

InterContinental Toronto Centre: A High-Tech Hotel

Following a \$30-million renovation, it has taken a position as one of the most tech-savvy hotels in Toronto.

The InterContinental Toronto Centre offers high-speed Internet cable access in every one of its 586 rooms, while Wi-Fi access is throughout the property allowing business travelers using laptops and handheld devices to stay in constant, high-speed wireless communication.

But the ultimate in technological achievement is found in Conquest and Visionary, the hotel's two chic, "Next Generation" boardrooms that seat up to 22 and 20 respectively. They provide state-of-the-art equipment ranging from 60-inch plasma SMART boards to video-Web conferencing and touch-screen controls.

"Technology is important for us," says Benjamin Sinclair, director of sales and marketing, InterContinental Toronto Centre. "Our goal is to provide the best arsenal of tools for today's business guest to facilitate their experience."

The term "hotel boardroom" often conjures up images of dark and dreary spaces. The InterContinental Toronto Centre's Next Generation Boardrooms redefine the term.

Boardrooms of the future

From the design, to every wired and wireless detail, each of the boardrooms is strikingly modern. Meeting participants sit in sleek, ergonomic black-leather chairs around a contemporary oval table of dark wood. Recessed into the table for every participant are "Plug and Surf," high-speed Internet dataports and electrical outlets, while each desk space features a black leather blotter and the latest Shure microphone. The high-end sound system speakers are perfectly placed and hidden, and both the soundproofed rooms and the entire meeting facility area are Wi-Fi equipped for wireless Internet users.

On the ceiling, metallic tiles form an attractive oval echo of the board table, but form always meets high-tech function. With a touch of an icon on a control screen, the tiles part and a high-resolution LCD projector descends into position for wireless Internet users.

The future continues at the other end of the table, where there are two wall-mounted, 60-inch plasma screens. These may be used as mammoth monitors for the DVD and VCR or to broadcast images from the LCD projector – but are capable of much more. The left will split to show video Web feeds from up to four different sites, while the right projects the visual of the boardroom that is being broadcast to off-site participants. The boardroom proceedings may also be recorded. The right screen is also a SMART Board (designed by Calgary's Smart Technologies Inc.), which can be controlled from the accompanying Symposium interactive lectern. With this technology, the speaker views the computer image of the presentation on the lectern's monitor, and uses a stylus to circle or underline key points or to add handwritten notes. These appear simultaneously on the SMART Board's plasma screen, which is displaying the presentation to the audience. With a simple tap on "save," software instantly converts the stylus notes into text within the presentation, which can be printed, e-mailed or posted online.

Other features of the boardrooms include a high-resolution camera capable of projecting any 3-D object onto one of the screens, voice and Web conferencing (as well as the video-Web conferencing mentioned above), hidden whiteboards that silently move into position, a touch-control screen and remote touch-screen for all equipment, including the sound system and the automated lighting.

The hotel's other contemporary meeting rooms all offer high-speed Internet access as well as teleconferencing. Another outstanding, ultra-modern meeting space is the 8th floor Club InterContinental boardroom, which also offers Wi-Fi capabilities, plasma television and DVD, 5-way teleconferencing and an idea-inspiring view of Lake Ontario.

Come meet – and meet the future – at the InterContinental Toronto Centre.

For additional information or visuals of the InterContinental Toronto Centre or to arrange an interview or visit, please contact Susan Willemsen, Renee Lalonde or Rebecca Kennedy at The Siren Group Inc. Tel: 416-926-8087. Fax: 416-926-9712. Email: info@thesirengroup.com