



GERBER GROUP

April 16th, 2019

# NEW YORK BUSINESS JOURNAL

## Classic jet lands at JFK Airport — as a TWA hotel bar (PHOTOS)

New Yorkers may have recently noticed a 79,000-pound jet being hauled through Manhattan's Times Square all the way to Queens.

Last week a 1958 "Constellation" built by [Lockheed Martin Corp.](#) (NYSE: LMT) was lifted by crane into the same spot at the TWA terminal — the same spot the aircraft was parked back in 1962 — in John F. Kennedy Airport (back when it was named Idlewild Airport).

The airplane, dubbed "Connie," will soon become the TWA Hotel.

After purchasing the dilapidated Connie N8083H in early 2018, New York-based MCR Development partnered with Atlantic Models/Gogo Aviation to return the craft to its original condition. As of this week, the fully restored plane has its wings.

"Connie" is now being transformed into a cocktail lounge, to be managed by Gerber Group.

The so-called "Sunken Lounge" is expected to be a swanky bar to debut at the landmark 512-room TWA Hotel on May 15.

"So much history has been made in The Sunken Lounge — crowds gathered to watch the Beatles arrive in the United States in 1965, and visitors saw the Tin Goose break a transcontinental record right outside the window in June 1962," says MCR Development CEO Tyler Morse.

Morse is leading the repurposing of Eero Saarinen's TWA Flight Center into a 512-room hotel and event space. Gerber, a New York-based restaurant operator, currently runs 11 cocktail bars and restaurants across New York, Atlanta, and Santiago, Chile.

Morse's goal is to re-introduce the "Mad Men" era lounge, likening it to a 1962 lounge but without the cigarette smoke. The adjacent TWA Hotel at JFK Airport began accepting reservations for its 1960s-themed guest rooms earlier this month. Rates start at \$249 per night.

The 512-room hotel sits in two low-rise buildings behind Saarinen's iconic TWA Flight Center, which has been closed since 2001 and which will serve as the hotel's lobby.

The hotel will also include a 10,000-square-foot rooftop observation deck with a pool; a 10,000-square-foot fitness facility with yoga, spinning and other amenities; as well as a museum devoted to the so-called "Jet Age" and the midcentury modern design movement.

