



*For Immediate Release*

### **Virgin Hotels Appoints Director of Architecture and Technical Services Administration**

NEW YORK, September 18, 2013—Virgin Hotels, the four-star lifestyle hotel brand, announces the appointment of Jefferson Thomas as the Director of Architecture and Technical Services Administration (TSA).

Thomas' extensive hospitality experience includes 16 years with Marriott International in a variety of corporate capacities in design, construction, architecture and sustainability. He brings 28 years of architectural experience with over 12 years of LEED certification experience. At Marriott, he managed an average of 150 new construction projects at one time in all phases of development. Responsibilities included site plan reviews, architectural and interior design reviews, construction management and operational maintenance. He was responsible for the development of Marriott's "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED) volume program, working in conjunction with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the development of several Marriott brands. A LEED accredited professional, registered architect and certified project manager; Thomas has provided change management expertise to companies, owners and franchisees in the hospitality industry and other commercial building types. He holds a Masters in Business Administration, a Master's degree in Project Management, as well as a Bachelors degree of Architecture from Virginia Tech. He has been a LEED Accredited Professional since 2006 and is a member of the American Institute of Architects, and the Project Management Institute.

Virgin Hotels CEO Raul Leal said, "We are thrilled to have someone with Jefferson's qualifications joining the team. He will be intimately involved in the programming, design and technical services aspect of the brand. His experience as an architect and working with Marriott Hotels is invaluable as we work closely with our investors and owners on conversions and new build projects."

Virgin Hotels Chicago is scheduled to open in the summer of 2014, and a New York City property in the NoMad neighborhood will open in 2016. Other locations under consideration for Virgin Hotels properties include Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Palm Springs, San Francisco, Washington DC, London, and additional neighborhoods in New York City.

**About Virgin Hotels**

Virgin Hotels is a four-star lifestyle hotel brand in its initial development stage of acquiring, developing and managing properties in the US. The group seeks new development and conversions of existing hotels or office properties in major urban markets. Parties interested in partnering with Virgin Hotels may contact the company at [www.virginhotels.com](http://www.virginhotels.com) or 646-845-3494. Visit us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/virgin-hotels>.

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