

Celebrated Living

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Old bones, new digs

Around the world, architects and developers are transforming grand structures of the past into luxe hotels for the 21st century



The Line DC

The newest trend in the hotel industry is repurposing the past for the greater good of luxury, transforming warehouses, banks, museums, churches and other suitably appealing buildings into plush hotels. South America has several such properties, including the exquisite Hotel Magnolia in Santiago, Chile, which won a 2017 UNESCO Prix Versailles architecture award. The 1920s structure, a former mansion turned office building, was retooled by architect Cazú Zegers, also known for the Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa. Zegers added three new floors, with a glass wall outside the addition—imprinted with an image of the

historic lower floors—integrating the entire facade.

In the United States, Charlestowne Hotels is all about repurposing, and in St. Augustine, Florida, the company's Collector Luxury Inn & Gardens was once the Dow Museum of Historic Houses. Washington, D.C., now has the Line, developed by The Ned's Sydell Group. This 110-year-old former Christian Science church features Spike Gjerde's restaurant A Rake's Progress (Gjerde is chef/owner of Baltimore's acclaimed Woodberry Kitchen). —TOM AUSTIN