

Rave/Pennsylvania hotel Arts and boutique meld amid the Amish

DIANE DANIEL

LANCASTER, Pa. — Two things about the place surprised me.

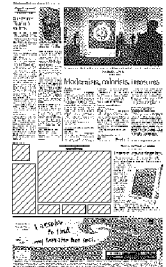
First, here in the heart of Amish country, there was not a quilt or piece of Shaker furniture in sight. Instead, at the boutique Lancaster Arts Hotel, which opened last fall, there is contemporary art by local artists and sleek furniture crafted by American Atelier of Allentown, the city northeast up the highway.

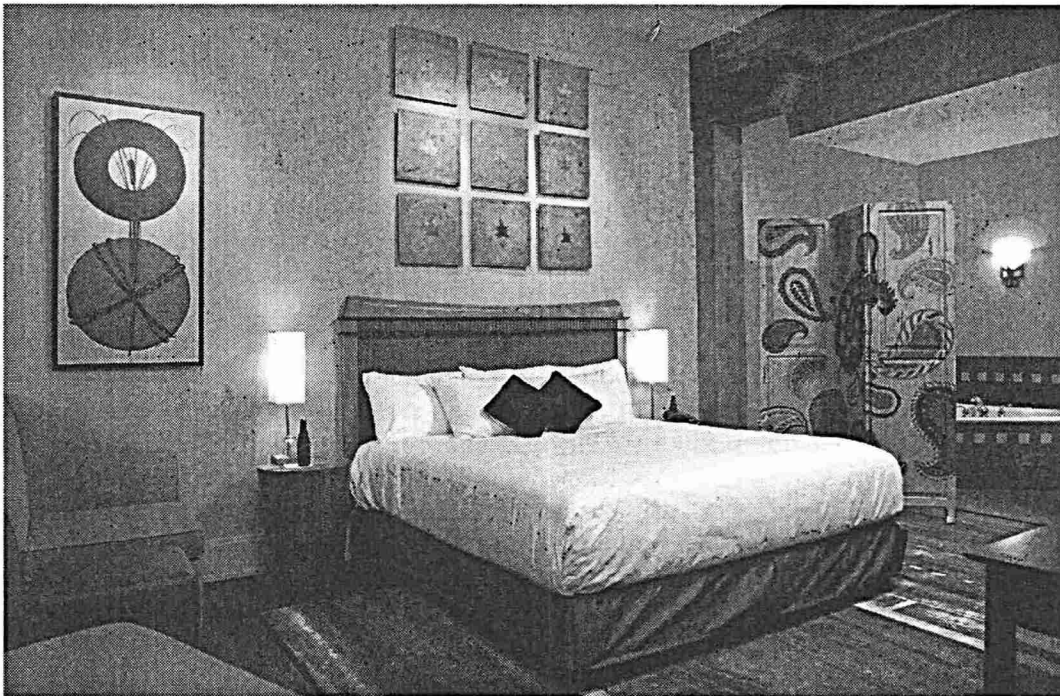
Each of the hotel's 46 guest rooms and 16 suites is decorated with art created in and around Lancaster County, and some are named for area artists. There's also a gallery of art for sale off the lobby.

The other surprise? The hotel was built from the remains of a 19th-century, five-story tobacco warehouse. Tobacco in Pennsylvania? The high ceilings and exposed brick walls speak to the building's past, but nothing pays homage to the golden leaf quite like the two amazing chairs designed by hotel partner and architect John de Vitry and manufactured by Martin's Chair in New Holland.

These high-backed seats in the hotel lobby are shaped like tobacco leaves. Now that's inspired. The hotel has a stylish bar, a well-reviewed restaurant, flat-screen TVs, and oversized fluffy towels.

Lancaster Arts Hotel, 300 Harrisburg Ave., Lancaster, Pa., 866-720-2787, lancasterartshotel.com. Rates \$149 to \$349.





BRIAN DONNELLY

The Arts Club Suite at the Lancaster Arts Hotel is decorated with art from the region.