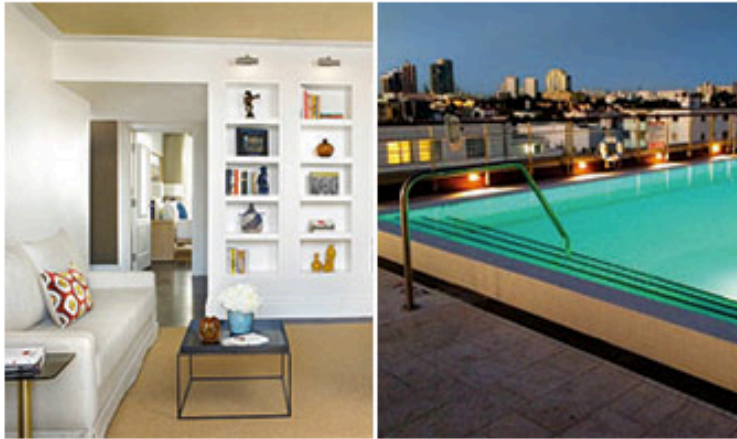


PRIVATE Clubs



At the Betsy-South Beach hotel, a Corner Double Balcony Suite and the rooftop swimming pool

Joining Up

Two Miami hotels merge, melding their styles

BY DON NICHOLS

The 75-year-old **Betsy-South Beach Hotel** on Ocean Drive in Miami completed a major two-year expansion project in December, upping its room count from 61 to 130. The owners enlarged the property by merging it with the 79-year-old Carlton Hotel, located behind the Betsy on Collins Avenue, to form one unified property.

The project presented design challenges, with the Betsy being the area's only example of Florida Georgian architecture and the Carlton sporting a distinctive art-deco style. But up for the task, architects and designers masterfully blended the two looks while preserving each building's architectural integrity, partly via a common color palette featuring hues such as white, ocean blue, corals, and greens. Guest rooms also share similar design elements, such as residential-like built-in shelving used for displaying books and knickknacks. From \$300. 844-862-3157; thebetsyhotel.com

The transformation included many new amenities and special features.

THREE OF THE ADDITIONS WE LIKE BEST

1. An inviting **library** stocked with a curated collection of books and made cozy with cushy furniture perfect for curling up in to read.
2. The **rooftop swimming pool**, where you'll bask in the unobstructed views of the ocean, Art Deco District, and the Miami skyline.
3. On the exterior, an eye-catching, boomerang-shaped "**Poetry Rail**" stretching for 139 feet features poems written by 13 poets with ties to Miami. You can't help but stop to read their words, which have been laser-cut into stainless steel.