renovation of the hotel's 341 guestrooms and suites. The designers' vision for the guest areas established a strong visual connection to the grandeur evident in the public spaces.

Today, Willard guests encounter floor-to-ceiling luxury in the form of custom-designed furniture, wall coverings, wool carpet, and artwork in every room. Attention to detail takes the form of hand-quilted coverlets, exquisitely festooned draperies, and custom-built casegoods. Business travelers' needs are anticipated in the design of guestroom desks with cleverly concealed power ports, which function as workstations while preserving the residential quality. Characteristic of the American Empire style that unifies the guest areas are furnishings fabricated in rare woods and luxurious custom-designed fabrics graced with classic motifs.

Defining luxury in a setting as renowned as the Willard required dedication to research and instinctive recognition of what luxury means to an international clientele accustomed to the best. ForrestPerkins achieved its goal of marrying the past to the future by matching an understanding of luxury at the dawn of the 20th century with luxury as we know it today. Cognizant that sophisticated travelers today, as in the past, want an experience that is effortless, welcoming and aesthetically satisfying, ForrestPerkins created an inimitable guest experience.