

Glasshouse Review – October 2019

Have you ever wanted to stay in a glasshouse in the middle of Chicago? No? Me either, but boy I am glad that I did!

Six months ago, I read an article in 'Chicago Today' that a woman called Sarah had been given planning permission to build a 'greenhouse hotel' next to one of our great city's busiest bridges. I remember laughing out loud the first time I pictured this but then moved onto looking at another important article: I think it was about cats wearing bobble hats or something like that!

Then, two weeks ago, I received an email inviting me to stay and review a place called: 'The Glasshouse'. As one of the top bloggers on hotel living in Chicago, of course I was the first choice for the woman named Sarah to review her (ridiculous) hotel idea. This woman, who had spent all her life-savings producing this unique building, seriously wanted people to pay to visit this place? Remembering the article and how I had laughed (and dismissed it for bobble wearing cats) I jumped at the chance to visit. But I am not afraid to admit it, I wanted to go to laugh some more at this idea as I honestly thought it was ridiculous!

Staying in October didn't fill me with confidence as we all know how cold Chicago can get, but when I first set my eyes on the Glasshouse I was blown-away. (Who was laughing now!?) The panes of glass looked like stained glass and the colours were so strong and vivid. Every pane of glass was a different size and shape, some clear and some colourful. My room for the night was a beacon of light against the Chicago skyline.

However, the sound of the cars screeching across the bridge was mildly distracting and I really think the beeping of the car horns was unnecessary! This building may be beautiful, but sleeping was a necessary part of hotel life!

Furthermore, I can't deny that my biggest concern was that every person passing would be able to see me inside as I watch TV and slept (I didn't think about when I would need to go to the toilet!) as the glasshouse was completely see-through and it was only 2 meters from the waterfront: one of the biggest attractions in Chicago.

Venturing inside, I dumped my belongings on the floor and looked around. Everything seemed bigger on the inside like Doctor Who's TARDIS! But the inside was as clean as a whistle and everything was modern and new.

I then read the 'welcome pack' on the bed (I adore a good hotel welcome pack) and guess what? With the woosh of a switch the outside world disappears, from the inside and outside! What an amazing idea, how Sarah created this design feature I do not know!

My stay was comfy and cosy. I managed to find the setting where I could see the beautiful world outside but passers-by couldn't see me! (Toilet dilemma over!) It was magical watching the lights of the city, the boats on the river and people stopping to admire the glasshouse; not realising I was inside! Furthermore, I couldn't hear any noise from outside, the screech of tyres was forgotten and was replaced by a lovely deafening silence.

I would 100% recommend a stay at the glasshouse and I commend Sarah for her creative, unique and inspiring design.

Outside may be chaos, but inside is calm, peaceful and a kaleidoscope of colour. I hate to admit being wrong, but I was completely, utterly and 100% wrong!

