

**citizenM Menlo Park:  
Unity in Technology, Art, Fun, and Luxury**  
November 2023



**CitizenM, the hotel chain, is expanding its presence in the United States by opening a new hotel in Menlo Park – San Francisco Bay Area, famous for its concentration of techcompanies and venture capital firms. The hotel is located next to the Meta Campus designed by Frank Gehry, who was also involved in the urban planning of citizenM Menlo Park.**

CitizenM built the brand’s signature high-tech hotel at this location, emphasizing the significance of both indoor and outdoor elements. The hotel provides a space where modern travelers and Meta employees can seamlessly transition between activities—sleeping, working, dining, and enjoying the terrace playground. The incorporation of contemporary curated art and designer furniture enhances the overall experience, creating a harmonious blend of functionality and aesthetic appeal.

The new hotel is designed in three distinct volumes, each oriented towards different directions. Characterized by rational architecture, these spaces seamlessly blend the indoor and outdoor spaces. With a purposeful design aimed at maximizing functionality, the hotel achieves a harmonious balance between form and function—a testament to the "inside out" approach of concrete. Utilizing efficient and sustainable modular construction systems, CitizenM's modular approach minimizes waste and cuts development time.

*"We are thrilled to be opening up in Menlo Park, as this city has become one of the country's largest tech hubs. citizenM has always been designed to bridge remote and in-person work with private nooks and work options in our Living Rooms, plus societyM meeting rooms. This dynamic property will offer something completely unique to anything else in the area for Meta employees and mobile citizens alike,"* says **Robin Chadha, citizenM's Chief Brand Officer.**

### **Spatial & Versatile Design: The Indoor and Outdoor spaces**

The five-story, 79,400-square-foot hotel with 240 guestrooms embodies citizenM's philosophy of "affordable luxury," evident in the guest rooms designed to provide high-tech amenities, ultimate comfort, and captivating art. The guestrooms are smartly furnished with "everything modern travellers need, and nothing they don't." All features are designed to ensure a superior experience; from spacious XL king-size beds covering wall-to-wall space with an extra comfy mattress and luxurious bedding.

The entrance and public areas are located on the ground floor, aligned with the three volumes of the building to open up towards different sides of its surrounding. When approaching the building from Chilco street, a curved wall guides guest towards the entrance, concealing the garden while piquing curiosity about what lies beyond. Positioned within the building's knuckle, the entrance is easily identifiable. A similar recognizable entrance is provided from the parking lot on the other side, serving both the hotel and the third-party restaurant.

Upon entering citizenM, guests are greeted with a comprehensive view of the space and its offerings. Whether it's checking in at the self-check-in terminals, making use of the meeting rooms known as societyM, or heading straight to the beating heart of the hotel for a cocktail at the bar.

Reflecting the signature citizenM style, the public areas boast bespoke designs tailored to maximize space and context, incorporating typical elements that define the citizenM brand. The typical black plywood cabinets divide the space into smaller areas and living rooms. The cabinets are filled with curated art, greenery and styling and the living rooms are furnished with soft and colourful design from lifelong partner Vitra.

At the bar area the special feature of citizenM Menlo Park exposes itself; a large outdoor terrace and garden extend the indoor experience to the outdoors making use of the great all-season climate of Menlo Park.

The terrace, which is the heart of the hotel, features a playful environment for adults and doubles as a common area for informal meetings, working, and leisure during weekdays, as well as a weekend getaway for visitors. Offering various seating areas and zones, it provides guests with a range of colorful and unique experiences.

At the terrace-playground, guests can enjoy multiple facilities and spaces, including a game area with games like Kubb, a pergola with beer tables, and an air streamer bar. Whether guests prefer engaging in active games, relaxing in a shaded area, or savouring drinks in a unique setting, the terrace offers a versatile experience. The terrace and the surrounding area are lush green. The landscape design has been realized in collaboration with the San Francisco-based landscape architecture company In Situ. The emphasis on greenery adds a natural and soothing element to the overall ambiance.

Designed with versatility in mind, the hotel accommodates diverse needs, with the central building serving as a communal living room for all guests and visitors, the left one housing meeting rooms, and the right building featuring a third-party restaurant that creates a vibrant hub of activity.

### **Artistic Tapestry: citizenM's Inclusive Collaboration with Local Talent for a Unique Hotel Experience**

The commitment to art is a fundamental aspect of all citizenM hotels, using the architecture as a canvas for art. This distinctive approach provides guests with a unique experience, as each location reflects local culture through its art and architecture.

In celebration of the creative and diverse communities and its citizens in the Bay Area, citizenM organized an open call for artists in collaboration with Meta, seeking to infuse the hotel with unique and diverse artistic expressions. This resulted in the selection of three artists who were chosen to bring forth their unique artistic vision.

The talented Oakland-based artist Alexandra Bowman was selected to craft a colourful dynamic façade artwork, capturing the essence of the Bay Area's creative and varied communities. Accompanied by the iconic sculptural red stairs on either side, the Menlo Park location stands out as a visually distinctive landmark.

Additionally, Woody De Othello, a ceramicist and painter hailing from the Bay Area, draws inspiration from the varied Menlo Park community and the nearby wildlife sanctuary. The wallcovering he created, influenced by the concept of the passage of time, is prominently displayed upon entering the lobby.

For the in-room artwork, the works were sourced in collaboration with Jonathan Carver Moore, who recently founded a contemporary art gallery in San Francisco which specializes in working with both emerging and established BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and female artists.

**John Tenanes, Meta VP, Global Facilities and Real Estate said:** *“Connection is at the core of everything we do at Meta, especially in the communities where we live and work. We are proud to welcome citizenM to Menlo Park, connecting our employees and travelers to the local community through this cutting edge property.”*

## Notes to editors

**project:** citizenM Menlo Park  
**client:** citizenM

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**project location:**  
address: 2 Facebook Way  
city: Menlo Park (CA)  
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**project information:**  
project team concrete: Rob Wagemans, Ruud Davidse, Maarten de Geus, Angela Solaris, Tom Ruijken, Stevie Wesdorp  
start design: 2019  
opening: Q4 2023  
ground floor entrance lobby: 780 sq ft  
room floor area: 169 sq ft  
total constructed area: 90.868 sq ft GSA  
number of rooms: 240 keys

**project team:**  
executive architect: Baskervill, Richmond (VA)  
design architect: concrete, Amsterdam (NL)  
Landscape architect: In Situ, San Francisco (CA)  
structural engineer: DCI, Portland (OR)  
MEP consultant: Collectiv, New York (NY)  
Civil: Kier & Wright, Livermore (CA)  
General contractor: Mortenson, Kirkland (WA)  
Modular rooms: CIMC, Xinhui (CH)  
IT & security: Spartan, London (UK)  
shopfitter public spaces: Goebel, Hutchinson (SW)  
lighting: TDE, Diemen (NL)

FF&E procurement:	Absolute procurement, Portland (OR)
loose furniture:	Vitra, Alki, Herman Miller, E15, HAY, DWR
carpets:	Kvadrat, Kasthall, Moooi
outdoor furniture:	Kettal, Fermob, Loll design, HAY
pendant fixtures:	Moooi, Floss, Marset, &tradition, Tom Dixon, Artek, Moooi, Angle Poise, Herman Miller, Marset. Kettal

### **About citizenM**

citizenM was launched in 2008 with a purpose – to disrupt the traditional, stale hotel industry. Rattan Chadha – the founder of the global fashion brand Mexx – was inspired by his employees to create a hotel for today’s frequent travelers, giving them everything they need and nothing they don’t. This means central locations in the world’s most exciting cities, but at an affordable price. Not just a place to sleep, but somewhere to work, relax and play – just like home. Somewhere with superfast free Wi-Fi, tech that makes life easy, and world-class art that isn’t ‘hotel art’. A room with an ultra-comfortable XL bed to crash in, and a powerful rain shower to wake-up in. Rattan Chadha called this ‘affordable luxury for the people’.

The first citizenM opened at Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport in 2008. As of November 2023, citizenM’s portfolio has 32 hotels in 19 exciting cities: London, Glasgow, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Paris, Copenhagen, Zurich, Geneva, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Boston, Seattle, San Francisco, Washington DC, Chicago, Menlo Park, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur. [www.citizenM.com](http://www.citizenM.com) | [@citizenM](https://twitter.com/citizenM)

### **About Concrete:**

Concrete is a multidisciplinary interior and architecture studio innovative concepts that transcend traditional boundaries. Whether it's in architecture, interior design, urban design, branding and conceptual programming, our diverse talents converge to create unique and impactful solutions. Fundamentally, Concrete places people above buildings, recognizing that the essence of design lies in its human connection. We firmly believe that form should follow life, shaping environments that seamlessly integrate with the ways people live and interact. The West, Zoku, Urby, and MOOS, our residential projects, serve as tangible evidence of our ‘inside out’ approach.

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