

NEW YORK
PALM BEACH
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS
MACKINAC ISLAND

May 1, 2024

For Release: Friday May 3, 2024

### GRAND HOTEL UNVEILS NEW CUPOLA BAR AND WOODFILL SUITE

Dorothy Draper & Company celebrates its more than 40-year partnership with Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, Michigan by unveiling a newly redesigned Cupola Bar and Woodfill Suite as the hotel opens its 2024 summer season on May 3th.

Among the many memories Grand Hotel guests love to share are descriptions of the hotel's vibrant look. The iconic colors and patterns that grace their guest rooms and public areas are the masterful creations of distinguished icon Carleton Varney, one of America's best-known and most accomplished interior designers. Since 1976, Carleton Varney's creative eye and hand have impacted almost every inch of the hotel. His design philosophy stresses the use of bold, bright colors, large imposing stripes, and audacious floral patterns. His placement of art and antiques from many different time periods and styles helped create the hotel's unique aesthetic. Mr. Varney carefully crafted a look that was elegant but not too serious. He captured the spirit of the hotel as a fun summer place, always comfortable and with impeccable style. Mr. Varney's son, Sebastian Varney, President of Dorothy Draper & Company, along with Dorothy Draper & Company Design Director Rudy Saunders are continuing his legacy.

## Cupola Bar

The Cupola was original when Grand Hotel was built in 1887, however in 1987 for the 100th Anniversary it was enclosed to create The Cupola Bar. Previously it was an open air deck to allow staff to see incoming ships arriving bringing guests to Mackinac Island. This space transitions from day to night providing one of the best views on Mackinac Island. This two story bar at the very top of Grand Hotel feels like you are in the clouds overlooking 270 degree views.

Entry to The Cupola Bar is gained by ascending a flight of stairs. The wallcovering throughout is custom that we designed for the space with Carleton V. The metallic moire-like quality in a deep navy provides a glamorous feeling to the space. Carpeting throughout was also custom designed for this space and was made in Ireland by Ulster Carpets. The overscaled swirl pattern in shades of blues creates a dreamy feeling to the space and evokes movement. The lower level features the large white lattice bar - fitting for a summer resort with a white marble counter. Along the counter are brass lamps with emerald green shades. A black and white checkerboard dance floor on the lower level allows nighttime dancing. Above the dance floor is an incredible Murano chandelier that Mr. Varney designed for The Cupola Bar when it was originally done in 1987. We have added

on the upper level to the columns surrounding the space custom Murano sconces designed to match the fixture and give some added sparkle to the space. Up above on the ceilings of both levels is a stylized cloud patterned fabric on the ceiling to give a tented feel. The fabric is designed for this space, Carleton V Clouds. Scalloped valances around the perimeter of both floors continue the tent-like feeling.

Both floors feature ample seating with stunning views. Surrounding the perimeter of both levels is a large banquet covered in a custom Carleton V Ltd. fabric in rich navy blue. On the banquet are bolster pillows in Carleton V High Garden with Chartreuse Leather Piping from Samuel & Sons. The chairs are classic iron garden furniture for the outdoor like feeling, however we did them in an acid green color with cushions done in Carleton V Ltd. High Garden. The tables around the room feature tablecloths that transition the space from day to night. During the day there is a custom Carleton V Boca Grand trellis pattern that flips over to Carleton V Pinwheel trimmed in Samuel & Sons silver tape for a glitzy nighttime feeling. William Yeoward votives with blue accents add additional light to the space.

#### **Woodfill Suite**

The overall space is inspired by W. Stewart Woodfill, longtime owner of Grand Hotel. He went to work at the hotel in 1919 as a desk clerk. He eventually became manager and in 1925 he and two partners bought the hotel. He sold his share in the property to his partners in 1927 and bought it back in 1932, becoming the sole owner. Mr. Woodfill operated the hotel until 1979, when he sold it to a nephew, R. D. Musser.

He was a very sharp dresser and paid attention to every detail of the Grand Hotel. We wanted to celebrate this with sharp, tailored detailing throughout the suite with a nod to mid century styling. He always wanted the best of everything and we celebrate that with this suite. The breathtaking view features panoramic views looking down Grand Avenue and the east side of Mackinac Island.

Entrance Hall: The wallcovering is Carleton V Ltd. Playa Stripe - Blues to give the feeling of a summery cabana. Classic black and white checkerboard floor is a Draper trademark. Covering the walls are framed photos and memorabilia gathered to celebrate Mr. Woodfill from the Grand Hotel's archive with the assistance of Bentley Historical Library and Mackinac State Historic Parks. Additionally, we have display cases showing Mr. Woodfill's impressive collection of walking sticks. Mr. Woodfill always liked to use wing chairs in his spaces. This is covered in Carleton V Ltd. Ruhlman - Celestial Blue with a nickel reading lamp. An upright piano is also in this space for a fun, entertaining atmosphere like Mr. Woodfill insisted for the hotel.

Bedroom/Living Area: The walls are covered in Carleton V Ltd. Cernobio - Wave, a wool fabric that has been paperbacked to give a tailored, suiting feeling to the space. A plaid carpet from Ireland in shades of blues and gray adds to the haberdashery feeling. The sweeping curved bank of windows features stunning views. At the windows is a tailored window treatment in Carleton V Ltd. Gatsby - Blues that lends a glamorous deco sort of feeling to the space - an era Woodfill styled the Lobby in during his ownership. A carved bed highlighted in silver metallic underneath a Carleton V Gatsby bed canopy lined in pewter satin again adds to the glamorous feeling of the space. On the nightstands are a pair of asian urn lamps in blues and browns. The seating group features a sleeper sofa, covered in a luxurious boucle fabric, Carleton V Ltd. Yosemite - Blue and

is a clean mid century line. Behind the sofa is a vintage coromandel screen. Mr. Woodfill had a beautiful carved Asian desk (that inspired Mr. Varney to design Grand Hotel's China Suite and resides there still) so we wanted to celebrate this detail. Flanking the sofa are a pair of chartreuse Christopher Spitzmiller lamps. Upholstered tufted lounge chairs by Kindel Furniture are covered in Carleton V Vendome - Lapis and opposite the sofa are two swivel tub chairs in Carleton V Crossroads - Blue. The silver metallic trellis coffee table is Dorothy Draper for Kindel. A Kindel Regency Card Table in delft blue with Draper Cafe Chairs provides the perfect spot for a game.

# **About Dorothy Draper & Company**

Founded in 1925 Dorothy Draper & Company is one of the oldest continually operating design firms in the United States creating interiors, furnishings, fabrics and accessories that excite and delight. Dorothy Draper was the first to professionalize interior design and her work continues to inspire today. She is the only interior designer to have had a major museum retrospective of her work, receiving over one million visitors in 2006 at the Museum of the City of New York. From 1966 until his death in 2022 Carleton Varney was president of Dorothy Draper & Company and is considered one of the best known and most accomplished designers in the U.S. He helped shape the way we see the world through his iconic hospitality designs, including The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV; Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island; and The Colony Hotel, Palm Beach. In 2022 Varney's son, Sebastian Varney, became President of Dorothy Draper & Company.

#### **About Grand Hotel**

Celebrating its 138th season in 2024, Grand Hotel is an iconic and storied property with deep roots on Mackinac Island in Northern Michigan and widely recognized as "America's Summer Place." First opened in 1887, Grand Hotel is now a registered National Historic Landmark that welcomes generations of travelers each season. The resort offers 388 signature rooms and suites – of which no two are the same – alongside 13 unique culinary concepts and a host of amenities, including The Jewel golf course, renowned gardens, The Grand Hotel Stables, and the Esther Williams swimming pool. In 2022, the property debuted a new multi-million-dollar recreational facility, The Woodlands Activity Center, with mini-golf, greenhouse, bike rentals, pickleball, and more. For more information, visit www.grandhotel.com.