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HDexpo
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COMMUNE LOS ANGELES

Project: Ace Chicago

Having worked with Ace on a handful of properties, Commune founder Roman Alonso wanted to “tap into Chicago’s modernist past” for the brand’s latest hotel, with architecture referencing the work of Mies van der Rohe. Alonso chose materials like linoleum on bars and countertops and chrome tubing for furniture that highlight the industrial theme, including stained or lacquered plywood instead of traditional wooden panels. Local artwork from Chicago’s Volume Gallery pepper spaces throughout the hotel, while drawings and paintings from students at the Art Institute of Chicago adorn the 159 guestrooms, which boast striped bed throws, built-in benches, contemporary seating, and metal racks for hanging everything from clothes to guitars.

Product: Commune for Christopher Farr

“Our product lines are an opportunity to look inward at who we are and the things we love as designers,” explains Alonso, who has had a longstanding relationship with British company Christopher Farr. Three years ago, Commune created a small line of fabrics for Farr’s Cloth collection, so the rugs followed “very organically,” notes Alonso. Their collaboration, available at Crosby Street Studios in New York, features 10 versatile pieces that blend handspun wool, silk, and jute to create a variety of styles, including flat weave, shag, hand-knotted, and tufted options.