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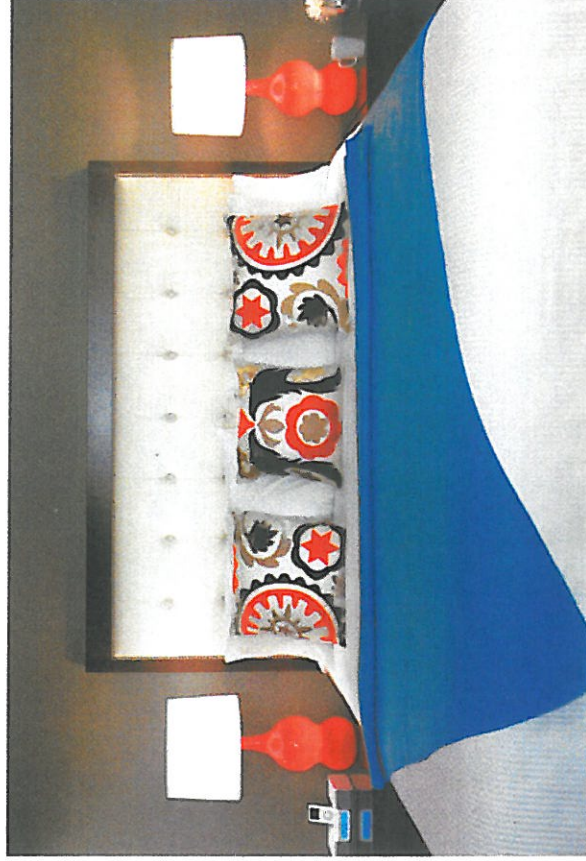
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ART OF GLASS An inspired new hotel in Washington State celebrates glassmaking as an art form



Why would anyone name a hotel in Tacoma, Washington, after an island near Venice? Answer: all the **Hotel Murano**'s public spaces and 320 rooms are dedicated to the world's most renowned glass artists. 'I didn't just want to scatter a few pieces of glass around,' says curator Tessa Papas. 'I wanted guests to learn about the methods of glassmaking, and about the different artists and how they reach their ideas.' Guests can even have glassblowing lessons. One of the most striking pieces is *Horizon*, a 30-metre-high sculpture outside the hotel by Greek artist Costas Varotsos, which pays homage to the seaside location. But not all the attention is focused on art; some of the glass is functional, such as the bedroom lamps, *left*, and the hotel also features a 'Spiritual Menu', from which guests can choose the holy tome they feel suits them best, from the King James Bible to the Bhagavad Gita.

CARRIE HUTCHINSON

Hotel Murano (00 1 253 238 8000; www.hotelmurano.tacoma.com). Doubles from \$189