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the empathetic hotelier



Phil Hospod
Founder + CEO
Dovetail + Co

When Phil Hospod was working for hotel development company Gemini Real Estate Advisors in 2012, the Jade Hotel (now the Walker Hotel)—a ground-up project in New York's Greenwich Village created in tandem with Atelier & Co. and Escobar Design—became a symbol of his love of hospitality. The brick façade was a welcome contrast to the many glass-fronted hotels in the city, and an Art Deco vibe gave off a vintage pastiche, moving away from the modern interiors prevalent at the time. When the scaffolding came down, Hospod witnessed passersby marvel at the structure and wonder aloud if the building had always been a part of the neighborhood. "When you focus on building a community in a more natural, authentic way, it has longevity," he says.

That experience, coupled with a résumé that includes destination resort developer Intrawest and lifestyle hotel operator Sydel Group, were formative to the ethos behind Dovetail + Co, the hospitality ownership, development, and management company Hospod founded in 2018. It's a lifelong dream for the Montreal native, who fell in love with travel and hospitality as a child. His engineer father, who built pulp and paper mills, was sent around the globe, allowing Hospod to live in Malaysia, Tehran, and Warsaw as



A yellow fireplace is the centerpiece of Newport, Rhode Island hotel the Wayfinder, designed by Reunion Goods & Services



Colorful moments add character to the Wayfinder's public spaces



Burnt orange leather banquettes and leopard print seating line Nomi Park restaurant in the Wayfinder



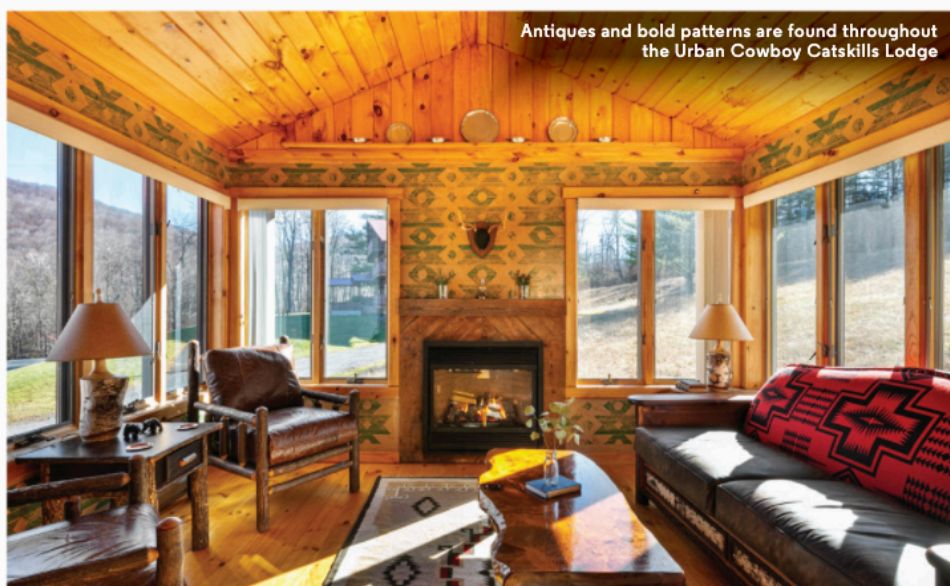
The Wayfinder, a revamp of a former Mainstay Hotel, resembles an inviting beach house



Set on 68 acres, Urban Cowboy Catskills Lodge in New York is a collaboration with hoteliers Lyon Porter and Jersey Banks



Wood-clad interiors define the Urban Cowboy Catskills Lodge



Antiques and bold patterns are found throughout the Urban Cowboy Catskills Lodge

a result. Canada was homebase, but living abroad was “an incredible way to experience the world,” he says.

Creating emotionally resonant memories is integral to Dovetail’s philosophy. Take the Wayfinder, an emerging brand that debuted in Newport, Rhode Island last year. Featuring a design from New York multidisciplinary firm Reunion Goods & Services, it is a love letter to the coastal city. A second Wayfinder is on the boards in Hawaii, a redo of the former Waikiki Sand Villa hotel with Honolulu-based firm the Vanguard Theory spearheading the reimagination. The Urban Cowboy Catskills Lodge, a collaboration with hoteliers Lyon Porter and Jersey Banks, was another passion project for Hospod. “The rivers and mountains reminded me of Montreal,” he says of the location in New York’s Catskill Park. “Even before we renovated it with Lyon, I would smile on the porch watching the sunrises.

These locations have to create joy; we want to be in places we love.”

His next projects—a capsule hotel opening in Manhattan’s Bowery next summer by Brooklyn, New York-based Islyn Studio; a conversion of the Cambridge Beaches Resort & Spa in Bermuda; and the repositioning of the historic St. James Hotel in San Diego—will continue Dovetail’s mission to be a company based in empathy. “We love a unique opportunity,” Hospod says. “We thrive on stretching our imagination and figuring out how to create the perfect design for that property. We’re not afraid of letting emotions influence our decisions because, at its core, hospitality is an emotional business.”