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By [Kitty Bean Yancey](#)

Friday, March 20, 2009

Chicago gets a "witty" Doubletree



A glass tower called [theWit Hotel](#) is due in downtown Chicago in May. It's a 298-room Doubletree -- the most cutting-edge one -- with a different, hip boutique twist.

There will be a rooftop lounge, a multi-level, digital screening room (this is a minitrend at cool hotels), a yoga room and, of course, a spa.

The screening room can hold 44 people, and can be used for personal parties or professional showings. As for its name: "theWit celebrates the unobvious humor in our world," a press release says.

Intro rates are due to start at about \$199.

What do you think? Can a brand famed for chocolate chip cookies compete in hipsterville?

Rendering courtesy of theWit Hotel

Posted at 01:19 AM/ET, March 20, 2009 in [New hotel watch](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comment](#) | [Recommend](#) **1**

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Let's share a laugh

Are you tired of worrying and getting a frown line etched on your brow?

Let's change the mood and have a laugh. I know I need one.

Please feel free to share the strangest or funniest thing that ever happened to you at a hotel. I'm thinking. Hmm. Well, maybe the time I was covering the new Miss America (Vanessa Williams) and neglected to make Atlantic City hotel reservations. I was young and more naive and liked to wing it.

I looked till midnight and finally found a hotel on an Atlantic City back street. The desk staffer looked seedy. The hotel (I've blocked out its name) looked seedy. The clientele looked seedy. I shuffled up to my room only to find that I couldn't lock the door from the inside. And then men started knocking. Apparently the hotel catered to by-the-hour business, and maybe it was assumed that women would be there for just one reason.

I moved a dresser in front of the door, yelled "Go Away!" in my most ferocious tone at anyone who knocked and sat up all night. At the time it wasn't funny at all; it was scary. And there was no room phone so I couldn't call the front desk or anyone. It was before I had a cellphone.

At dawn, I grabbed my bag and raced downstairs and out the door (I had to pay upfront the night before, another bad sign!). I was so relieved to be free and safe that I laughed at my stupidity and ran on adrenaline all day.

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