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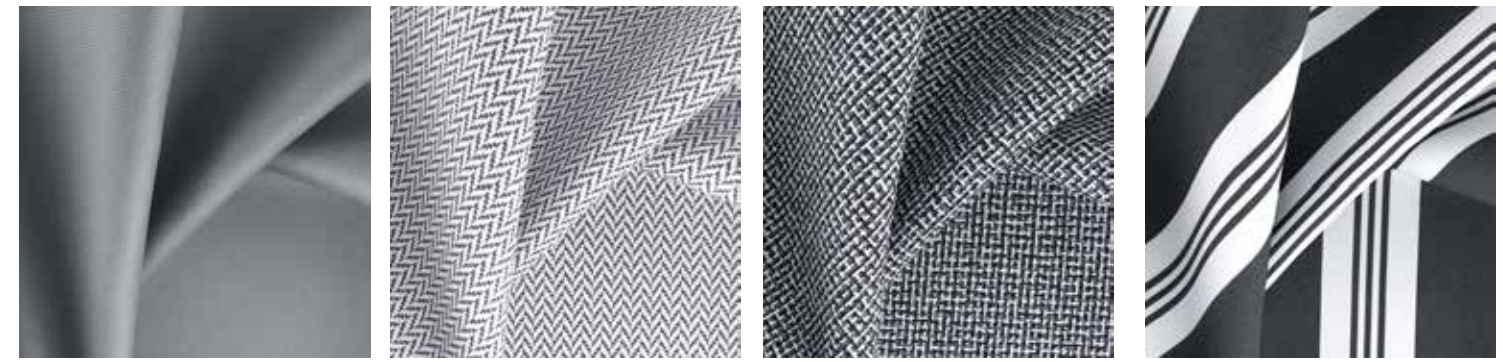
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Indoor/Outdoor easy clean fabrics







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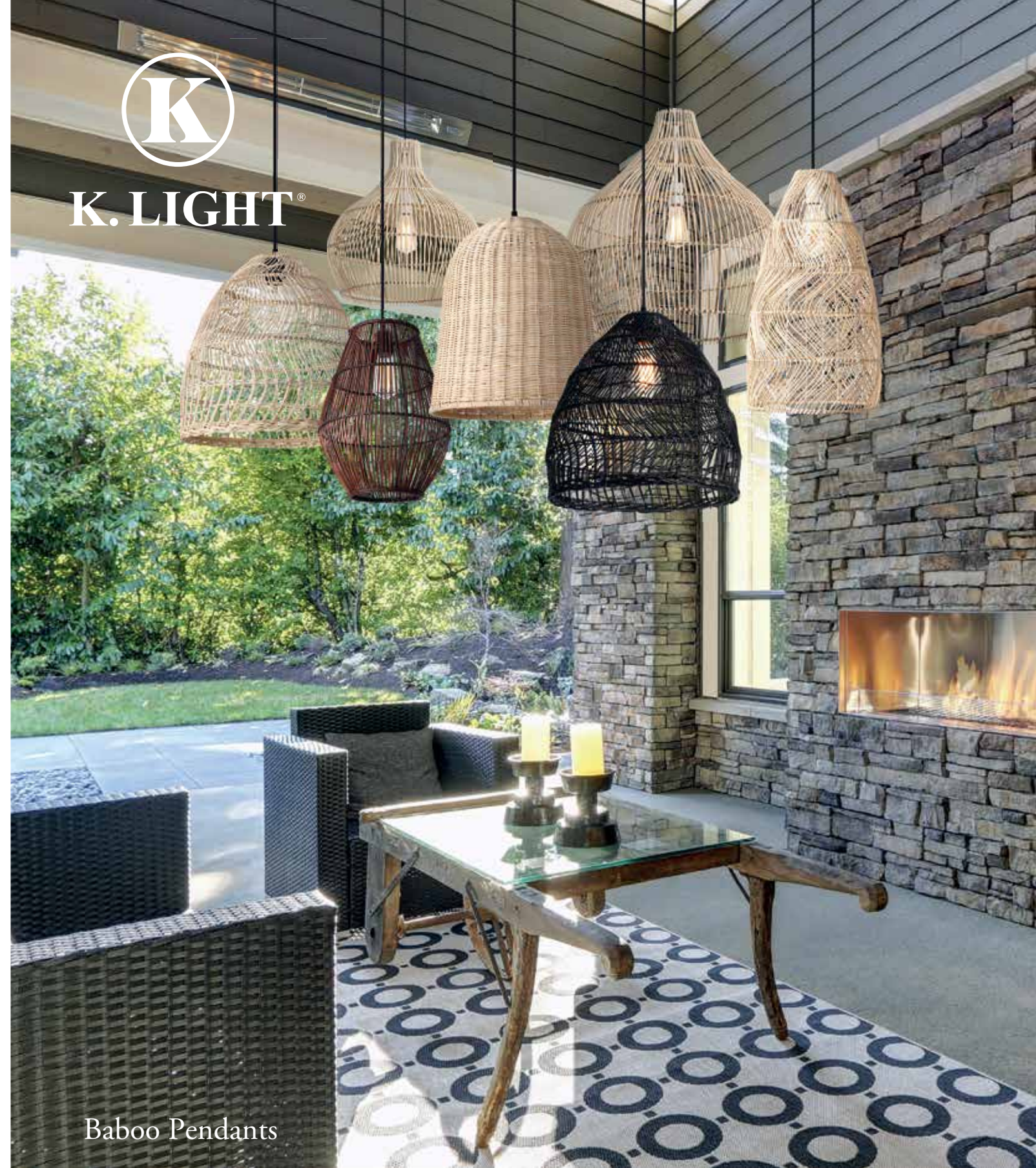
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Coulisse acquiring Lienesch. Left to right: Ruud de Lange, Christiaan Roetgering, Bennie Lienesch, Maurice Roetgering, and Jens Niermeyer.



Coulisse expands with acquisitions of Lienesch and Sensuna:

Pioneers in honeycomb and pleated window coverings

Coulisse, a world-leading player in window coverings, will acquire Lienesch International BV in Haaksbergen, the Netherlands and Sensuna GmbH in Plauen, Germany effective January 1st 2024. The takeovers will further strengthen Coulisse's global position in the field of honeycomb and pleated textiles and systems in the interior shading market. The turnover of Coulisse is expected to increase to 200 million euros in 2024, with around 350 employees.

Complete honeycomb and pleated solution

The acquisitions bring together the long-standing knowledge and expertise of Coulisse, Lienesch, and Sensuna in developing and manufacturing a total solution of honeycomb and pleated fabrics, systems, and motorisation. The extensive global network of distributors, assembly partners, and retailers of the three companies now has the convenience of sourcing a comprehensive product range from a single supplier.

Christiaan Roetgering, CEO at Coulisse: "In line with our shared vision, our goal is to offer customers the ultimate total solution for honeycomb and pleated shades. This collaboration is a significant stride towards positioning Coulisse at the forefront of the window covering business with a particular focus on energy-efficient and future-proof solutions for smart homes and buildings worldwide."

Lienesch fabric specialists

With over twenty years of experience, Lienesch has become a pioneering specialist in honeycomb and pleated fabrics since it was founded by Bennie

Lienesch in 2001. Having started working together in 2011, the strategic collaboration between Coulisse and Lienesch has led to the launch of the energy-saving Honeycell® fabric collection. Thanks to excellent knowledge of textiles, continual innovation, and close relationships with the market, Lienesch offers high-quality and inspiring fabrics for interior shading. After the acquisition, the textile production facilities will remain in Haaksbergen, the Netherlands.

Bennie Lienesch, Founder of Lienesch: "We are thrilled to join forces with Coulisse as it opens up new opportunities for us in the global market. Combining our expertise in honeycomb and pleated fabrics with Coulisse's proficiency in systems and smart automation creates a winning formula. We eagerly anticipate elevating our business to new heights."

Sensuna system experts

To complete the honeycomb and pleated total solution, Coulisse will acquire Sensuna from owners Hartmut Knauth and Kathrin Kaiser in Plauen, Germany. The company specialises in the production of made-to-measure honeycomb and pleated blind systems, which are delivered to online sales channels. With this acquisition, Coulisse

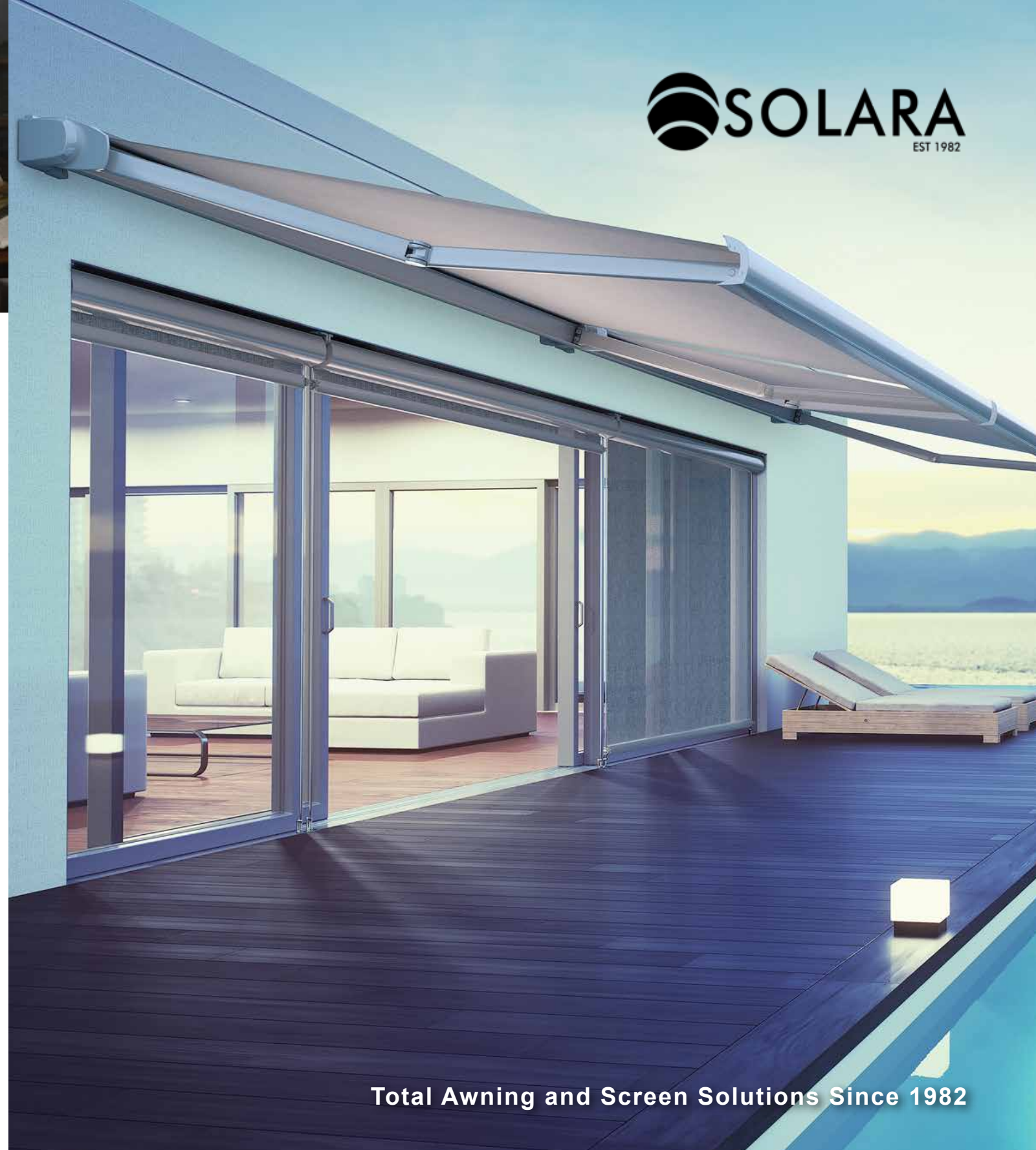
will partner with Window Fashion AG. All previous Sensuna activities and the production facilities of Window Fashion AG will be transferred into the new joint-venture Smart Shades GmbH.

Andreas Schreiber, CEO of Window Fashion AG: "This new venture marks a strategic investment in advancing our production capabilities for honeycomb and pleated blinds. With Coulisse, we aspire to push the boundaries of production robotisation."

Dual presence at R+T 2024

In response to recent developments, Coulisse is set to present its latest innovations across two booths at the upcoming R+T trade fair in Stuttgart in February 2024. The MotionBlinds smart home booth will feature an immersive room, smart device room and exclusive product launches. Simultaneously, the joint booth featuring Lienesch and Coulisse will showcase the latest pleated and honeycomb fabrics, with a focus on the new range of recycled materials. This underscores the commitment to sustainability and energy-efficient solutions, aligning perfectly with current market priorities. dw

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Give your kitchen a feeling of home sweet home this festive season

by Dulux

There is no place like our kitchens in our homes, especially during the much-anticipated festive season. A kitchen is essentially the soul of any home, it's where we go to nourish our bodies, it's also the part of our home where the best bonding takes place. We share stories of the day that has just passed, reminisce on fond family memories, and of course, add a little bit of the odd gossip story here and there.

Taking inspiration from the recently launched Dulux Colour of the Year 2024, Sweet Embrace™, which has shown how people are looking to utilise colour in redefining their place in the world, here are some of the latest kitchen colour trends we have been seeing in 2023 so far as we head towards the festive season.

Global earthy tones to keep your kitchen warm

Global earthy tones are warm neutrals which are grounding and timeless, reminding you of home, a place that feels comfortable and safe, and combines shades of stone, soil and clay. They can help create a personal space that is familiar and embracing – somewhere we can feel snug and find comfort. They are known to bring the essence of nature and tranquillity, truly setting up the mood of the moment when you are busy cooking your favourite dishes for your family during this festive season.

Fluid natural tones to keep your kitchen calm

These spontaneous tones evoke thoughts of nature, and the essence of what life is. Bringing together the soft greens and blues of the woods and sea, you can create a quiet kitchen where you can clear your mind, feel peaceful, hear the chirping sound of birds outside and understand the value of the simpler things. Recent Dulux ColourFutures™



Global earthy tones to keep your kitchen warm



Fluid natural tones to keep your kitchen calm



Modern pastel tones to keep your kitchen joyful


research suggests that many consumers like the idea of bringing nature closer than ever. Consumers are looking to slow down their thoughts and immerse themselves into the intricacies of preparing their food as well.

Modern pastel tones to keep your kitchen joyful

Modern pastels are known to put a smile on your face with dreamy lilacs and modern yellows to create a friendly, light-hearted space where you feel energised, joyful, and open to new possibilities. This sets a scene where you get your creative juices flowing to cook super dishes, and

most importantly, get that much-needed joy you crave when preparing food for your family.

Discover how Sweet Embrace™ and the new Dulux Colour of the Year palettes could turn your kitchen into a warm and inviting space with the Dulux Visualizer App during this festive season. It is the perfect companion to help provide a little colour guidance for your kitchen revamp.

For more tips and colour inspiration, visit the Dulux social pages Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest or Instagram. 

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Cosentino Announces Dekton® Ukiyo, a first-of-its-kind fluted collection with designer Claudia Afshar

As one of the first to feature fluted tiles, Cosentino continues to bring cutting-edge, sustainable solutions to the world of design

Cosentino, the global leader in the production of sustainable surfaces for architecture and design, announces Dekton® Ukiyo, a new textured collection that is available in ready-to-install fluted tiles, one of the first offerings of its kind in the industry.

The collection, which offers livable luxury with the durability of Dekton®, was created in collaboration with internationally recognised interior and product designer Claudia Afshar. Dekton®, which is full life-cycle carbon neutral, was selected for the collection due to its sustainable properties and high-performance capabilities.

Dekton® Ukiyo was inspired by Japanese and contemporary design. Celebrating the art of minimalism and embracing the present, Ukiyo – which means ‘to live in the moment’ – is designed to awaken the senses and evoke a feeling of harmonious wellness.

‘Playing with texture is timeless, and it is so important in all materials, not just fabric,’ said Claudia Afshar. ‘I have always been inspired by the materials found in

nature and making the spaces I design as comfortable, warm and authentic as possible. Ukiyo is calming yet simplistic, and the colourways and fluting are romantic, but also contemporary and masculine, to achieve balance.’

Dekton® Ukiyo, whose textures bring distinctive depth and dimension to any space, residential or commercial, is ideal for a virtually limitless range of vertical cladding applications, from facades and fireplaces to custom furniture and so much more. It is available in a matte finish and two fluting options: GV2, with grooves 5 mm wide and 3 mm deep, and set 25 mm apart; and GV3, with grooves 4 mm wide and deep, and set 11 mm apart. Both come in tile size 450 mm x 3 000 mm.

To launch the Ukiyo offering, and provide a comprehensive colour palette that works both independently and together, Afshar hand-selected five existing Dekton® colourways.

- **Dark-grey ‘Bromo’,** inspired by homogeneous metamorphic rocks

such as slate, offers subtle, faded graphics, a carefully created texture and a natural aesthetic perfect for any type of environment.

- **Grey ‘Kreta’,** inspired by classic cement floors, provides darker or lighter areas depending on the density of the pattern, and a matte texture that combines with any type of material and makes it suitable for diverse applications.
- **‘Nacre’,** which has high decorative value with its different reliefs and scattered gradients, shows the trowel marks that bring the colour to life, a subtle interplay of light and shadow in the design, and a silky finish.
- **Timeless terracotta ‘Umber’** has a special charisma, warm and very attached to the earth, and closely connected to nature.
- **Intricate ‘Rem’** has fine brown and grey veining and hints of gold under a subtle grain. dw

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BHC School of Design

The introduction of four new online courses at BHC School of Design in collaboration with VISI - namely, Introduction to Furniture Design, Lighting Design, Materials and Finishes in Interior Design, and Interior Decorating Core Principles - marks a significant stride toward addressing the dynamic needs of the design industry. In the ever-evolving realm of design, these courses hold paramount importance as they cater to the burgeoning demand for specialised skills in key niches. Introduction to Furniture Design, for instance, delves into the art and science of functional and aesthetically pleasing furniture pieces, equipping students with the ability to blend creativity with practicality. The course fosters a deep understanding of materials, ergonomics,

and design principles, ensuring that graduates possess the expertise to begin their journey into crafting or sourcing appropriate furniture pieces that are not only visually striking but also highly functional, aligning with the industry's emphasis on both form and utility.

Simultaneously, the Lighting Design course emerges as a response to the growing recognition of lighting as a pivotal element in shaping spatial experiences. In a world where lighting design extends beyond mere functionality to become a key component of ambiance and mood, this course imparts knowledge about the principles of light, its interaction with spaces, and the integration of cutting-edge lighting technologies. Graduates

THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONS

emerge with the ability to design lighting schemes that enhance both residential and commercial spaces, responding to the industry's demand for professionals who can seamlessly blend aesthetics with the technical intricacies of lighting systems.

The Materials and Finishes in Interior Design course further contributes to the comprehensive skill set demanded by the industry. In an era where sustainability and eco-conscious design are at the forefront, understanding materials becomes paramount. This course not only delves into the aesthetics of various materials but also scrutinises their environmental impact, providing students with the insight to make informed choices in their designs. By focusing on the lifecycle of materials and the significance of responsible resourcing, graduates are poised to meet the industry's increasing need for designers who can navigate the delicate balance between creativity and sustainability.

The Interior Decorating Core Principles course acts as a foundational pillar, ensuring that students grasp the fundamentals of interior design before delving into specialised areas. It covers the basics of spatial planning, color theory, and design principles, providing a well-rounded knowledge base that serves as a springboard for the more specialised courses. This holistic approach is crucial in producing designers who not only excel in their chosen niches but also understand the interdisciplinary nature of design. Such a foundation is highly relevant to industry needs, where professionals are increasingly expected to collaborate across different facets of design and bring a holistic perspective to their projects.

The outcomes of these courses extend beyond theoretical knowledge, emphasising hands-on experiences and practical applications. Students engage in real-world projects, allowing them to apply their theoretical understanding to practical scenarios. Whether it is designing a functional and sustainable piece of furniture, conceptualising an immersive

lighting experience, selecting eco-friendly materials, or orchestrating a cohesive interior design scheme, graduates emerge with a portfolio that reflects their ability to address contemporary challenges in the design landscape. The industry, in turn, benefits from a pool of professionals who not only possess specialised skills but also demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the broader context in which design operates.

In essence, these four new courses at BHC School of Design in collaboration with VISI are not merely educational endeavours; they are strategic responses to the evolving needs of the design industry. As design continues to intertwine with technological advancements, sustainability imperatives, and shifting aesthetic preferences, these courses equip students with the agility and expertise required to navigate the complexities of the contemporary design landscape. By cultivating a new generation of designers who are not only proficient in their specialised domains but also possess a holistic understanding of design principles, BHC School of Design together with VISI are poised to make a lasting impact on the industry, shaping professionals who can drive innovation, sustainability, and aesthetic excellence in equal measure. dw

www.iidprofessions.org.za



KSA update, December 2023.

Top five students in our 2023 Student Kitchen Design Project.

It gives us great pleasure to bring the year to a close by acknowledging the top five students in our 2023 Student Kitchen Design Project. Their journey started in February this year where interior design students from eighteen campuses and institutions nation wide were introduced to the project. Each campus received a goodie box containing

a variety of material samples from KSA supplier members to assist in their creative journey. They also received an amazing hardware trolley – a large movable hardware demo box showing them various hardware options from basic to high end – this was sponsored by Blum, Gelmar, Sonae Arauco and Easylife Kitchens.

This year the students could choose from two briefs. The first was to design a vibrant kitchen space for a young couple, one of whom was physically impaired and used a wheelchair and walker. This presented many new accessibility challenges for the students with them having to research the needs of a physically impaired person. The second brief was to design for a left-handed single mother of four children under the age of twelve. Here the priority was a safe space, multi-use space where the kids could work alongside mom while gaining independence safely in the kitchen space. Researching and understanding adaptive design for a left-handed person was something new to most students. In both briefs the students were given budgets to work within.

When it came to assessing the projects the KSA was not only looking at the aesthetical design. A beautiful design is of no use if it is not practically viable, if it used impractical materials and if it is not in the client's budget. As such the students had to do well in all areas of the project in order to be considered for the top five. Budgeting and understanding materials were a key component as well as students showing they grasped the standard sizing's of carcasses in kitchen design. Working to the client's brief and delivering what they asked for was also vital.

Our huge congratulations go out to our top five and two special mention students for 2023

- **Cindy McKenzie**, 2nd year student from Greenside Design Centre in Gauteng
- **Nichole Aikman**, 2nd year student from Vega Schools in Gauteng
- **Lorraine Ditshego**, 3rd year student from TUT in Gauteng
- **Lynise Koekemoer**, 2nd year student from Vega Schools in Gauteng
- **Paige Clendennen**, 2nd year student from Vega Schools in Gauteng

Special mentions went to:

- **Zakiyya Soomra**, 2nd year student from Vega Schools in Cape Town

- **Tiago Gonsalves**, 3rd year student from UJ in Gauteng

Each of these students have been offered intern positions with a KSA kitchen company. We wish them the best of success and hope to see them designing in our industry full time in the future.

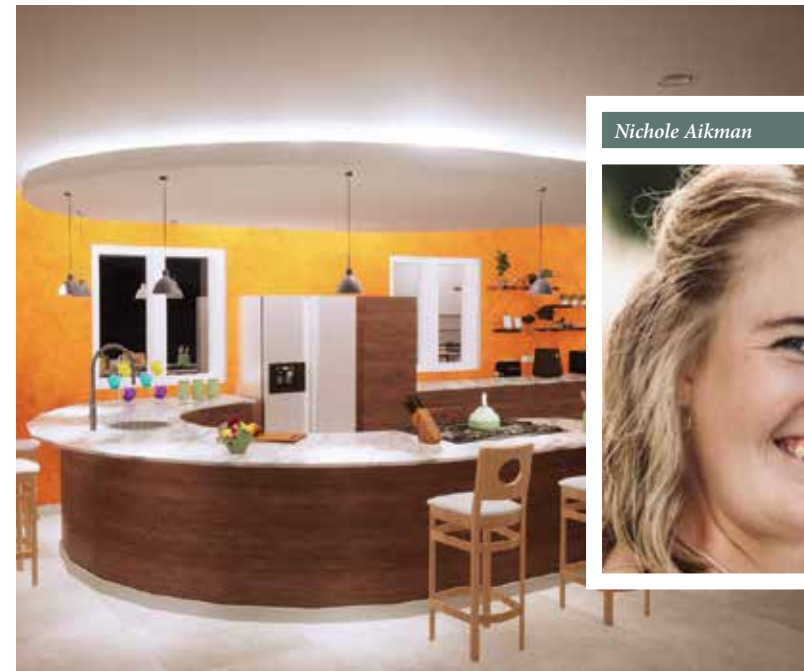
We have already started work on the 2024 project in collaboration with the IID and the various tertiary institutions –



Lorraine Ditshego



Lynise Koekemoer



Nichole Aikman




Cindy McKenzie



Paige Clendennen



Vega Schools, Design Time, Inscape, TUT, UJ, Potchefstroom Academy, Greenside Design Centre, Nelson Mandela Bay University, DUT, CPUT and BHC Design School. The 2024 project will focus on two themes – multi generational living and geriatric design. Tertiaries will commence with the project from February 2024 with submissions being due at the end of September.

We would like to close by thanking all our members for their hard work during 2023 and for their ongoing support of and cooperation with the KSA. We are looking forward to seeing them all back, ready to tackle 2024 after a well-deserved rest – with industry shutdown starting on the 14 December. 

www.ksa.co.za



“RESTORE, RENEW, REIMAGINE”

by Mellet & Human Architects

In 2022 Mellet & Human Architects was approached by Leon Swanepoel of Swapri Projects to assist in the design of alterations and additions to the existing residence at 302 Edward Street in Waterkloof. Built in the early seventies, occupied by the original owners until now, this Grande Dame was ready for rehabilitation to former grandeur, but in rhythm with today’s easy living.

With its distinctive slate roof and curved gabled roof windows, the house has always



been admired by Pretoria residents as a landmark Waterkloof property originally designed by Dutch architect John van de Werke. It was master-built by the previous owners over a period of four years, with meticulous detail and no expense spared. The house was however in need of being upgraded and extended to an executive residential level suitable for today’s modern family life.

The brief to the architects was to restore, renew and reimagine the property, and to specifically include the following:

- The north sloping garden had to be levelled and re-designed as a more functional outdoor space. A pool with adjacent entertainment pavilion was a necessity with new boundary walls added for additional privacy.
- Existing parking facilities were insufficient. A new interleading garage as well as additional covered and guest parking had to be considered in the redesign.
- Ground floor living areas consisting of entrance foyer, guest bathroom, library, lounge and dining room, and living room had to be mainly refurbished.
- The kitchen had to be upgraded, enlarged and modernised.
- The three dark first floor bedrooms had small windows not utilising views, and the rooms shared only two bathrooms. The challenging

requirement was to provide five ensuite bedrooms, a small TV lounge and kitchenette, more natural light, utilising views as far as possible.

- Overall, the client wanted the house to resemble a unique signature residence, competing with the best the capital city can offer.

Mellet & Human Architects, in providing their design solution, decided to give recognition to the history of the house, and the original Van de Werke design. New additions and changes to the structure were to be modern, with the intention of contrasting with the old, rather than blending in. Many original architectural elements like doors, windows, and wrought iron steel pergolas, were re-used in the design. All existing, originally blacksmith crafted, wrought iron steel fences, were re-used and incorporated in the new boundary walls, and entrance sliding gates.

A significant cost was incurred in the design and construction of garden retaining walls, and levelling the sloping garden, and new boundary walls for privacy and security. The northern retaining wall and levelled garden provide sufficient space for a new pool pavilion positioned to the east, in order to provide privacy from the neighbouring property. The pavilion overlooks the pool and garden. One of the existing steel pergolas was re-used and provides extended outdoor space. Views from the garden are

provided towards the Union Buildings. A borehole and automated irrigation system were added for cost effective easy maintenance of the professionally landscaped garden.

On the southern side of the house, the steep unusable slope towards Edward Street was terraced with retaining walls, creating a herb and vegetable garden, with additional outdoor seating areas. Existing trees were kept as far as possible in the newly landscaped and irrigated garden.

The new entrance gate provides access to the guest parking courtyard, and new double garage linked to the entrance foyer. A water feature provides a focal point, and another re-used steel pergola shades the two guest parking bays. Additional secondary parking is provided underneath the pool pavilion on the lower ground floor which is accessible from a secondary entrance driveway.

Lower ground floor also provides space for a possible gymnasium, home theatre, or games room. Additionally a main laundry is provided on lower ground floor, as well as private domestic quarters with kitchen facility.

Ground floor main living areas consisting of a grand entrance foyer with exceptional curved wooden staircase, lounge, dining room, library, and TV lounge were mostly refurbished. Exceptional Master crafted solid kiaat doors, window frames; wood panelling, beams, and shelving were all restored to

their former glory. Uniquely detailed and functional fireplaces in the library, lounge, and TV room are all retained.

The existing kitchen was extended to the south, with glass sliding doors leading onto a breakfast patio, and terraced vegetable and herb garden. A light tower was incorporated in the kitchen extension, opening up vertical southern views, and to provide northern light into the kitchen.

On first floor where the three existing bedrooms were to be extended to five ensuite bedrooms, the architects realised a lot of floor space was lost due to the intricate roof design. Using this space however required intricate architectural and structural design. Extensions are expressed externally as modern glass boxes, bringing in natural light, and views to the outside. New electrically operated skylights provide natural sunlight to the centrally positioned TV lounge, double volume staircase and internal passage.

Internally dark face brick walls are plastered and painted, for a lighter interior. Externally existing face brick walls are also plastered, as indicated on the original construction drawings. The distinctive original gabled roof windows on the western street elevation are reminiscent of the past.

302 Edward Street, has, through the client’s vision and the architect’s design solution, been restored, rejuvenated, and reimagined. History is acknowledged, and the landmark residence, now measuring

a total of 914 square metres, is given a new lease on life, by adapting to the requirements of modern upmarket living.

List of professionals and companies involved:

- **Architect:** Mellet & Human Architects CC
- **Interior Design:** Studio 8
- **Contractor:** Prestige Builders (Pty) Ltd
- **Structural Engineer:** CJG Le Roux Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd
- **Developer:** Swapri Projects (Pty) Ltd
- **Landscape Architect:** JJ Hosten Landscape Architect
- **Landscape Installer:** The Garden Group
- **Swimming Pool:** Penguin Pools dw

www.mellethuman.co.za





Cosmocité: A Contemporary Showcase for the Scientific Culture of Metropolitan Grenoble

Le Pont-de-Claix, France



The architectural consortium comprised of ARCANÉ Architectes (France) and Cardin Julien (Canada) is delighted to unveil the new Centre de Sciences Cosmocité, built on the Grands Moulins de Villancourt heritage site in Pont-de-Claix, Isère (France).

The building's bold design, conceived by architects Jean-Yves Guibourdenche and Jean-François Julien, is in line with the museum concept developed by scenographer CREO, in close collaboration with La Casemate and the scientific community.

Cosmocité aims to preserve the industrial memory of the Grands Moulins de Villancourt site, which was an important part of the industrial and human heritage of the urban agglomeration and the municipalities of Echirolles and Pont-de-Claix in the 19th and 20th centuries.

With its location at the municipality's northern entrance, Cosmocité is the

cultural cornerstone of Ville de Pont-de-Claix's urban renewal.

The commission

Taking up the exact placement layout of the demolished building, which could not be reused, the architects created an assemblage of volumes that link the region's industrial past, embodied by the white volume, with the contemporary scientific focus of the new institution embodied by the black volume.

The translucent, glossy white volume houses the passageways and related spaces, while the matte and opaque black volume houses all spaces dedicated to the dissemination of scientific content: the planetarium, immersion room, and permanent exhibition hall. Recalling the universe's great mysteries and humankind's place in the cosmos, the black volume's monolithic, dark, and mysterious quality invites onlookers to fathom its scale, and to reflect on its infinite expanse.

Inside, the vertical and horizontal corridors are bathed in natural light, and offer views of the surrounding landscape.

The volumetric design reflects the building's function and contributes to the site's global message: science that is welcoming and open to all.





The programme

Cosmocité houses:

- An 80-seat planetarium, equipped with a stargazing simulator. The role of a planetarium is to teach and popularise astronomy and space science for both school and family audiences.
- A permanent tour based on two themes: "EARTH" and "COSMOS". An immersive 3D room, with interactive floor and wall screens
- A 14-metre-high Foucault pendulum
- A variable activity space: children/youth audience area and a modular room
- Additional facilities: reception, services, administration, and logistics
- A roof terrace overlooking the Grenoble basin and its surrounding mountains
- The facility is designed to welcome around 57,000 visitors per year, including 20,000 school children.

The planetarium

Circular and inclined at 10°, the space can be accessed via a vision adaptation waiting area and an acoustic airlock. With

a capacity of 80, including four spaces for people with reduced mobility, it is equipped with reclining seats, providing a 360° view of a semi-spherical screen, 13 metres in diameter. It is lined with a circular technical gallery and a data centre.

The permanent exhibition

The architectural team called on the Montreal-based digital studio CREO to create the Cosmocité scenography. To meet the numerous requirements of this ambitious project, CREO put together a multidisciplinary design team, who worked in close collaboration with the project's Grenoble-based scientific committee, as well as with Centre de Culture Scientifique, Technique et Industrielle de Grenoble.

Cosmocité's highly interactive exhibition is designed to answer fundamental questions such as: Is the Earth unique? Is it possible to predict everything? Spread over two floors, it covers everything from the birth of stars to the causes of earthquakes. In addition, a 14-metre-high Foucault pendulum

spans the building to demonstrate the Earth's rotation.

A bioclimatic design

The building has been designed to balance the space of the west-facing garden with that of the eastern forecourt. The hall and staircase are glazed to capture free energy from the sun, and to encourage the public to use the staircase to climb to the upper floors. However, this solar energy is controlled by screen-printed glass to prevent overheating.

To the west, the building opens onto the garden and the Vercors landscape, while the cantilevered planetarium hall shelters it from the summer sun.

Interior characteristics

The acoustic comfort has been carefully studied to avoid any sound transfer between spaces, as well as towards and from outside areas.

Summer thermal comfort is ensured by:

- A heat inert cement structure;
- Efficient solar protection: 50%

screen-printed glass on the east facade, sunbreaker structures on the west facade, and external solar shading;

- Openings for natural ventilation;
- Air quality is ensured by a double-flow system, with adapted flow rates and filters.

Energy optimisation

Energy efficiency is primarily about reducing the building's thermal requirements, which is made possible via a compact construction and a high-performance envelope.

The building's main structure is in reinforced concrete, which is insulated from the outside to eliminate thermal bridges and the associated risk of condensation, and to benefit from an inertia conducive to summer comfort.

The building envelope's performance has been designed to be well below the French regulatory threshold in terms of energy requirements. Heating is provided by way of a district heating system, and cooling by way of heat pumps.





Landscaping

To the east of the building, overlooking Cours Saint-André, an urban stone forecourt accommodates the varying flow of visitors drawn to this site and its activities. To the west, a garden and its outdoor amphithéâtre form a buffer zone between the parking lots and the Centre de Sciences. To the south, a conserved hundred-year-old cedar tree serves as a reminder of the city's continuing renewal.

- **Scenography:** CREO, François Tourny (engineer)
- **Specialists:** Immersive room and Planetarium: RSA Cosmos / Theoriz
- **Environmental quality:** Etamine
- **Road works and various networks:** MTM Infra
- **Acoustics:** Echologos
- **Construction:** A.C.G.P. CACI, Biming, BIOTOPE, BOA, CBMA, CISEPZ, CANCELÉ, CIOLFI,

DECOTECH, EGT, ELTS, FEDD, Globocess AG, Groupe Eode, INEO, Ingérop, IRELEM, Isère Aménagement, Kaléo, Laye, Maq2, Pélassard, PVI, RTE Dauphiné, Schindler, Sinequanon, SMAC, SOCOTEC, Terideal, TDMI

- Photo credit: Nicolas Trouillard 

www.arcane-archi.fr
www.cardinjulien.com/en

Technical sheet

- **Project name:** Cosmocité
- **Location:** Le Pont-de-Claix, Grenoble, France
- **Client:** Grenoble Alpes Métropole
- **Direction/cultural and scientific programming:** La Casemate
- **Scientific curator:** UGA / CNRS / OSUG
- **Year of completion:** 2023
- **Floor area:** 2 114 m²
- **Architecture:** ARCANE Architectes and Cardin Julien
- **Engineering:** Mechanical-electrical engineering: CET Bâtiment & Energie [AK1] [ÉP2]
- **Structural and economy:** BETREC I.G
- **Landscape architecture:** Atelier Verdance



Flooring



Modern Floors

by Stienie Greyling

Flooring trends change from year to year, as a consequence of the imposition of new standards to be respected. In addition to this, the development of the technologies used makes it possible to obtain a greater variety of choices. 2024 modern floors are perfect for spaces with a minimal chic style. The most popular are those made of resin and wood-effect porcelain stoneware tiles. The preferred format is the large one and this flooring is applied evenly throughout the house, so as to give the impression of very large spaces. As for the colours, neutral ones harmonise with styles of furniture: light grey, anthracite grey or sand.

Wood is the material for floors that never goes out of style. However, the brown tones fell off the podium, giving way to more delicate nuances. Therefore, one of the trends of the moment is to use bleached wood. This is a process that removes the brown cover through the use of a specific chemical.

The result is a softened, bleached wood perfect for lighting a room. This neutral shade manages to fit harmoniously with any furniture or furniture accessories.



Floor colour trends 2024.

2024 will be the year of natural colours, from grey to lighter shades. Dark colours will not be out of fashion, but still they will not hold the podium of trends. Industry, specialists recommend avoiding too intense shades such as red.

The most popular shades in 2024.

- White or white undertones: by choosing this colour one will get a super bright and relaxing room.

- Classic grey: it is a colour that chosen in its various shades combines perfectly with the other colours. It will therefore be very simple to furnish the various rooms with the floor of this nuance.
- Walnut: if one wants warm and welcoming rooms, choose the natural colour of the wood.

Large porcelain tiles and hexagon.

With the increasing popularity of oversized porcelain stoneware used by

homeowners in kitchen and bathroom renovations, it is also expected to see an increase in these types of patterns and shapes.

Hexagon tiles have been in the spotlight for some time now, especially when used in the kitchen or bathroom. In 2024 we will see hexagonal tiles, as well as various other shapes in large sizes that will take place in living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. These patterns create beautiful effects in any room.

Drop patterns are also becoming more

common and will continue to grow in popularity throughout 2024. They can display different textures, sizes and colours of the floor which end up binding into each other.

Why an Area Rug?

An area rug can be the perfect way to add a touch of comfort, utility and style to any room. Area rugs give aesthetic oomph to any home, but they have practical purposes too. Rugs protect floors and define room layout

They will soften hard surfaces and absorb moisture in wet zones like kitchens and bathrooms. The latest on-trend rugs are designed to make a stunning visual impact, while offering practical benefits that will leave you doubly thrilled with your choice. From sustainable materials to statement patterns, the newest area rugs are sure to bring a touch of magic to a living space.

The Vintage and vintage-inspired area rug trend will continue to enchant in 2024. With a connection to the past, these rugs boast a charming, worn-in appearance that adds character and nostalgia. Rugs with faded, distressed or weathered designs effortlessly blend the old with the new. That quality makes them an excellent choice for creating a timeless aesthetic.



Battilossi Moodboards, Silver & Coral Palette

Battilossi Moodboards

Thinking outside the carpet

Thinking outside the box is the natural path of a creative mind. Since its foundation in 1959, Battilossi has grown to become one of the points of reference for the world of carpets at an international level.

Originally established as a family of merchants and collectors, it transformed with the passage of the second generation into a company producing contemporary carpets, which interpret textile art as a territory of infinite experimentation. In Battilossi carpets, tradition is constantly reinvented, enhanced from collection to collection by new expressive languages which, in line with the company's DNA, testify to its continuous path of research.

With an innovative spirit, Battilossi today responds to the design and decorative needs of contemporary living by making use of the experience and refined taste gained over the years, and broadening its range of intervention, placing itself alongside designers and customers no longer as a supplier, but as a real interior design company. In this context, the "Battilossi Moodboards" were born as an expression of the brand's new approach to interior decoration.

Through a transversal rereading of the brand's current collections, which include over 250 designs and colours, Battilossi introduces 14 moodboards composed of a number of references varying from a minimum of 10 up to a maximum of 49, ranging from the sober Naturals, to the warm Autumn, the delicate Silver & Coral, up to the impactful Ivory Black.

Each moodboard represents an entire aesthetic scenario, the result of an eclectic and refined combination of styles, weaving techniques, materials and colours, expertly mixed.

At the centre of the visual there are one or more main rugs (anchor rugs), followed by supporting rugs and complementary rugs. This apparently complex architecture is harmoniously articulated, revealing the overall interior project without leaving out any detail. Thanks to this method, design coherence becomes the protagonist and the risk of aesthetic conflicts between the carpets selected in a project is reduced.

Using the moodboard, planners and interior designers obtain an immediate and complete vision of every detail of the project to be carried out, being able

to understand where to intervene in the event of changes or corrections.

From a practical point of view, this concept makes it possible to create "swatch books" to be delivered directly to shops and design studios, placing smaller samples of the supporting and complementary carpets next to the anchor carpet.

A concept capable of also embracing carpets from other brands or precious and antique carpets owned by the customer, in a single coordinated project capable of releasing coherence and elegance.

Silver & Coral Palette ANCHOR RUG

Caleido Concept No.1 Frost SEASHELL

SUPPORTING RUG

Avita Ember GLOW

COMPLEMENTARY RUGS

- Caleido Concept No.1 Furosa VENICE
- Series #2 Shaggy SILVER
- Eclectica Crossroads SILVER
- Series #1 Flame on SILVER
- Tocca T6 PEARL

ANCHOR RUG

Caleido Concept No.1 Frost SEASHELL

Caleido Concept No.1 represents the first step towards a style which is highly oriented to interior decoration professionals. Design loses its primary function towards an overall, cosy 'ensemble', composed by a random combination of dense repeated patterns, very difficult and innovative weaving techniques and a highly sophisticated colour palette. A platform that has been conceived to allow the interior designer to play both with the weaving techniques (Tango, Ibiza and Gamla) and colours in any of the three designs (Fracto, Frost and Furosa).

Designed in Italy and hand-knotted in Pakistan. Custom materials, colors and size available upon request

SUPPORTING RUG

Avita Ember GLOW

The desire behind Avita collection is to add a layer of sophistication to the flatweave carpet. The intention is to create a great product with such complex workmanship that the difference between a hand-knotted carpet and a flatweave creation is blurred. To achieve this, different weaving techniques and embroidery have been used as an

experiment. Intense yet natural colours, the finest handspun Ghazni wool, kilim weaving and mixed weft wrapping techniques (soumak) come together to give the collection a unique look.

Designed in Italy and hand-knotted in Pakistan. Custom materials, colours and sizes available upon request

Complementary rugs

Caleido Concept No.1 Furosa VENICE

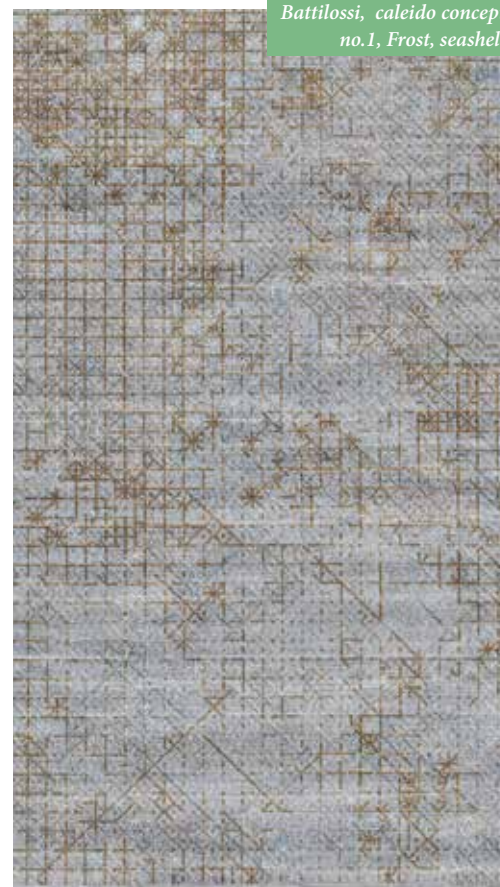
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Series #2 Shaggy SILVER

Innovation driving all the Battilossi collections, and finding a new spirit from the traditional weaving techniques from Tibet, is the starting point for Series 2. The

handmade and organic feel, is successfully combined with the artisans' ability to weave complex patterns with the material associated with the best Nepalese carpets,

Battilossi, caleido concept no.1, Frost, seashell



Battilossi, Avita, Ember, Glow



Battilossi, Caleido Concept No.1, Furosa, Venice



Battilossi Moodboards, Silver & Coral Palette



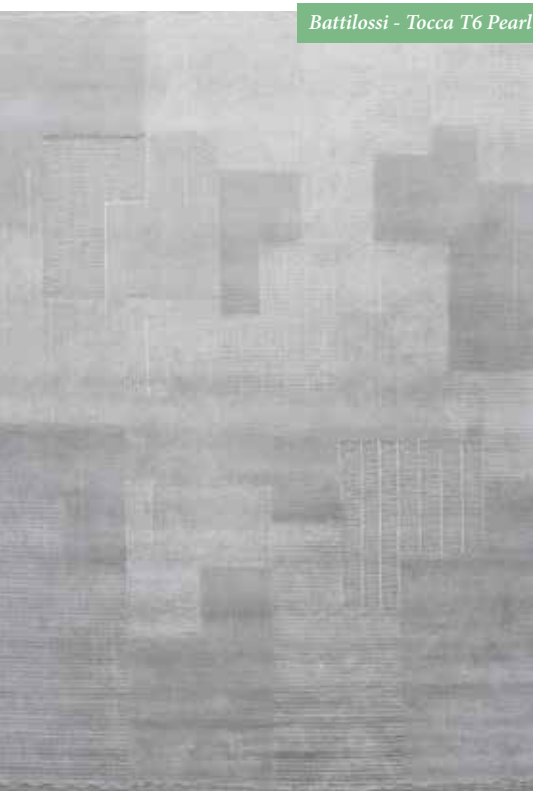
Battilossi, Series 2, Shaggy, Silver



Battilossi, Eclectica, Crossroads, Silver



Battilossi, Series 1, Flame on, Silver



Battilossi - Tocca T6 Pearl

Tibetan wool, natural silk and linen. Each composition, each motif has its own cut finish, meaning that each carpet has its own character.

Eclectica Crossroads SILVER

The abstract and organic designs of the Eclectica collection are inspired by the surfaces, made of man-made materials that we encounter every day, and demonstrate how sublime sophistication can be found even in something as prosaic as a corroded sheet of metal, enhancing the profound ability of yarns to transform and tell stories. Small-pot dyeing of the 100% fine Gazhni wool heightens the texture in a celebration of colour.

Series #1 Flame on SILVER

The clarity of the design and colours throughout the collection is achieved through the use of an innovative weaving technique and a carefully chosen mixture

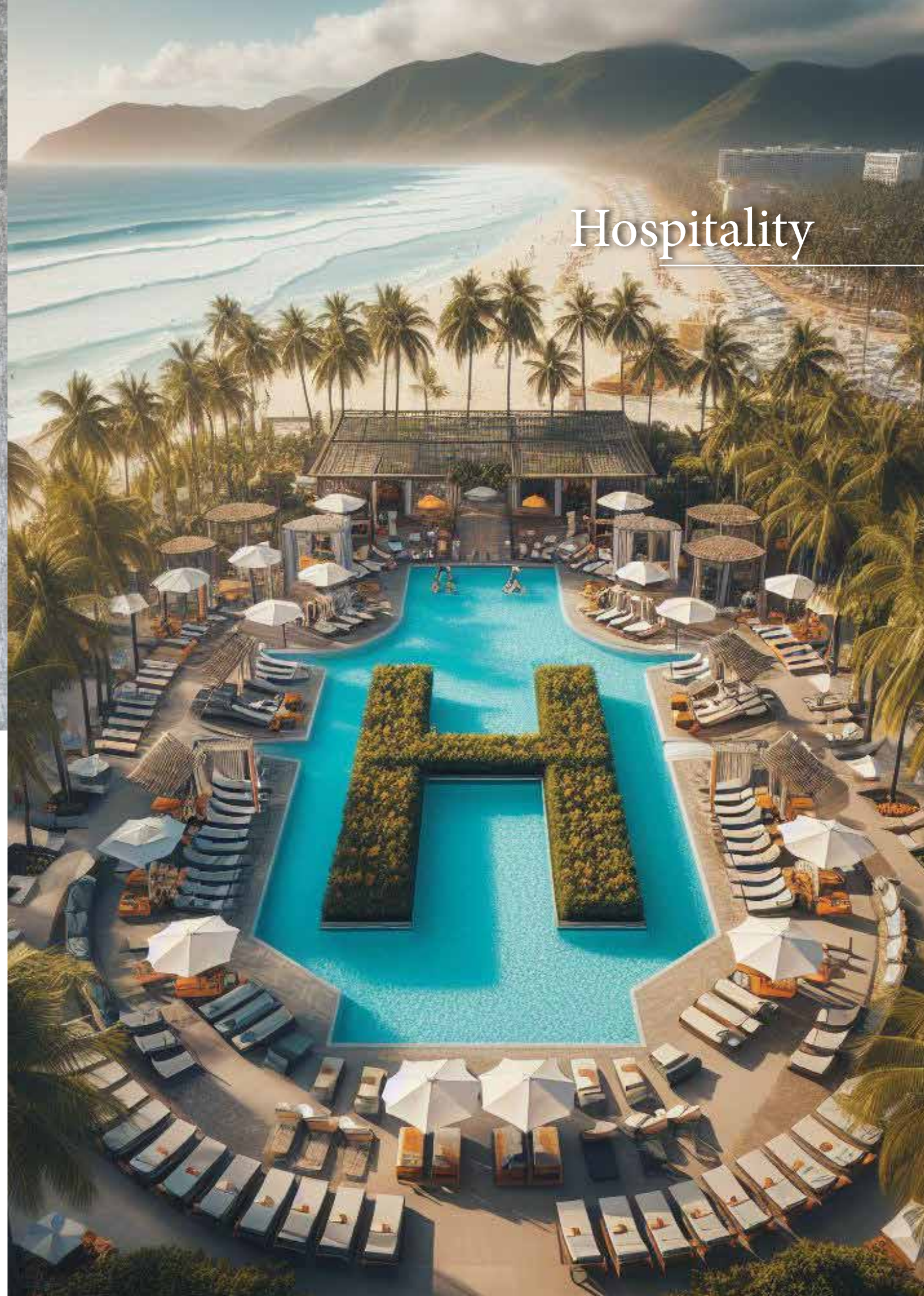
of materials. Silk is used in fields of confident hues interspersed with wool throughout the pile, giving a softer texture to the Series 1 carpets; this is in contrast to the plain and coloured sari-silk used to embellish the sides and ends.

Tocca T6 PEARL

Tocca designs have an extremely complex woven structure with more than six overlaying textures that give the rugs a unique handle and visual texture. The Tocca collection is realised in Tibetan wool and fine linen and is hand-knotted in the Kathmandu Valley. Geometry, colour and texture work together to create a movement, a dance.

Designed in Italy and hand-knotted in Pakistan. Custom materials, colours and sizes available upon request [dw](https://www.dw.com)

www.battilossi.com/en



Hospitality

Hospitality Trends 2024

by Stienie Greyling

As the hospitality industry looks towards 2024, one of the top trends shaping its future is a strong emphasis on sustainability. Hotels and resorts are increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices and implementing green initiatives to reduce their environmental impact.

As Sustainability is no longer a trend: It is a necessity!

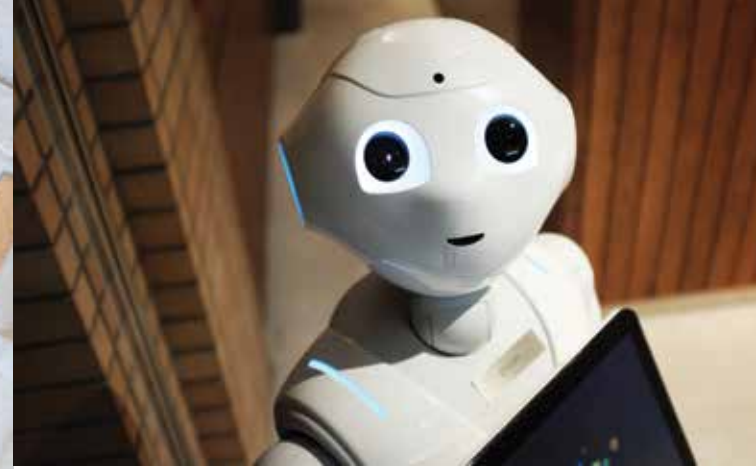
In 2024 guests will be more conscious of their environmental footprint. Implement eco-friendly initiatives, such as energy-efficient appliances, waste reduction programmes and locally sourced organic ingredients in the hospitality industry.

Future top trends in hospitality industry 2024.

Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial intelligence is making its way into everyday life more than ever before, and it is transforming the hospitality sector as we know it.

AI-powered chat bots can handle a wide range of tasks, including reservation bookings, room service requests, and



answering frequently asked questions. They offer 24/7 availability, reducing the need for guests to wait for assistance from hotel staff. This improves customer satisfaction levels and allows staff to focus on more complex issues.

Virtual concierges are also becoming popular in hotels, enabling guests to communicate with a digital assistant via voice or text commands. These virtual assistants can provide recommendations

for local attractions, restaurants and events based on each guest's preferences. By utilising AI algorithms that learn from used interactions, these virtual concierges continually improve their level of personalisation over time.

Personalisation in the Digital Age.

Data analytics and personalisation are transforming the way the hospitality caters to its guests. With advancement in

technology, hotels can now collect and analyse vast amounts of data to create tailored experiences of each guest.

Using data from previous stays, preferences and online interactions, hotels can anticipate guests' needs and personalize their stay. From customised room amenities to personalised recommendations for activities and dining options, these tailored experiences create a sense of exclusivity for guests.

By leveraging data analytics and personalisation, hotels can enhance guest satisfaction and loyalty. Guests feel valued when their individual preferences are taken into account, leading to better reviews and repeat business.

Overall, the use of data analytics and personalisation is set to shape the future of hospitality by providing guests with unforgettable experiences that fit their individual needs and desires.

The impact of Voice Technology.

Voice technology has revolutionised the hospitality industry by providing a seamless, personalised experience for guests. With the integration of voice assistants and voice-activated devices in hotels and resorts, guests can now effortlessly control various aspects of their stay through simple vocal commands. From adjusting room settings such as temperature and lighting, to requesting services like housekeeping or arranging transportation, this innovative technology offers convenience and efficiency.

Integrating voice assistants and voice-activated devices into hotels and resorts is set to shape the future of hospitality, by transforming how guests interact with their surroundings as well as how hoteliers deliver exceptional service. This trend highlights the importance of embracing technological advancements that enhance guests' experience, while maximising operation efficiency.

The Evolution of Mobile Technology.

Mobile technology continues to advance at a rapid pace and its impact on the hospitality industry is far-reaching. With smartphones becoming increasingly powerful and user-friendly, hotels are leveraging this trend to enhance the guest experience.

- Seamless check-in: Gone are the days of waiting in long lines at the front desk.
- Digital room keys: Instead of carrying around plastic key cards, guests can now unlock their hotel rooms using their smartphones.
- Personalised experiences: Mobile apps enable hotels to tailor services base on individual preferences.

As mobile technology continues to evolve, we can expect even more innovative solutions that will further transform how we experience in 2024 and beyond. dw





ALPI veneers transform the JW Marriott Hotel Lima

The design firm Raimundo Morales & Associates celebrates authentic Peru in the refurbishment of the JW Marriott Hotel Lima, featuring prestigious ALPI veneers.

The interiors of the JW Marriott Hotel Lima have been transformed into a symphony of colours inspired by the Pacific Ocean, dense rock formations and the green expanses of Peruvian vineyards. The ambitious restyling by Raimundo Morales & Associates is enriched by the generous use of prestigious ALPI veneers.

The décor reflects the geographic and historic context by incorporating native features to flatter the building's distinctive architecture.

The architects approached the project by emphasising verticality and by using noble materials that are typical of Peruvian culture. The choice of ALPI veneers has contributed to the fresh beauty of the

hotel's common areas and bedrooms.

The public areas received a complete overhaul. Handsome use of the veneer ALPI Xilo Walnut Flamed, from the Xilo collection curated by Piero Lissoni, brings the warm, enveloping brown of Canaletto walnut inside the cafe, sushi bar, reception and lobby. This wood, a faithful reproduction of its natural walnut counterpart, is the result of sartorial meticulousness and avant-garde industrial processes at ALPI.

The sushi bar is characterised by the unconventional and decorative use of the veneer ALPI Sushi Brown with its distinctive ringed pattern created by the Campana brothers. The gold colour contrasts well with the brown, giving a dreamy, contemporary feel to the space.

The rooms and access corridors are enhanced by the veneer ALPI Oak, whose Nordic hue and lined veining recreate the look of natural oak, resulting in modern, welcoming surroundings with a textural touch.

The overall interior design stands out for its strong link to Peru's visual identity and past. The harmony between up-to-

the-minute elements and local tradition is promoted by the use of finely crafted materials such as ALPI wood, giving characterful uniqueness to the renovated JW Marriott Hotel Lima.

ALPI

ALPI is a leading manufacturer of decorative surfaces made of reconstituted wood. The company was the first to industrialise this process. Alpilignum veneer is made of real wood, produced by

taking apart and putting back together a tree-trunk. This creates a material that is not printed, but so patterned as to offer limitless aesthetic results.

ALPI represents an undisputed gold standard in wood technology. As such, it is a company of excellence, distinguished by the breadth of its product range and ability to meet the specific requests of a highly diversified client base. ALPI designs bespoke solutions, each of which can be reproduced identically years later,

if desired. The company's uniqueness is given by the perfect coexistence between avant-garde technology and meticulous craft-based procedures; the use of top-quality raw materials; and substantial investments in research and development. ALPI partners with big industries (from automotive to shipbuilding) and international companies specialising in furniture, product design, interior decoration and architectural contracting services. ALPI stands out in the worldwide panorama for its direct control over the entire production process, from the trunk to the finished veneer, starting with forest management. Certification by the Forest Stewardship Council guarantees the wood's provenance from correctly, responsibly managed forests in accordance with rigorous environmental, social and economic standards. ALPI is therefore the guarantor of a certified, ecologically sound product.

Profound synergy between ALPI and the design world has originated in long-standing collaborations with exceptional design talents. This lively, continually evolving link led to an alliance with Piero Lissoni, who has held the role of art director at ALPI since 2015.

Directed by Vittorio Alpi, the founder's grandson, the company's multiple factories employ 400 people in Italy and over 1,300 in Africa. ALPI products are distributed in more than 60 countries. www.alpi.it

www.alpi.it



Syhaspot, the new spectacular Chandelier


by Catellani & Smith

The unique sphere that characterises the Syhasfera lamp, which belongs to the successful Outdoor collection, has been reimagined in the form of the new modular Syhaspot Chandelier, designed for indoor use in residential spaces and contract projects.

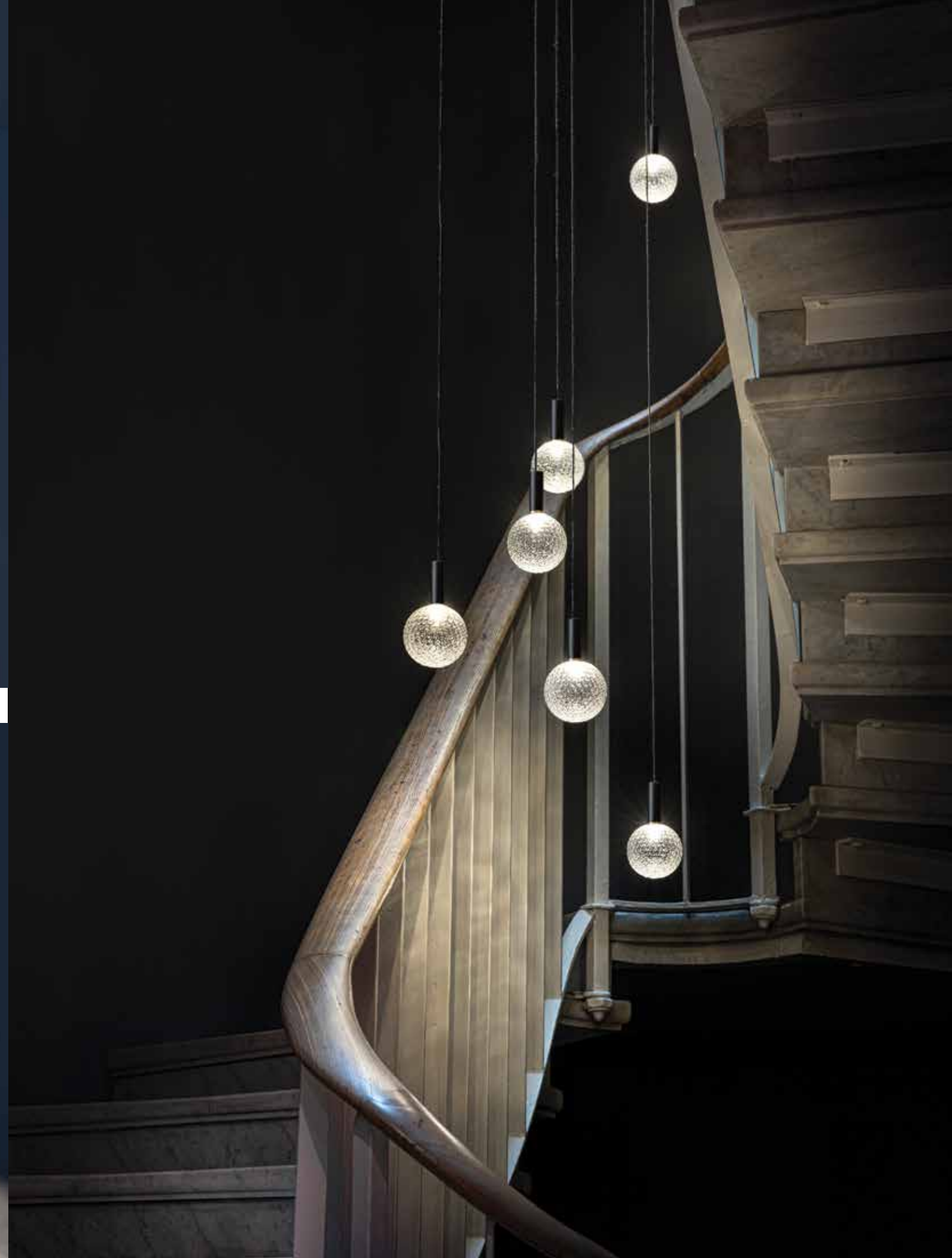
The new Chandelier creates a remarkable visual impact, thanks to the captivating lighting effects generated by the interaction between the irregular surface of the Syhasfera glass sphere and the illumination provided by the 24V light sources of Spot Light.

Thin cables support the pendants, which can be positioned at different heights and arranged in multiple compositions, to meet various lighting requirements.

The Syhaspot chandelier is available in compositions with 20, 25 and 35 pendants, as well as in a different number of elements and bases in various sizes and finishes. Like other models in the Catellani & Smith range – such as Jackie O, Gold Moon, PosKrisi and Sweet Light Chandeliers – the base of Syhaspot can be customised upon request.

Thanks to the transparency of the glass sphere and the thin cables that suspend the pendants, Syhaspot distinguishes itself for being an elegant, lightweight and luminous composition, capable of enhancing various settings and becoming a prominent feature in contract projects, hospitality and private residences. 

www.catellanismith.com/en/





YLe Yacht

The Ultimate Experience

Electric boats will undeniably be the better option for the future of boating. Their numbers are growing exponentially all over the world, as most boat manufacturers are joining in on the importance of electric boating to help protect our environment, our oceans and sea life from fuel spills.

These eco-friendly choices not only help sustain the earth and give boaters an environmentally friendly option, but they also provide boaters with quieter journeys and a more silent and relaxing experience without vibrations.

Then comes Y Le Yacht. A pure design of our time, an amazing technological

proress, not only entirely propelled electrically, with multiple stabilisers for complete stability, but also with smart air conditioning technology ventilation, all the latest technological innovations, and an unparalleled luxury throughout...The Franco-American atmosphere aboard will crown this contemporary showcase of the Franco-American bond, bringing the best which both countries have to offer in terms of luxury, technology and experiences.

“Y Le Yacht”: A one of a kind experience

“Y Le Yacht” will be the first fully electric commercial vessel of its kind.

A floating luxury hotel which will offer to its guests the never previously experienced option of visiting Manhattan both from the water and on the ground, at their leisure, while also being able to experience a gastronomical and thrilling experience of sleeping on the water surrounded by the skyline of one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Whether it will be for a specific occasion, for corporate meetings, or simply for the pleasure of discovering something new and unique, “Y Le Yacht” will offer to its select clientele an opportunity to be spoiled and to get the thrill of a unique experience, for one night, one week or longer, in one suite or on the whole privatised yacht...

Traveling around Manhattan is a historic experience, and discovering its iconic skyline from the sea is a true experience.

The boat will travel at different times of the day and night all around the island of Manhattan, with spectacular views of the Statue of Liberty, Battery Park, the Brooklyn Bridge, the new downtown Memorial building, the Freedom Tower, the Chrysler building, the United Nations, the Empire State Building, and all the new iconic skyscrapers of Central Park South and Hudson Yards.

While on-board, guests will relax around the pool while admiring the scenery, and will learn all about the



history of Manhattan through a unique exploration journey with select stops. They will however still be able to disembark at anytime and join the city centre easily, or re-embark after their shopping, thanks to the private boat tender service Le Yacht will offer.

“Y Le Yacht” will truly be a unique, immersive, state-of-the-art, luxury yacht living experience!

“Y Le Yacht” accommodation:

With only 20 ultra-luxury suites, guests will have an opportunity to live the vibrant lifestyle across Manhattan and its surrounding historical places during the day, while knowing that at the end of the day or at anytime, they will be able to get back to the peaceful and quiet environment of their private yacht cruising without a sound all around Manhattan or anchored in one of the city’s docks.

All accommodation will be spacious contemporary design river/sea view suites which will include a personal butler service.

There will be:

- Two ultra large suite cabins of 48 square metres (520 sq.ft)
- Twelve large suites of 30 square metres (330 sq.ft)
- Six suites of 25 square metres (275 sq.ft)
- Suites will be able to be interconnected to create larger accommodation as desired.

“Y Le Yacht” amenities:

- **Wellness:** With an ultra-luxurious spa including three massage rooms, a sauna, a steam room and a gym





with private trainers, guests will be able to enjoy the wellness philosophy of their journey, embracing the mystical power of the skyline of Manhattan, discovering their senses, and elevating their spirits. "Y Le Yacht" will also have a superb outdoor pool where guests will be able to swim peacefully while cruising the waters of the Manhattan East and Hudson rivers.

- **Gastronomy:** The gastronomical world-class restaurant onboard with its private Michelin star chef will treat guests to a true culinary experience. The lounge will also offer an outstanding fine wines and spirits experience, with a unique wine and champagne cellar composed of the finest bottles in the world.
- **Movie theatre / Entertainment room:** For private projections or

special shows and entertainment, a la carte.

- **Corporate meetings facilities:** Ideal for corporate retreats of top executives (and their spouses), Y Le Yacht will be available for privatisation of the whole boat and tailor-made experiences for the group. The yacht will feature a convertible conference room/movie theatre for corporate meetings.

All of this in a delicate luxury environment with an intimate setting and the utmost level of services.

Every voyage begins with a dream... Imagine a culinary dining experience with spectacular views of Manhattan... Imagine sleeping in the most comfortable and luxurious setting surrounded by water and the Manhattan skyline... Imagine having breakfast on the deck right at the

foot of the Statue of Liberty... Imagine being pampered in the most luxurious spa and coming out of a massage while cruising under the Brooklyn bridge... Imagine it all!!!

Y Le Yacht has been conceived to make all these dreams become reality.

"Y Le Yacht", a Global Concept :

Although the first Y Le Yacht will be in Manhattan, several other cities are already planned to also enjoy having Y Le Yacht in their town. Miami, Monaco, Geneva, Dubai, Shanghai, Paris, Montenegro, San Francisco etc...

"Y Le Yacht", A Unique and Unforgettable experience

A project conceived and developed by: Jean Pierre HEIM Architect and partner, Paul BENSABAT, Business and development partner, and Tony VAMVAKIDIS Naval and Marketing partner.

Jean-Pierre, Paul and Tony are three experienced international businessmen with unusual complementary experiences and long careers in the worlds of design, yachting, marketing, franco-american friendship, and monumental event organisation such as one million red rose petals scattered over the Statue of Liberty by three helicopters for the 70th anniversary of D-Day, half a million visitors in one weekend in Times Square for the Best of France exhibit etc. "Y Le Yacht" has been their dream for quite some time which is now becoming a reality efficiently combining so their

mix of experiences in the various fields required to undoubtedly make it a very successful business venture.

History of a Franco-American Journey

- **1928:** In a formidable artistic destiny between France and America, the French liner "Ile de France" crossed the Atlantic from Le Havre to New York and entered the maritime legend in New York. With its wealthy Franco-American clientele, the Ocean Liner was nick-named "Rue de la Paix" (after the famous luxury street in Paris).
- **1936:** When the Normandie arrived in New York, the Transatlantic Company entered the legend as the best and the fastest liner in the world, with the most powerful steam turbo electric propeller passenger ship ever built. Le Normandie was designed by the architect Pierre Patout, one of the founders of Art Deco Style.
- **1962:** On February 8th of that year, the most prestigious Ocean Liner arrived in New York city in front of the Statue of Liberty where 100,000 people acclaimed it. It was the famous "Le France".
- **2025:** Fast forwarding into the future, and following the footsteps of these amazing ships which created history and continued to strengthen the bond between France and the United States, Y Le Yacht will be a technological wonder of its own. dw

www.heimdesign.com



Duka for QC Terme

Duka expertise at the service of the hotel industry

QC Terme is the largest Italian group in the wellness sector and chooses the high quality of Duka shower enclosures to provide an experience of pure comfort. In particular, this concerns the apartment suites of Villa Bagni di Bormio, a residence immersed in the majestic park of Bagni Nuovi, and some rooms of QC Termegarda, an enchanting resort with spa set between Verona and Franciacorta.

One of the main objectives of any hospitality establishment is to create a bathroom environment that combines refined design, functionality, comfort and safety to offer a luxurious wellness experience for guests. Duka offers customisation possibilities, meaning solutions created ad hoc to solve any architectural or space optimisation need.



QC Termegarda Spa



Villa Bagni di Bormio

This makes Duka the ideal partner for designing hotel venues.

Thanks to the certified reliability and high technical and functional performance of the Duka shower enclosures, facilities dedicated to hospitality and wellness can, in fact, count on an excellent, safe and long-lasting product. The design, aesthetic research and attention to detail that characterises each solution also add value to the bathroom space. Indeed,

these factors contribute to an even more comfortable experience for guests during their stay.

For Villa Bagni di Bormio and QC Termegarda Spa, models from the high-end collections acqua 5000, gallery 3000 and libero 4000 were selected. The models fit harmoniously into the wider interior design project thanks to their aesthetic purity, innovation, perfect ergonomics and accessibility.

The advantages of Duka shower enclosures for hospitality

All Duka shower enclosures ensure ease of installation to facilitate the work of the installer. They are also easy to clean in order to ensure daily hygiene within the shower space, and maximum durability. These are fundamental aspects for hospitality environments, where the frequency of use is greater and the user type is always different. Furthermore,

the metal components of Duka shower enclosures are glued flush with the glass (tempered safety glass) by the UV adhesive technology, so that the surface is smooth and free of holes – for easier cleaning.

Moreover, in models with a sliding opening, the sliding elements are releasable for easy cleaning, also between the glass panels!

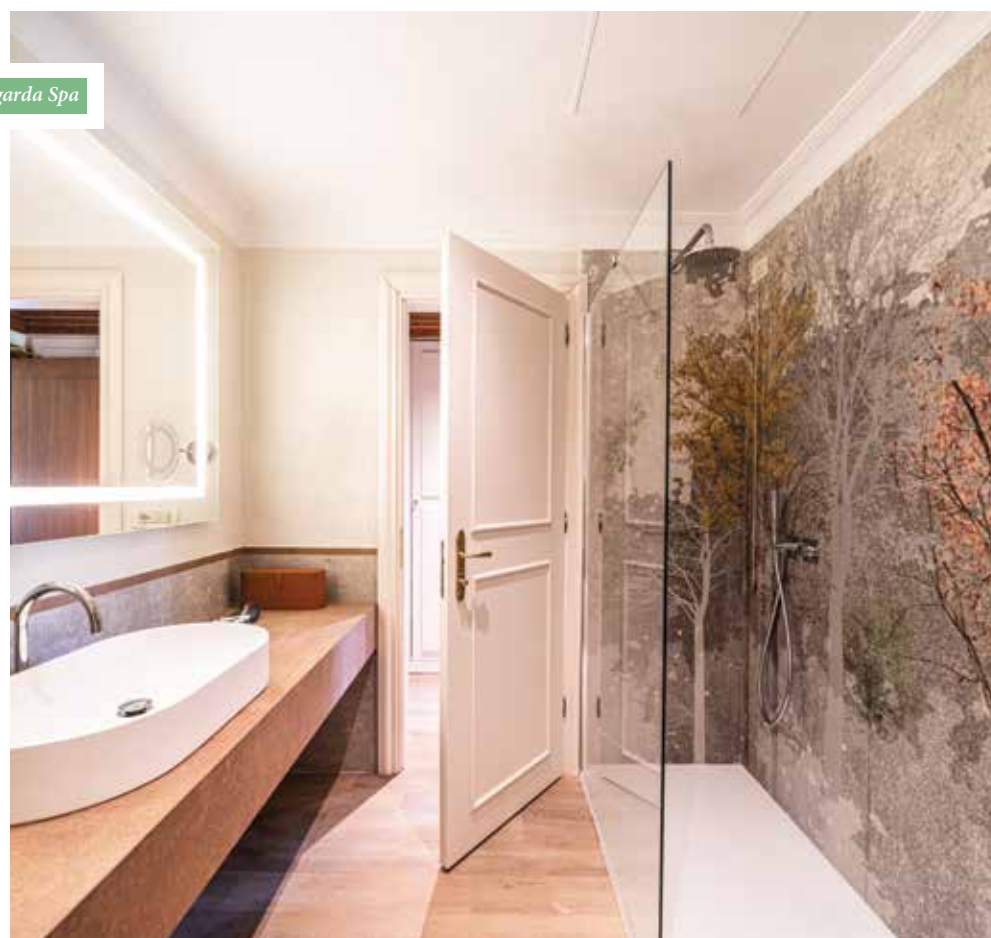
In order to achieve the best possible aesthetics and offer a transparency and

brilliance that will last over time, Duka has two specific glass treatments in its catalogue: ProCare and Protect. ProCare is the technical treatment of glass, obtained through a special magnetron process to apply a layer of metal oxide to the glass that allows water to slide off, limiting the deposit of residue. Protect, on the other hand, is an innovative system whereby glass is given a protective coating. With Protect, the tempered safety glass is provided with a water-repellent coating. The properties of the coating ensure that water, and with it dirt, can roll off the glass more easily. This greatly reduces the accumulation of dirt and lime scale. [dw](#)

www.duka.it



QC Termegarda Spa



Villa Bagni di Bormio



Symbiosis

Valle de Bravo, Mexico

Luciano Gerbilsky Arquitectos proudly unveils SIMBIOSIS Residence, located in Valle de Bravo, Mexico. The residential project was developed on a 1,000m² plot of land on a cliff rising 40 metres above Valle de Bravo Lake. The property is characterised by its irregular shape and rugged topography, and the complexities of the terrain and the high population density of the area dictated its conception as an organic project with predominantly soft visual finishes. Cuts were incorporated to create openings to the exterior, allowing for a full integration of the residence with its surroundings, as well as the regeneration of both the indoor and outdoor spaces around the volumes.

The project was conceived as a true interaction between nature and the residence, thus given the name "Symbiosis" in reference to the phenomena of biological linkage. The main objective was to establish a symbiotic relationship between the residential project and its natural surrounding environment.

With that in mind, numerous green spaces were conceptualised and designed, including hydrological corridors with ponds and waterfalls, and gardens that surround and enter the residential spaces, allowing the residents to enjoy nature in both social and private areas.

Lake views were prioritised from the outset, dictating that the volumes be distributed in such a way as to provide panoramic views of the surrounding



Lake façade



Master bedroom lobby



Main stairs & elevator

Street façade



Main terrace & outdoor kitchen





Path to the lake perspective



Wine cellar



Art installation hall

natural environment and Valle de Bravo Lake. In response to an unfavourable solar orientation, the architects created openings in the façade to filter the sunlight of the changing seasons.

The collection of volumes housing the various spaces begins on Level-0, providing pedestrians with access from the public road. Level-0 contains most of the residence's social spaces, including a living room, a dining room, a guest bathroom, and an interior kitchen connected to the main terrace. The terrace features a lounge, a second dining room, a solarium, a changing room with bathroom, and a large Jacuzzi, all surrounded by green areas and waterfalls, and offering panoramic views of the lake.

Level-1 houses two bedrooms, both with terraces overlooking the lake, as well as a multimedia room and a games room. All of the spaces are surrounded by green areas and waterfalls emanating from the level immediately above. A pond connects the various areas through a corridor that also houses a collection of art pieces.

In the private spaces of Level-2 the main bedroom was designed, integrating a spacious bathroom with a pond and waterfalls. This level also contains another bedroom, and both feature respective terraces overlooking the lake.

Level-2 also contains the parking area, accessible via a ramp connected to the road, and by an interior corridor connecting the bedrooms. The connecting corridor exhibits a thoughtful selection of art that includes a spatial installation specifically created for the space, emphasising its importance in the design. A pond with waterfalls visually divides the volumes of the rooms, with a circular elevator in its central core.

The vertical connection between all levels is centred around a spiral staircase that crosses a circular elevator in its central core. These structures are contained in a glass cylinder surrounded by green spaces with waterfalls and ponds, forming part of the hydrological circuit.

The connection with the lowest part of the land has the appearance of a rocky cavern, and connects the spaces through a tunnel leading to "Club del Lago", comprised of a swimming pool, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen-bar, changing rooms, a dock, and a warehouse for nautical equipment. The passage crosses a rock intervention with vegetation, as



Yachts & lake club



Social volume



Multimedia & games room



Bedrooms hall



Master suite bathroom



Living room & bar

well as waterfalls emerging from the main volume.

A short detour leads to the "Guest House", comprising two bedrooms reminiscent of hotel suites, both with terraces overlooking the lake. A "roof garden" is visually integrated with the green areas, also offering stunning lake views.

Both the "Guest House" and "Club del Lago" are accessible via a glass bridge crossing over the rock, connecting them both with the main volume. An elevator stops at each room, eventually descending to a pool with waterfalls at "Club del Lago".

The Symbiosis residential project succeeds in its attempt to achieve the perfect symbiosis between natural elements and the built environment. Its design reflects the inspiration behind its creation, and its main goal to provide emotional experiences for its inhabitants.

Photo credit: Hector Velazco Facio

dw



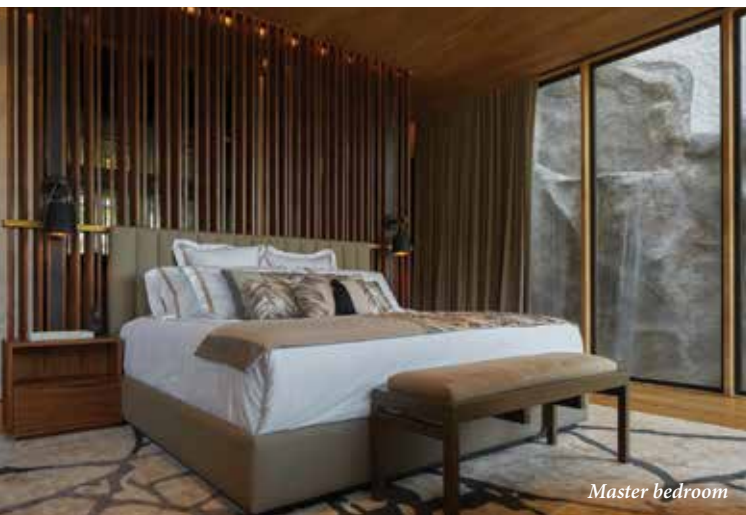
Lake façade



Guest bedroom villa terrace



Guest bedroom villa



Master bedroom



Guest bedroom villa



Duravit Zencha
The baths from the Zencha bathroom range by Sebastian Herkner are made from DuroCast Plus.

High-tech material with outstanding properties

DuroCast by Duravit

DuroCast by Duravit, produced by mineral casting, combines outstanding material properties with superlative design.

- Mineral material produced from select raw materials
- Four variants available: DuroCast Plus, UltraResist, Smooth and Nature
- The material's special properties make it ideal for bathroom objects
- Durability, high stability and slip resistance
- Broad variety of finishes, colours and textures

Duravit presented the first bathtubs produced in a mineral material in 2015. The development of the mineral casting process at the complete bathroom supplier goes back much further than this, however. For 20 years, materials experts, product developers and designers

have been working hand in hand to examine how selected raw materials interact, in a quest to identify the ideal high-tech materials for the production of bathroom objects in particular. By virtue of its special properties, DuroCast can be used to produce precise shapes with fine contours and radii, textured surfaces, diverse colours and matt or glossy finishes. The material is also long-lasting, slip-resistant and extremely robust.

Duravit has continually developed this innovative material, which is now available in four variants: Alongside DuroCast, the mineral-cast range also includes DuroCast UltraResist with an additional lacquer finish, and DuroCast Smooth featuring a gelcoat. Rounding off the range, DuroCast Nature is used in the recyclable Sustano shower tray range.

www.duravitshowrooms.co.za



Duravit Bento Starck Box
Made from DuroCast UltraResist:
Bento Starck Box by Philippe Starck.

Duravit Vitrium
By virtue of its special properties, DuroCast can be used to produce precise shapes with fine contours and radii, as illustrated here by the above-counter basins of the Vitrium range by Christian Werner.





LED Mega Ribbon Pendant



LED Symphony Crystal Chandelier

Patios & Inviting Outdoor Living Spaces



Illuminating Elegance

The Fusion of LED Technology and Timeless Crystal Chandeliers in Modern Design, by K Light

The combination of traditional crystal chandeliers and modern-day pendants with LED technology has given rise to a stunning expansion in lighting solutions.

Traditional opulent crystal chandeliers now carry a contemporary elegance blending the luxurious allure of crystals with the energy-efficient brilliance of LED lighting. They are still symbols of sophistication, but now enhanced by the efficiency and adaptability of LED technology.

LED crystal chandeliers in double-volume spaces show the adaptability of design. The play of light through crystal elements is accentuated by the precision offered by LED technology. The result is a mesmerizing dance of brilliance, casting patterns and reflections that captivate the eye and elevate the entire space.

In double-volume spaces, where ceilings arise to great heights, traditional lighting can often fall short in functionality and creativity. Modern LED pendants with their

sleek, minimalistic features not only complement the grandeur of the double-volume areas but also provide a practical solution to the challenges of illumination of such sizable spaces.

Providing a bright, even light and consuming significantly less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs, LED's are a shining example of how technology can enhance and elevate the timeless beauty of classic elements. dw

www.klight.co.za



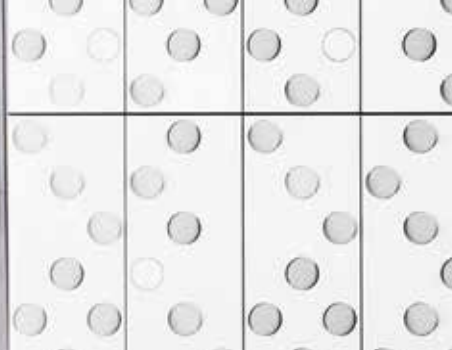
LED Ballerina Crystal Chandelier



LED Gold Swan Pendant



LED Waterfall Chandelier



Patios & inviting outdoor living spaces

by Stienie Greyling

The introduction of the 'staycation' changed a lot of things. Vacationing (holidays) closer to home meant that home improvements sky-rocketed, outdoor spaces turned into another room of the house, one where entertaining and quality family time could take place.

We will see the indoors out trend continue to grow in 2024 with comfy



Bistro sets, lounge chairs and compact dining tables are just a few examples of space saving outdoor furniture. Vertical gardens and hanging planters are also great options for adding greenery without taking up ground space. Just because it is a small outdoor area, doesn't mean one cannot have a stylish and functional space to enjoy.

Accessories to enhance a space.

Accessories are a great way to add personality and style to an outdoor living area. Outdoor cushions and solar lighting are popular accessories that can elevate a space, and lighting is especially a great addition. Finally, plants and greenery are a must have for any outdoor space, adding colour and life to the area.

Blind trends for 2024.

2024 will witness roller blinds transform into canvases that narrate tales of individualistic style. The surge in popularity of modern patterns is paving the way for homeowners to ditch the drab and embrace the dynamic. We are talking sophisticated geometrics, abstract splashes and patterns that tell stories.

Roller shades are consistently one of the most popular choices for the best window coverings year after year. This is because they are easy to use, offer a clean, sleek look and can be designed using a wide range of styles, colours, textures and patterns to fit a room and design aesthetic.

What is trendy in window dressing?

Natural materials like jute, bamboo and rattan are popular right now because they are so versatile. Blinds and shades made from these materials lend themselves well to all types of décor style, so one can use the same window treatments throughout the home without having to change any of the existing décor. dw



living rooms, kitchens, game rooms and more in the outdoor space.

Extending living space isn't the only reason that people are spending more time outdoors. It is also about having a space where one can relax and enjoy nature. So much of what is about being outdoors is what the surroundings can do for the senses. The smells, the things to feel, the sounds and the sights can all be a wonder to behold.

As people spend more time in their homes, the outdoor living space has become an extension of the indoors. Outdoor furniture is no longer just functional pieces, but a reflection of one's style and personality. With the latest trends in furniture for 2023-2024 it is easier than ever to revamp an outdoor space and make it an oasis.

Benefits of updating outdoor furniture.

Updating outdoor furniture has numerous benefits. It not only enhances the value and attractiveness of a home, but also provides a space to relax, entertain guests and enjoy outdoor activities, thereby improving overall quality of life.

In addition, modern outdoor furniture is designed to be durable and weather resistant, ensuring its longevity.



Sustainability is a growing concern for many homeowners and outdoor furniture is no exception. Environmentally friendly options are becoming more readily available, with furniture made from recycled materials, sustainable woods and eco-friendly fabrics. Teak, aluminium and PE wicker are commonly used in outdoor furniture. Environmentally friendly furniture material is also a great option for those seeking durability and sustainability.

Trending colours and materials.

Neutral colours and natural materials are on-trend for outdoor furniture in 2023-2024. Earthy tones like beige, grey and charcoal are popular for furniture frames and cushions. Wicker, rattan and teak are classic materials that never go out of style, but other materials like metal and concrete are also gaining popularity. Aluminium furniture is an excellent option for those looking for a modern and minimalist aesthetic. Regarding cushions and pillows, outdoor fabrics like Polyester and Olefin are durable and fade resistant making them ideal for outdoor use.

Space saving outdoor furniture for small areas.

For those with limited outdoor space there are plenty of options available.

Dive in to warmer weather with
Plascon's 2023/2024 Summer
Colour Palette

by Plascon



Summer in South Africa is synonymous with water. From coastal family holidays to poolside braais, we flock to our blue expanses for some cool respite from the fierce sun. But there's another subconscious reason why water is so important to our health and happiness: being in or near blue spaces, such as rivers, lakes and seas, substantially boosts our emotional wellbeing.

At a time when concerns for our health and that of our planet are high, blue offers a sense of calm and optimism for a lighter and brighter future – which is why Plascon selected a trio of blues as its Colour Combination for 2024. Now, in preparation for the upcoming hot season, Plascon has released its 2023/2024 Summer Colour Palette.

'Dive In', an ode to aquatic-inspired hues, captures the essence and tranquillity of clear ocean waters, with eight carefully curated colours for both interiors and exteriors.

The brightest of the shades (which happens to also be the most prominent of the three colours in Plascon's Colour Combination for 2024) is Caribbean Sea

(G7-A1-2). A glistening blue-green teal, Caribbean Sea infuses your spaces with a sense of freshness, rejuvenation and beach charm. Offering a contemporary contrast is the muted Aegean-hued Sea Adventure (B3-D1-1).

A layered combination of crisp North Beach (B4-B1-1) and its paler counterparts, Aqua Pura (G7-C2-2) and Innuendo (B3-B1-3), creates a restorative and uplifting mood in living rooms and bedrooms.


Minimalists will enjoy adding touches of blue to their spaces without compromising their aesthetic, thanks to the palette's neutrals: Aqua Pura (G7-C2-2), Wintergreen Mist (G5-C2-3) and Moth Mist (Y6-E2-3).

For those wanting a pared-back blue space, the greenish-turquoise of Sea Adventure (B3-D1-1) and neutral beige Moth Mist (Y6-E2-3) are a perfect pair, while the rich, dark teal of Sea Quarry (G7-D1-1) combined with the pale sea salt of Wintergreen Mist (G5-C2-3) creates a tonal effect. And if you want to add depth to a room without the harshness of blacks and greys, Sea Adventure (B3-D1-1) and



Sea Quarry (G7-D1-1) are the perfect immersive darks.

Together, these eight diverse hues capture the full spectrum of natural blue spaces, from the sunlit ocean to moody lakes. Dive into a refreshing summer season!

For free advice on how to use the Plascon 2024 Colour Forecast or any other Plascon colours, please contact the Plascon Colour Advice team via email: ColourAdvice@kansaiplascon.co.za. 

www.plascon.com



Center Parcs Cottage: Coming Together in Nature

Bispingen, Germany

Concrete and Center Parcs present the Center Parcs Cottage, a place to gather in the heart of nature in Parc Bispingen Heide in Germany.

Center Parcs, renowned for its family-friendly holiday parks in the heart of nature, aimed to enhance its offerings for a broader audience. In response, Concrete developed a new and innovative generation of prototype cottages, rethinking the classic Center Parcs bungalow.

A prototype has been constructed at Parc Bispingen Heide in Germany, now available for rental by guests. Drawing inspiration from the original design by Dutch architects Van den Broek and Bakema, Concrete crafted a contemporary experience, centred around themes of togetherness and nature. Concrete brings its expertise in modular construction to the Center Parcs project, devising a cottage that is sustainable, easy to build, and which imposes very little disruption to its environment.

Finding yourself in nature

At the core of the new design is the concept of finding oneself in nature. The



idea was to create spaces where guests could disconnect from the hustle of daily life and reconnect with themselves. The new cottage achieves this by seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces. A floor-to-ceiling glass façade offers uninterrupted views of the surrounding nature, making the outdoors feel like an extension of the living room.

A modular cottage for conscious living

The cottage is comprised of two prefabricated modules, containing all essentials – the kitchen, multiple bedrooms, and bathrooms. The modules are connected by the living room, which allows nature to pour in. The living room is not only the connecting space, but also the heart of the cottage. It is bathed in natural light through its expansive windows, which



allow views to the front and to the back. Each side of the house offers a different perspective onto the beautiful forest outside. In front of the living room, an outdoor private terrace offers guests an intimate space to enjoy the outdoors. Beyond its inspiring views, the cottage offers a truly immersive experience in nature.

Promoting togetherness, the living room is designed around a central oversized

dining table, perfect for a board game after dinner. The modular corner couch, inspired by the iconic 1970s Center Parcs style, has been reimagined into a versatile sofa that guests can configure into personalised seating arrangements, accommodating all needs of a modern family.

The project is designed around the principle of modular pre-fabrication, with a hybrid of 2D elements and 3D modules


created off-site and quickly assembled in the scenic natural setting. The cottage is easy to install on site, allowing it to be ready for guests in less than two weeks.

The architecture of the cottage is simple and unobtrusive, maintaining the tradition of modernist architecture of Van den Broek and Bakema, and ensuring that the outdoors remain a focal point. The influence of the original architects is also evident in the thoughtful clustering of cottages. Adopting Bakema's favoured technique, the cottages are arranged in a staggered layout, ensuring privacy by shielding views between neighbouring structures. The layout also prevents terraces from intruding upon each other, preserving the overall a sense of serenity.

Sustainable design

The cottage has been carefully designed with a strong emphasis on sustainability and minimal energy consumption. First, the cottage features high-quality insulation, which minimises heat loss and maximises energy efficiency. Moreover, only materials of organic origin are used, not only reducing the ecological footprint, but also contributing to a healthier indoor environment. The consistent use of wood on both the exterior and interior blurs the distinction between inside and outside, strengthening the connection to nature. The stone flooring, cross-laminated timber (CLT) ceiling, and spruce wood wall cladding establish a timeless neutral colour palette. The use of durable, high-

quality materials minimises the need for frequent replacement and maintenance.

In terms of energy supply, the cottage operates entirely on electricity, utilising photovoltaic cells on the roof, and a heat pump for heating and cooling. Combined, all of these features contribute to an eco-friendly and sustainable stay, with preservation of the environment at its core. 

Technical sheet

- **Client:** Center Parcs, Capelle aan de IJssel (NL)
- **Architecture and Interior design:** Concrete
- **Office address:** Oudezijds Achterburgwal 78a
- **Postal code:** 1012 DR
- **City:** Amsterdam
- **Country:** The Netherlands
- **Telephone:** +31 (0)20 5200200
- **E-mail:** info@concreteamsterdam.nl
- **Photo credit:** Ton Hurks

www.concreteamsterdam.nl/center-parcs



The Great Outdoors collection

by Stuart Graham Fabrics

Inspired by our unique South African lifestyle where we are privileged to be able to spend most of the year outdoors, whether by the sea, in the bush or just out in the back garden. The Great Outdoors collection is an intriguing mix of eclectic styles that just works so well together, comprising stripes, plains, geometrics and woven textures. This treasure trove of colour and design has been crafted to create that indoor look in a remarkable outdoor quality.


The Great Outdoors certainly hits the right notes on the specification side and all fabrics have undergone all necessary laboratory tests. UV resistance, water repellency, stain resistance, anti-bacterial, FR and abrasion tests have been carried out to ensure a quality product.

Produced from 100% Olefin, which is a synthetic (man-made) yarn that is highly strain resistant, strong and resists fading, mildew, chemicals and insects. The yarns have been solution dyed to ensure colour fastness making it ideal for outdoor usage.

The collection also carries the CAREFREE logo which means it is soil and stain resistant and can be easily cleaned with soap and water. All designs are produced under strict Oeko-tex standards ensuring no harmful finishes or chemicals were used during production and they are safe for human touch.

All these features contribute towards the overall performance and longevity of

these outdoor fabrics making them the ideal choice for your indoor and outdoor furnishings.

One of most outstanding and exciting features of this collection is the variety it offers. With 65 different fabric options over 11 designs and 12 colour groupings including navy, grey and black, green and aqua, orange, red, yellow and of course natural you will be spoilt for choice. This collection increases the Stuart Graham Fabrics outdoor offering extensively. Scan QR code to view full collection. 

www.stuartgraham.co.za



Scan me





Lightemotion Illuminates Viger Square Montreal, Canada

Lightemotion, a global lighting design consultancy creating pathways to enhanced human experiences, proudly presents its enlightenment of Square Viger, a neglected public space bridging Montreal's contemporary downtown core with the preserved history of Old Montreal. Forming part of an eight-year contemporary overhaul to restore the space as a green and accessible public square, the project anchors around the preservation of an existing historic monument, and the revival of pergolas originally designed by Quebec artist Charles Daudelin.

"In the 1950s and 60s, Square Viger was an iconic space in the style of a New York City park," explains François Roupinian, President and Design Director of Lightemotion. "But then a highway through the downtown core was constructed underneath it, and it was restored in more of a Brutalist style in the 1970s."



Heeding the call

In addition to restoring elements of Square Viger's past, the project envisioned the infusion of fresh new life to carry the public space beyond the present and into the future. On a macro level, that vision unfolded through the addition of abundant perennial plants able to withstand the challenging elements of Montreal's four seasons, as well as through the addition of more than 50 new trees. In approaching

the task at hand, the project's landscape architect, NIPPAYSAGE, brought Lightemotion in from the very beginning to bring it all to life.

In the shadow of a recently built hospital complex, Lightemotion wanted to approach the project from an angle 180-degrees removed from what a traditional park experience calls for. In assessing the contents of the newly-designed Square, the firm devised a



masterplan to create a sensory experience for its future users.

"The user experience is at the heart of everything we do, and we take great pride in thinking outside of the box and its perceived perimeters," says Roupinian. "We are a multifaceted design firm, and our core focus is on the delivery of sensory experiences."

In addition to the preserved historic monument paying tribute to Jean-Olivier

Chénier, and the concrete arches of Daudelin's work, Lightemotion had two beautiful new fountains to work with. In assessing all of its various elements, they formed a view of Square Viger as a metaphorical stage of stages, with tiers of actors including the art, the monument, the fountains, and the surrounding landscape of trees and vegetation. Determined to steer clear of a solution comprising a flat field of light, the firm

embarked on the design of a moody environment to bring Square Viger's actors to life.

A vibrant scenography

The illumination of Lightemotion's stage began with a focus on Daudelin's art, creating individual lighting for each concrete slab. In the context of art gallery lighting, the firm infused it with movement to create a sense of strolling through a meandering canyon. At night, the resulting lighting scheme brings it all to life, injecting breath into otherwise inanimate objects.

"Daudelin's installations are the breathing lungs of the Square, defined by the fading in and slowly fading out of light," describes Roupinian. "If you take the time to sit and enjoy the space for 30 minutes, the lighting evolves significantly over that period of time."

Reflections of life

While Square Viger's two new fountains were illuminated by the builders, Lightemotion added a euphoric blue light presentation that metaphorically represents the water they contain.

"When the fountains are inactive, the waters calm to a mirror-like surface," says Roupinian. "The blue light adds a very delicate background to that mirrored surface and actually captures and frames reflections of Daudelin's work."

In continuing the focus on bringing all of its actors to life, Lightemotion set the stage for the illumination of Square Viger's vegetation. With greenery spread across their stage, the firm created a series of highlights and projected shadows that vary through a four-season lifecycle. As a result, the actors evolve with animation and beauty throughout the year, from the full blooms of summer, to the bare branches of winter. Lightemotion's design of dynamic uplighting at the base of the trees subtly changes in intensity throughout the evening, creating shadows that move in and out of the living, breathing space.

Next, they brought the legacy of Jean-Olivier Chénier to life with bright and powerful sidelight illumination, providing the actor with a prominent presence worthy of his stature.

"We believe that a beautiful lighting scheme should comprise an abundance of small light sources that create different

layers of light that change as you move through a space," explains Roupinian. "With Square Viger, we infused what is sometimes referred to in architecture as the 'millefeuilles effect', where we endeavored to create something sensual through lighting layers that provide a gentle caress to the leaves and shadows."

Backstage technology

Every lighting element of Square Viger is like a paint brush with a variety of hues, brought to life with time loops synchronised to evolve throughout the night under the control of dimmers on a DMX system. Subtle changes occur throughout the evening, as if breathing, intensifying, and then softening.

"A key aspect of designing dynamic lighting schemes is to clearly understand the subjects and their materiality," says Roupinian. "Technically, when you light up elements like this, a tree, a circulation path, and a work of art each require

different colour temperatures and intensities."

Among the innovative technical elements powering Lightemotion's lighting schemes, tall-standing needle poles project very precise beams of light through small apertures of varying degrees. The tighter beams create accents on each of the targeted elements, emitting light sources that create minimum glare and disturbance to ensure that what is projected and absorbed is the emotion of the light, and not the apparatus. That theme of concealed apparatus extends to the Daudelin pieces, with a wall wash of light generated by small fixtures concealed in their concrete grooves. Delicate uplighting illuminates the trees from embedded positions in the ground that are not overly present, but which provide each of the actors with presence and dynamism. The same concept applies to the Square's vegetation pods, with their smooth rock borders designed



to provide users with inviting seating opportunities. In addition to modulating light designed to set a comforting mood, Lightemotion's scheme also creates enhanced wayfinding within the public realm.


A beacon of rejuvenation

With the collective lighting of Square Viger also providing surrounding buildings with a soothing aerial presentation, Lightemotion has succeeded in creating a beautiful visual signature

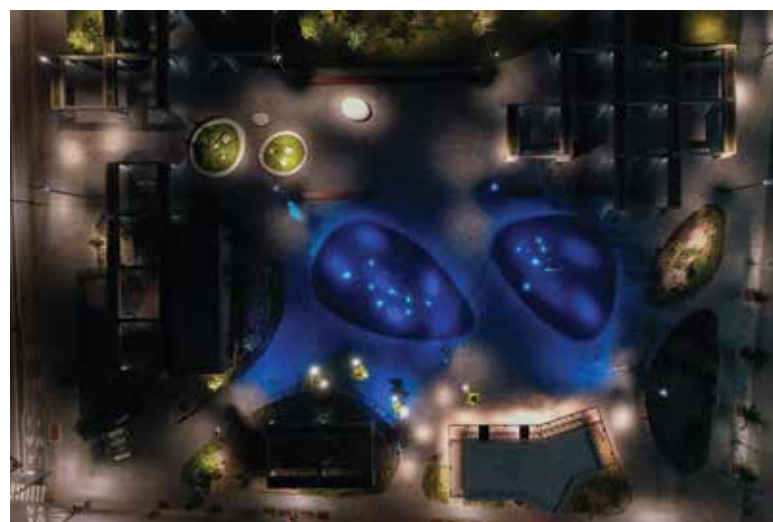
in an area that has long been devoid of such elements. From the ground level, the firm's innovative schemes entice and welcome visitors with their plays of light and shadows, viewed by users through a variety of perspectives from the Square's different entry angles. Square Viger is now a prominent new presence in Montreal's night sky, infusing life and love into a peaceful public space where people can gather and reflect within a timeless design that will be relevant for many years to come.

"People tend to think of lighting as a very technical thing, but what drives the bus for Lightemotion is how our lighting schemes make people feel within the spaces we illuminate for them," concludes François Roupinian. "We are honoured that NIPPAYSAGE entrusted us to deliver something outstanding for the client, and for the future users of Square Viger, and we hope that our dynamic presentation will leave its mark on the City of Montreal."

Technical sheet

- Landscape architect, urban design, project manager and lead designer: NIPPAYSAGE
- Square Pavillon: Provencher_Roy in teamwork for the overall plan and integration of artistic heritage
- Lighting design: Lightemotion
- Interactive Fountain: François Ménard
- Engineers: FNX-INNOV
- Collaborators: Nadeau Foresterie Urbaine Inc., Brodeur consultants, Hydralis, GMV3D, Atelier Dédale, Akufen 

www.lightemotion.ca/en





Ring of Bjölfur

Seyðisfjörður, Iceland

Esja Architecture introduces Ring of Bjölfur, a ring-shaped viewing platform on the slopes of Mount Bjölfur, in East Iceland, 650m above sea level. The platform will overlook Seydisfjordur, a narrow fjord with steep mountains known for its vibrant art scene, food culture, and annual art and music festival, as well as for having the only ferry connection from Iceland to mainland Europe. The simple concrete structure will sit on top of the rugged landscape and hover over the edge to provide spectacular views over the fjord and to the Atlantic Ocean.

360° Experience

The ring will have a diameter of 32 metres, with a walkway and bench spanning its entire 100m circumference. The 360° experience will invite visitors to explore views of the surrounding mountains, the town, the valley, and mountain peak above. The slightly sloping ring structure will also be wheelchair accessible.

Silver colour palette

The ring is constructed of concrete, with an inner railing of local larch and an outer railing of slim stainless-steel

posts. The three materials display a range of silver-grey colour tones, with the silver patina of the larch, the glittering reflection of the steel, and the exposed concrete tones changing with the weather. Ensuring robustness was an important factor in the material selection, as well as minimal maintenance due to the harsh weather conditions and remote location. The sharp silver colour palette contrasts nicely with the brown tones of the rocky landscape that it will sit on.

A Viking ring

Mount Bjölfur is named after the Viking Bjölfur, who first settled in Seydisfjordur and is believed to have been buried high up on the mountain. It is a Viking tradition to be buried with their most precious belongings, including jewelry and weapons. Accordingly, the Ring of Bjölfur symbolises a precious silver ring belonging to Bjölfur, the forefather of the people of the fjord.

Cantilevering Structure

The structure sits on top of the landscape in two places, and cantilevers over the edge of the mountain. The load-bearing quality of the closed circle is very

efficient, therefore requiring only four anchor points.


Construction

Construction of the Ring will begin this fall and is expected to be completed in fall 2024. The elevation of the construction site presents a challenge, with unpredictable weather conditions and steep road passes. Therefore, every detail of the construction process has been planned in advance.

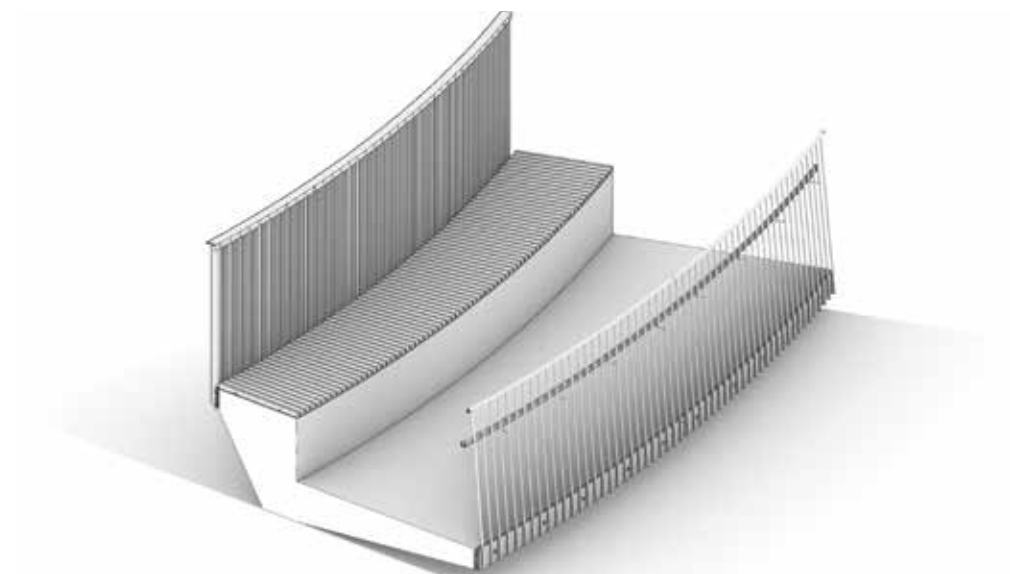
Ring of Bjölfur was the winning proposal in a prequalified competition issued by the municipality in 2021. The project is being carried out as a cross-disciplinary collaboration between architects, landscape architects, and structural engineers, from concept through to construction.

- **Official Project Name:** Ring of Bjölfur
- **Location:** Seydisfjordur, Iceland
- **Client:** Múlaþing Municipality
- **Construction:** 2023-2024
- **Budget:** ISK 190 million

Design team

- **Architects:** Esja Architecture & Arkibbygg Arkitektar
- **Landscape Architects:** ANNA Landslagsarkitekt & Kjartan Mogensen
- **Engineers:** AXA Nordic 

www.esjaarchitecture.com
www.arkibbygg.is



AURA Invalides, a Monumental Experience Under the Dome at Les Invalides in Paris

Paris, France

AURA Invalides marks a new stage in Moment Factory's history as a multidisciplinary studio dedicated to crafting innovative multimedia experiences through bold creativity and high-tech prowess. This immersive 50-minute experience combines video mapping, lighting, special effects, orchestral music, and sound design to celebrate the architectural and historical heritage of one of Paris's most iconic monuments: Dôme des Invalides.

The project was initiated in 2019 by cultural operator Cultural, which was then seeking innovative cultural and tourism offerings designed to create new sustainable attractions in France. Captivated by the AURA experience at Basilique Notre-Dame de Montréal, and Moment Factory's peerless creativity and ability to meet exacting standards, Cultural asked the multimedia studio to create the very first AURA experience in France. Les Invalides, whose gilded dome has brightened the Paris skyline for centuries, was the natural choice. To



achieve this project, Cultural also turned to its longstanding partner, Musée de l'Armée – Hôtel National des Invalides.

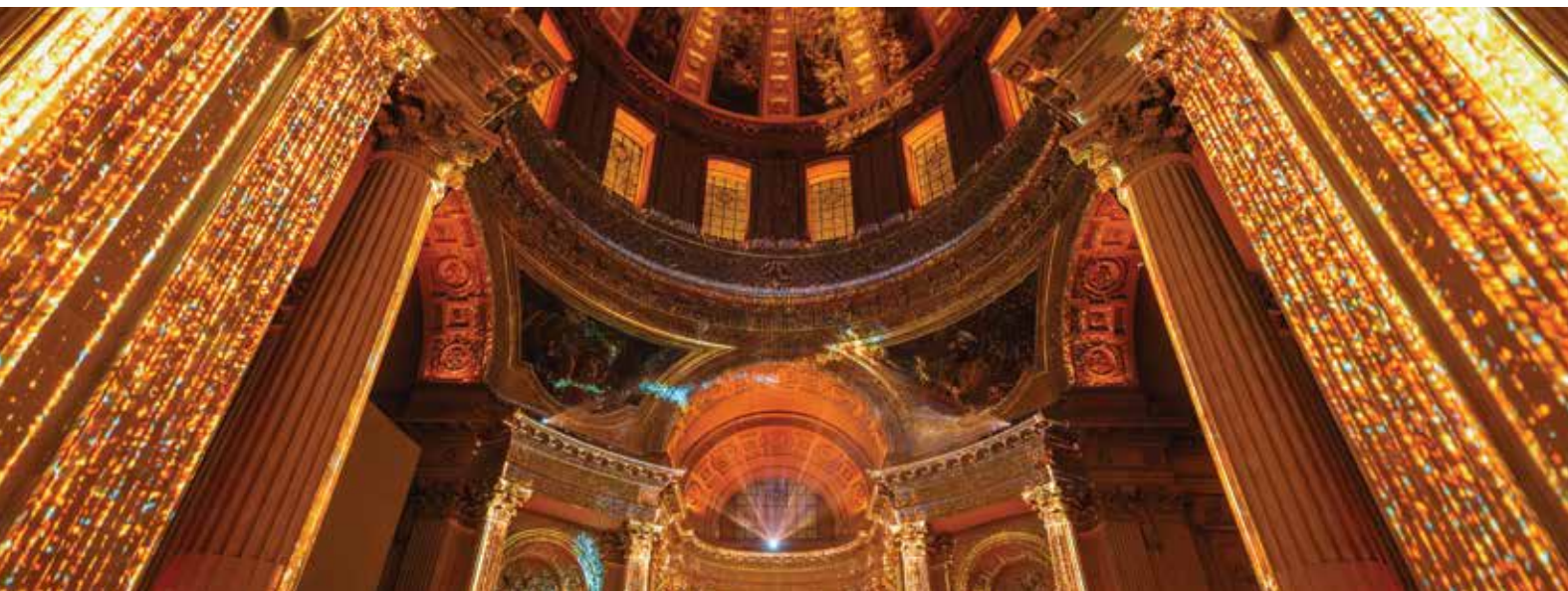
Designed by Moment Factory and produced by Cultural, in partnership with Musée de l'Armée, the AURA Invalides experience is the result of a long process of research and collaboration, undertaken by passionate teams specialising in heritage enhancement and the digital arts. Moment Factory's multi-disciplinary and global talent worked for more than two years to create a multimedia and immersive experience that offers a perfect complement to the majestic scale of Dôme des Invalides.

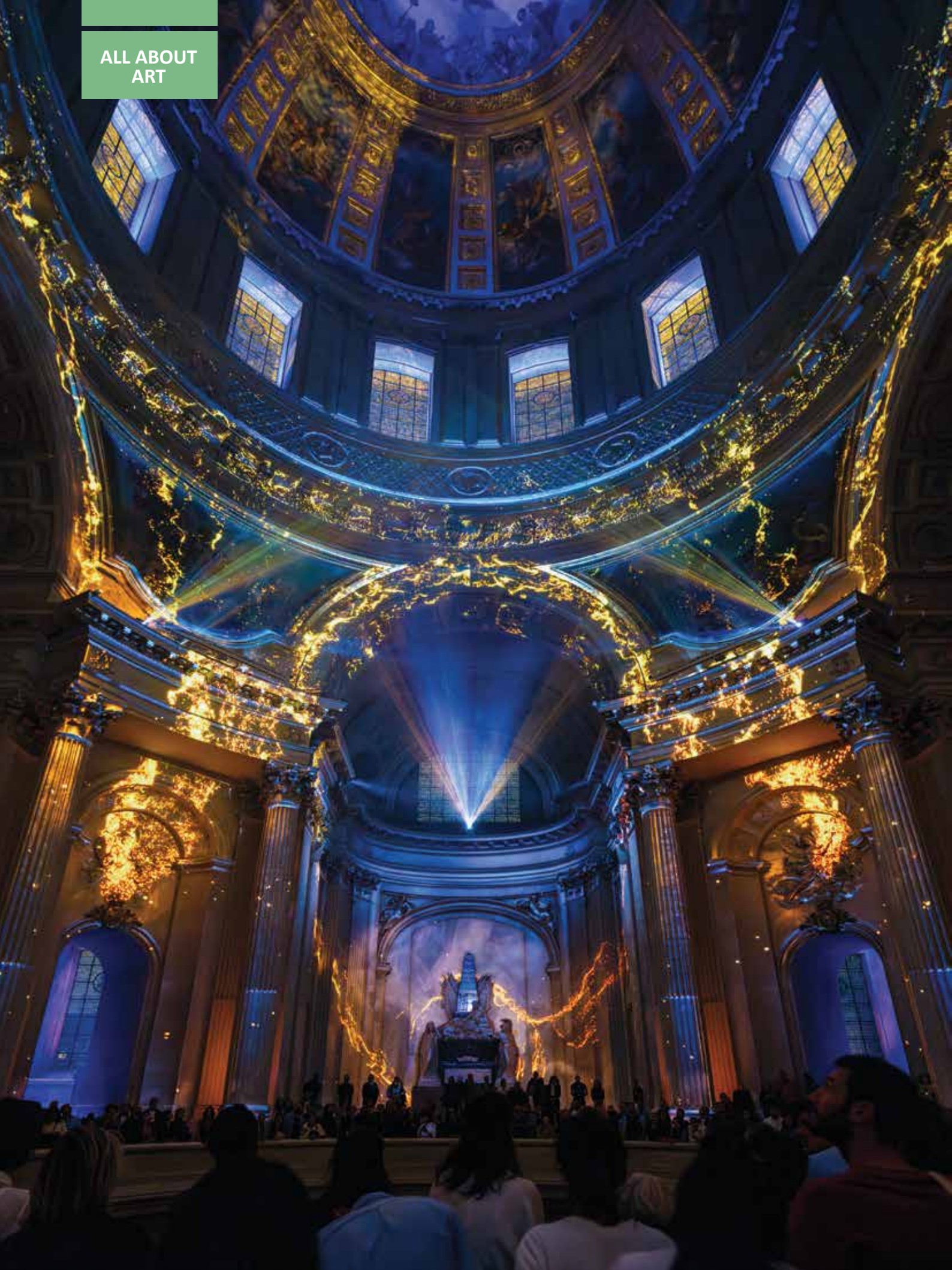
AURA Invalides, a monumental and dazzling experience

As night falls, Dôme des Invalides comes alive with the combined magic of light, orchestral music, and video-mapping, revealing its stately beauty and rich heritage. Over a 50-minute span, visitors are invited to partake in a sensory night-time exploration. Guided by light, they wander through Dôme des Invalides and its six chapels, where the previously unseen gradually comes into view.

As visitors pursue their exploration, they become attuned to their surroundings and the marvellous aura on display. The immersive AURA experience consists of three acts, each portraying a distinct facet of this particular landmark: its construction, the memories it harbours, and its power to inspire one and all.

AURA Invalides is designed to stimulate the imagination of audiences of all ages. As a result, visitors are swept away by moments of pure wonder, fostering





a deep and unique connection between public and place – and among the visitors themselves.

High-tech prowess showcasing an exceptional heritage site

Dôme des Invalides provides one of the most ambitious projection surfaces that Moment Factory has ever had the privilege to work with. The technical challenge was enormous. At more than 90 metres high, the building is topped by a dome whose smallest diameter is 30 metres. In all, more than 45 million pixels were mapped onto a 3,500-square-metre surface.

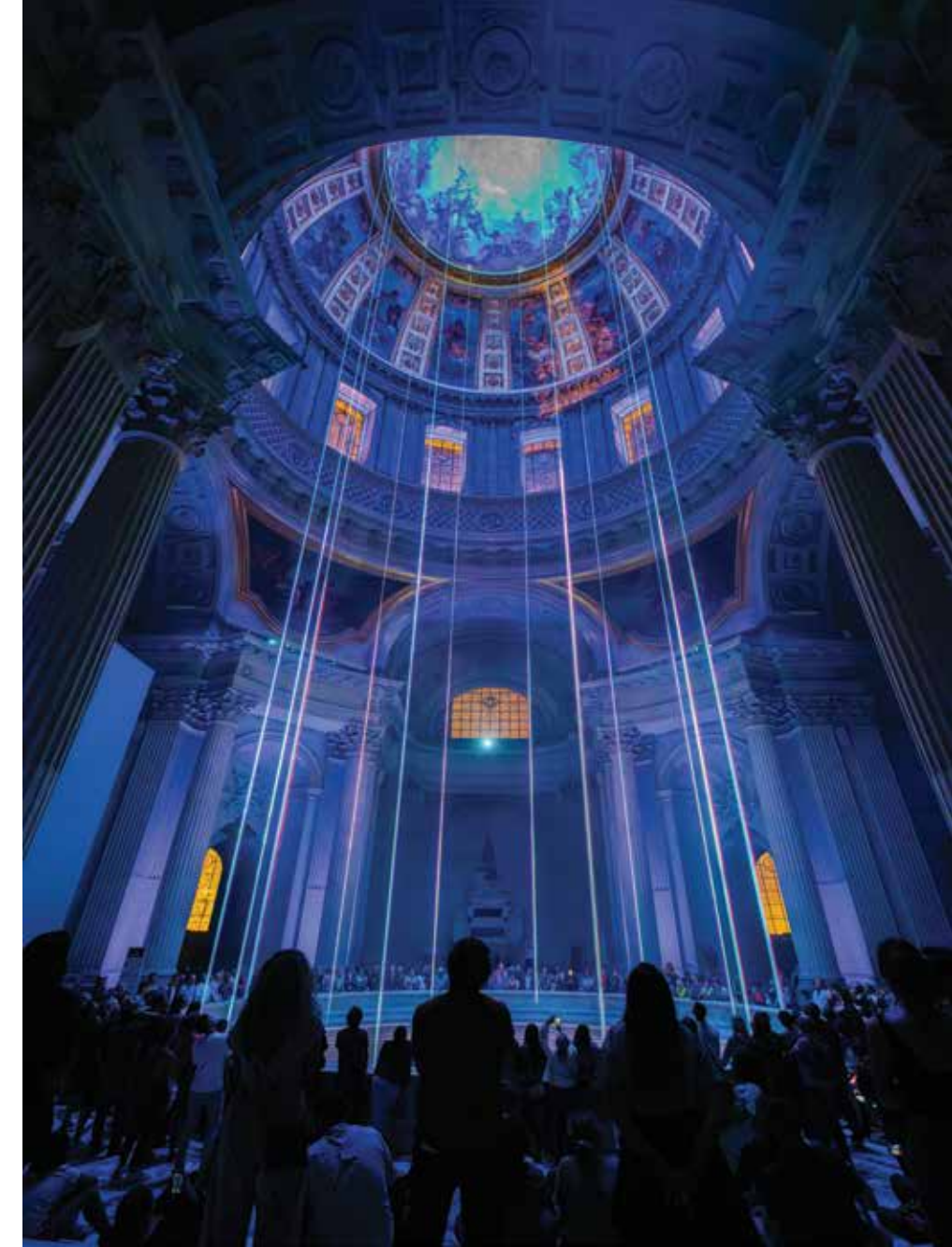
One of the building's distinctive features is a reverberation time that spans nearly ten seconds, a result of its architectural configuration. To ensure that AURA Invalides visitors can fully experience the orchestral score, the team employed a sound-spatialising technique that involves localising sound with utmost precision. As a result, visitors can clearly perceive where the sound emanates from. The experience combines sound and image to create a 360-degree immersion effect, making visitors feel as if they are fully immersed in the show.

Another major challenge was to blend technology seamlessly into this space so as to create a truly magical effect. In fact, since Dôme des Invalides is a protected historic monument, the projection equipment had to be installed on the existing structure without altering the site's architectural integrity.

To that end, the technical team produced a drone-enabled architectural scan, which it then transcribed into virtual reality, in the form of a 3D model, to produce a technical design that encompassed all of the site's specific features. Throughout this delicate stage (from design to implementation), the firm's collaboration with Direction régionale des affaires culturelles (DRAC) – whose role is to protect the building's integrity – was particularly invaluable.

A creative process that celebrates a historic monument

When the team at Moment Factory embarked on this ambitious project, above all it wanted to pay tribute to the genius of Jules Hardouin-Mansart, and the talent of the architects, artists, and craftsmen who created Dôme des Invalides so that today's visitors may discover, or rediscover, this



exceptional French heritage site in a whole new way.

The team's artistic preference was to reveal the spirit of the place, comprising its architectural beauty, the memory with which it resonates, and the symbolism it conveys. Accordingly, each scene in the experience is based on existing documents. After extensive historical research, the creative team worked closely with chief curators at Musée de l'Armée to ensure that the design was historically accurate.

AURA Invalides seeks to reveal and share, rather than to tell. While the creative team drew its narrative inspiration from the site's diverse history, it created an immersive world designed to spark visitors' imagination. By instilling a sense of wonder, the intangible and invisible are revealed.

A monumental experience in three movements

The AURA Invalides experience comprises three movements, inviting

visitors to discover three fundamental aspects of Dôme des Invalides: construction (movement I), memory (movement II), and power to inspire (movement III).

The experience is designed as a forward-moving narrative, enabling visitors to get closer to the spirit of the place – to its aura. Once visitors have experienced the various spaces (movement I) and delved into the monument's memory (movement II), they can access a sensory experience that embraces the resplendent grandeur of Les Invalides.

An orchestral score, specifically composed to enhance the experience

The music was created by Montreal studio Troublemakers, in collaboration with Moment Factory's creative teams. The score was devised and composed around the three movements that punctuate the AURA Invalides experience, with each piece featuring a distinct musical colour to highlight the contrasts that characterise the monument. The dome's unusual

acoustics, with almost ten seconds of reverberation, dictated this original creation from start to finish.

The instrumentation is a blend of orchestra, synthesisers, percussion, drums, machines, and the voices of more than 55 musicians. As for the composition itself, of contemporary style for the most part, it targets a modern orchestral sound, with a few references to nineteenth-century French music.

Moment Factory: Creating immersive experiences for more than 20 years

Over the years, through increasingly ambitious projects, Moment Factory has become an international standard-setter in the creation of immersive experiences that enable heritage sites to shine, thereby diversifying their initial offer and attracting new audiences.

Whether at Barcelona's Sagrada Familia, Basilique Notre-Dame de Montréal, Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims in France, and now Dôme des Invalides, Moment Factory uses the

power of storytelling and cutting-edge technology to create a spirit of collective wonder, creating intimate and unique bonds between the audience and the site.

The monumental experience that is AURA Invalides reflects Moment Factory's aspiration to enable this iconic site of Parisian and French heritage to engage with new audiences and continue to extend its legacy from generation to generation.

Other heritage projects by Moment Factory:

ODE TO LIFE at SAGRADA FAMILIA in Barcelona (2012): Moment Factory was invited by the cities of Barcelona and Montreal to create the first sound-and-light show on the imposing and complex façade of Sagrada Familia.

AURA at Basilique Notre-Dame de Montréal (2017): Fabrique de la Paroisse Notre-Dame asked Moment Factory to design a permanent sound, light, and video experience that would draw visitors inside the basilica and enable them to discover it in a new way.

REGALIA in Reims, France (2019): The city of Reims commissioned Moment Factory to design a two-part sensory multimedia experience on the façades of Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims and Basilique Saint-Remi, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

SUPERREAL, NYC (2019):

Moment Factory, in collaboration with Cipriani, created an immersive digital art experience that transformed Cipriani 25 Broadway.

SOISSONS EN LUMIÈRES (2022):

The cultural and architectural heritage of Soissons, France, was illuminated by a narrative and immersive experience across several emblematic monuments.

Moment Factory delivers French expertise

Moment Factory has been active in France for more than seven years and now boasts a team of more than 25 talented professionals. Over the years, the studio in France has built close ties with local partners and has rolled out a number of large-scale projects, including AURA Invalides, which was designed in collaboration with the Montreal studio.



In France, Moment Factory has created events for prestigious brands such as Moët & Chandon and Renault, permanent installations in hotels and casinos, including Grand Magic Hôtel and Pasino Partouche in Aix-En-Provence, worked closely with renowned artists such as Bigflo & Oli and Jain, devised enchanted night walks, including Alta Lumina in Gets and Oceana Lumina at Arsenal de Rochefort,

and contributed to showcasing local heritage through such ambitious projects as Regalia, a multimedia show displayed on the façades of Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims and Basilique Saint-Remi, both recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Soissons en Lumière.

Photo credit: Moment Factory 

www.momentfactory.com





When Serenity Rhymes With Simplicity in the Metamor- phosis of a Montreal Townhouse

Montreal, Canada

When Serenity Rhymes With Simplicity in the Metamorphosis of a Montreal Townhouse

Montreal, Canada

Entre Quatre Murs presents the Wilson Townhouse project, located on Nuns' Island in Montreal, Canada. The project consists of the complete renovation of a small townhouse, with a simple, functional approach to space optimisation, the use of custom-made cabinetry in each room, and a soft, luminous materiality.

Starting point for a major renovation

Designed by Dan Hanganu in 1982, and never renovated since, the house charmed its new owners with its exterior, which possessed all the typical characteristics of the neighbourhood and its period: simplicity in its lines, red brick, black windows, small touches of retro style on the facade and, above all, a large backyard sheltering mature vegetation that allows visitors to appreciate the rhythm of the seasons in the heart of the city.

As for the interior, it was in dire need of a major renovation to allow future residents to create their own story and, above all, to meet the needs of their daily lives. The work of the Entre Quatre Murs team was therefore colossal. At the beginning of the project, the focus was on softness, simplicity, brightness, and uniformity.



"Right from the planning stage, we designed a completely open layout for the first floor, as well as opening the entire rear façade, connecting the courtyard to the interior of the house, and providing maximum light, as well as giving a sense of grandeur to this small 665 square foot first floor," explains Debby Pagé, owner of the house and interior designer for Entre Quatre Murs.

The key to making this layout work was the integration of custom cabinetry on most of the party walls, allowing for storage completely tailored to the client's needs, but also creating a visual continuity between each space.

"The challenge in achieving this layout was the unusual structure of the home for a townhouse of this size," adds the designer. "Originally designed with two load-bearing axes and the main plumbing system running through the heart of the house, the existing layout required a complete reworking of these elements to make room for the extensive kitchen and its large island, which is the most important space for my partner and I."

An emphasis on light and materiality

Located at the heart of the house, the staircase and its overlooking skylight underwent a complete transformation. In fact, every detail of the staircase's structure was rethought, using all the conceptual guidelines used for the rest of the house: curved lines with touches of wood and white metal. Elegantly designed, this sculptural staircase effortlessly invites an abundance of natural light from the skylight to suffuse the entire house with its gentle radiance.

Positioned at the project's core, materiality played a pivotal role in shaping the identity of the house, deliberately paying homage to its heritage, while providing a refreshing sense of serenity and tranquility.



Serenity and softness upstairs

The upstairs area, while relatively impervious to the space's existing layout, underwent a remarkable transformation along the same lines as the first floor, with bespoke integrated storage designed and positioned to optimise space, storage, and daily use by the occupants.

"The conceptual thinking, and my concern to create a space directly in line with our daily habits, allowed us to emphasise, from the moment you arrive on the first floor, a sense of calm and fluidity found throughout the rooms," explains Debby Pagé. "As part of that process, we added many small, hidden storage spaces to help keep the space as uncluttered as possible."

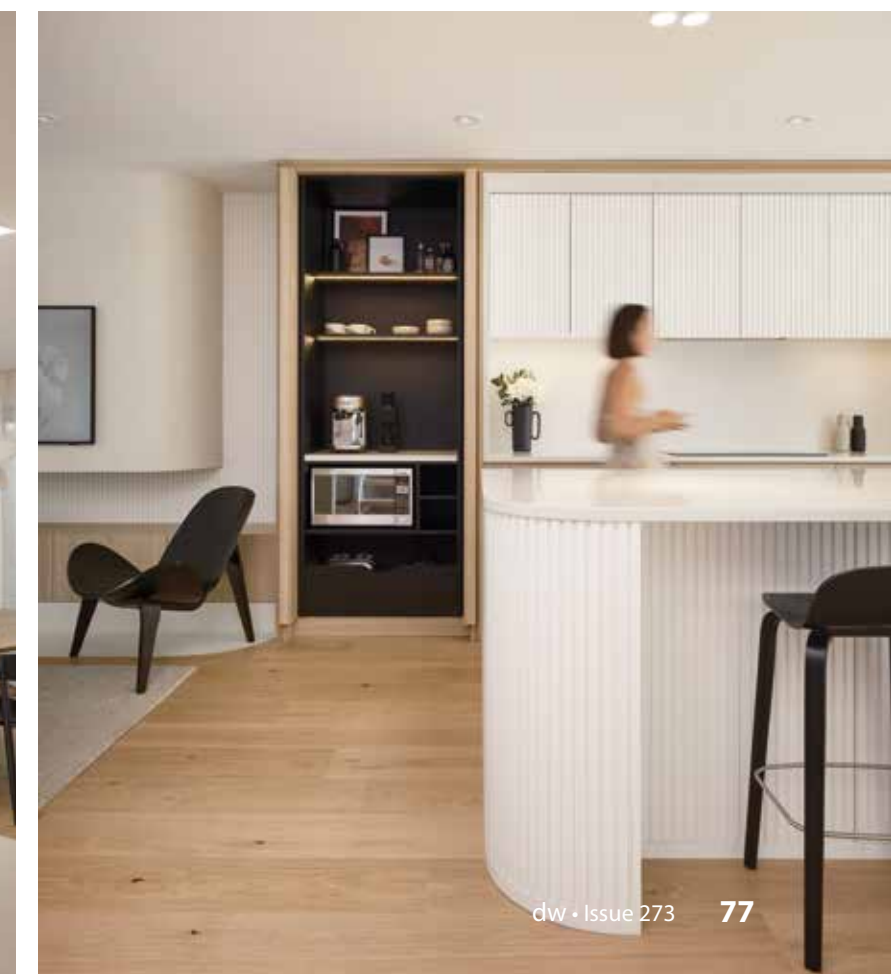
In keeping with the desire for a complete master suite worthy of a grand hotel, the bathroom was redesigned to accommodate guests, but also the arrival of a new family member should the need arise.

The first-floor windows overlooking the courtyard have also been enlarged, offering an unobstructed view of a mature oak tree and surrounding vegetation. A large linen curtain connects the bedroom to a walk-in closet that along the wall, bringing softness and continuity to both spaces. With no direct access to natural light, the upstairs bathroom was intentionally designed with a light and bright colour palette to ensure soft and aesthetic continuity with the rest of the project. In addition, accent lighting allows the brightness to be adjusted according to the time of day and the needs of the new owners.

Optimising every square foot

The lowest level of the house, the basement, was also designed along the same lines as the rest of the project. With the garage occupying over a third of the area, the remaining space had to be designed to provide versatility. As a result, it can seamlessly transition into a multipurpose area, serving as a hub for movie night, workout sessions, sleepovers, or as a dedicated space for hosting friends and family.

dw





Technical sheet

- Official Project Name: Wilson residence
- Location: Verdun, QC, Canada
- Studio: Entre Quatre Murs
- Designer/Project manager: Debby Pagé
- Contractor: Downs McGovern
- Cabinetmaker: Création Avantage
- Suppliers: Slik Design, Alumatico, Venosa, Fisher & Paykel, Unik Parquet, Brizo, The Rubinet Faucet, Laufen, Luminaire Authentik, Muuto, Ethni Craft, Mudconcrete, Stonetile, Ramacieri Soligo.
- Area: 1710 sq ft
- Year: 2023
- Photo credit: Maxime Brouillet

www.entrequatremurs.com/projets/wilson



D'En Serra

Barcelona, Spain





Kitchen area



Staircase with alternating steps

D'En Serra

Barcelona, Spain

Gokostudio, S.L. presents D'En Serra, a house arising from its position in the attic of an old estate in Ciutat Vella. Although a space of just 50 square metres, it is almost entirely surrounded by terraces divided into two levels, offering scenic views of the domes of the old city.

On the lower floor, the entire space is organised around a large room that functions as a living room and office, seamlessly connected to the kitchen; and that can be converted into a guest bedroom with two simple moves of custom-designed furniture.

On the upper floor, a bedroom with "suite claims" faces a perfectly oriented terrace, surrounded by greenery.

Each floor offers a large terrace for enjoying the favorable Barcelona climate, allowing occupants to experience the apartment beyond its construction limits. The frenetic pace of tourists and busy locals cannot be perceived from the terrace level, and cross ventilation provides a comfort level uncommon in the centre of Barcelona.

In keeping with the firm's constant striving to achieve perfect harmony between the soul of the place and the people occupying it, they prepared a white canvas that surrounds the space in all its magnitude. Some bare walls and the exposed structure are reminiscent of the age of the property and the vicissitudes it has gone through. Completing the colour palette are grays that sometimes turn blue, as well as touches of natural wood that provide warm details of light.



Work area - Desk



Toilet



Storage area



Main bedroom



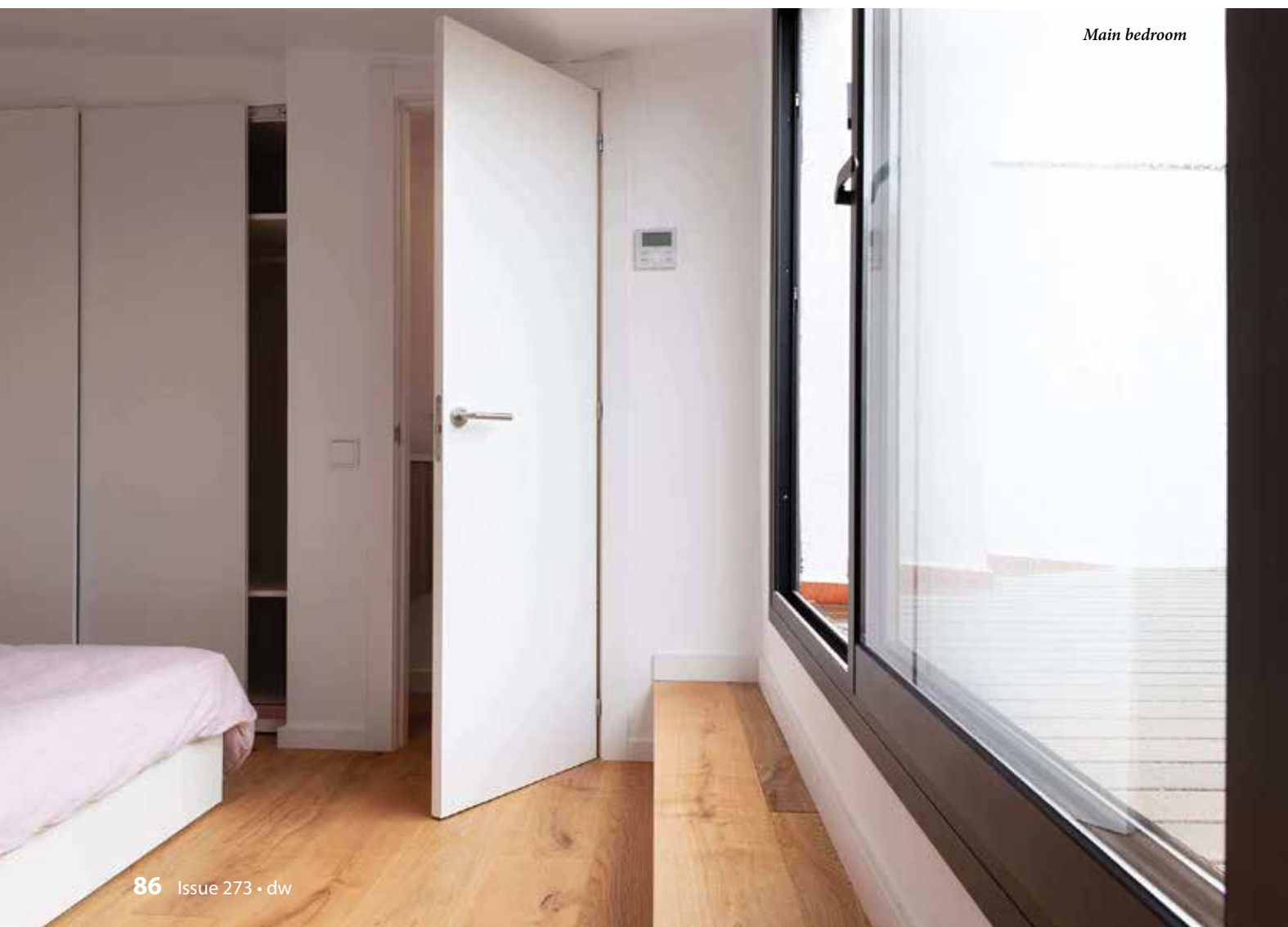
Saved area from back to bed



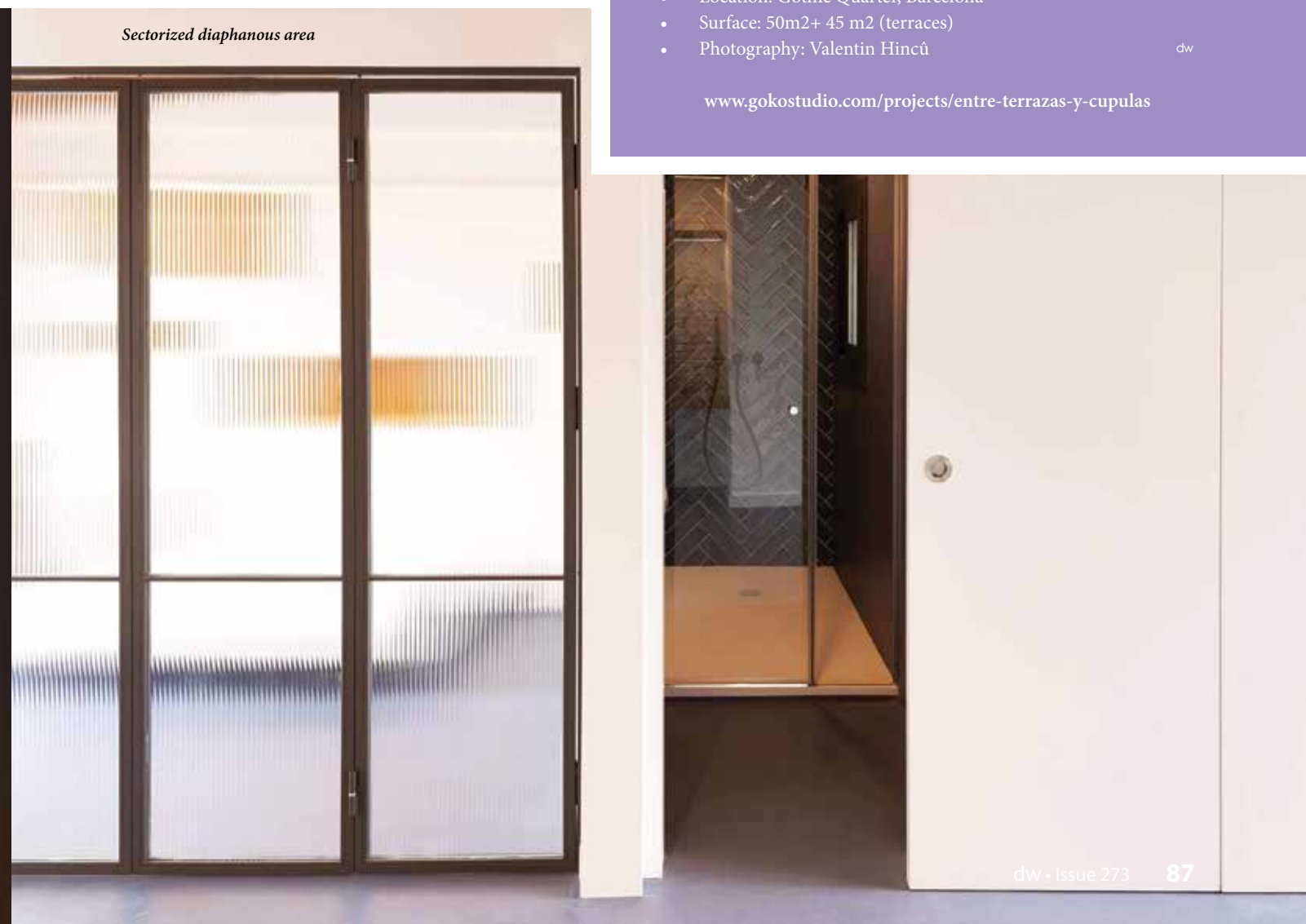
Custom staircase



Private terrace bedroom connection



Main bedroom



Sectorized diaphanous area

Technical sheet

- Typology: Residential
- Status: Completed (2022)
- Location: Gothic Quarter, Barcelona
- Surface: 50m2+ 45 m2 (terraces)
- Photography: Valentin Hincú

dw

www.gokostudio.com/projects/entre-terrazas-y-cupulas

Muskoka Cottage

Muskoka Lakes, Canada

Living Room

- Beam sofa by Patricia Urquiola for Cassina
- Yale table by Jean-Marie Massaud for MDF Italia
- Togo ottoman Ligne Roset
- Dreams buffet cabinet by Cristian Zuzunaga for BD Barcelona
- Superloon floor lamp by Jasper Morrison for Flos



Kitchen
 - Avico suspension lamp Fontana Arte
 - Custom kitchen by Reigo & Bauer with Renca + Heilimo



Dock Lounge

Muskoka Cottage

Muskoka Lakes, Canada

Set in the scenic landscape of Ontario's lake country, two hours drive north of Toronto, the Muskoka Cottage is an almost 200-year-old dwelling built in the style typical of the region. The waterside property, once part of a sprawling resort that was gradually demolished, had been added to and updated over the decades by its current owner as a summer retreat.

The request to design studio Reigo & Bauer, which had worked with the clients on two previous interior projects, was to retain and restore as much of the 6,700-square-foot building's historic charm and original details as possible, while imbuing the spaces with character that reflects the family's contemporary aesthetic tastes.

Reigo & Bauer's sensitive yet impactful renovation of the traditional shingle-clad cottage involved modernising the interiors, and curating a selection of bold and playful furniture pieces that would both contrast the existing architecture and complement the clients' impressive collection of Pop Art, Warhols et al.

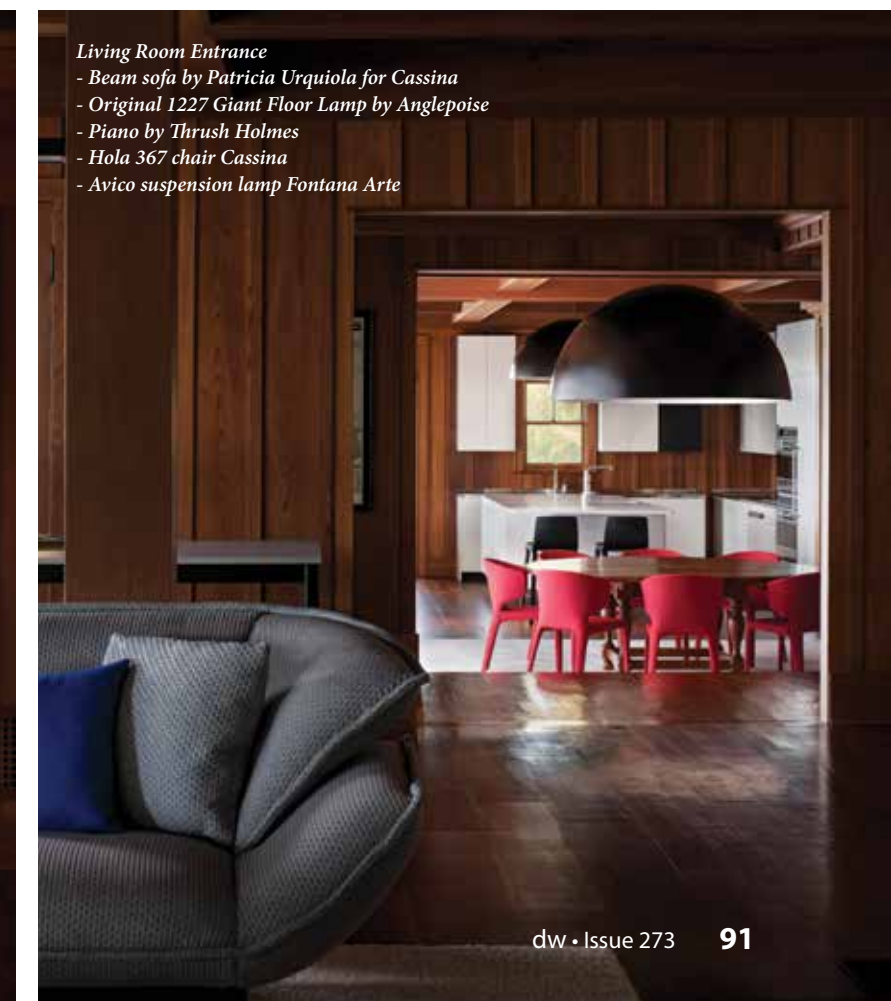
Approaching the former innkeeper's lodge with soft minimalism—which has become the studio's signature—contemporary elements were carefully inserted into the house as a layer added over the original western red cedar panels that blanket the interiors. Architectural interventions were limited to a crisp black and white palette, while colour was introduced sparingly yet dynamically through accent pieces.



Dining Room
 - Hola 367 chair Cassina
 - Avico suspension lamp Fontana Arte
 - Object Carpet custom rug by Are & Be



Dining Room & Kitchen
 - Hola 367 chair Cassina
 - Avico suspension lamp Fontana Arte
 - Custom kitchen by Reigo & Bauer with Renca + Heilimo



Living Room Entrance
 - Beam sofa by Patricia Urquiola for Cassina
 - Original 1227 Giant Floor Lamp by Anglepoise
 - Piano by Thrush Holmes
 - Hola 367 chair Cassina
 - Avico suspension lamp Fontana Arte

This is immediately apparent upon entry, where a bright white storage unit and blue cushioned bench are installed to read as a standalone element, replacing a series of board-and-batten-clad closets beside the front door. Similarly in the kitchen, the cabinetry and stainless-steel surfaces and appliances are placed to create a stark juxtaposition with, and distinct separation from, the paneling. Custom units form an L around a central island—its top extending at one end to form a breakfast bar, and its base subtly curved underneath to allow an extra seat on the adjacent side.

In the bathrooms, vanities are cleverly hung like artworks in front of the cedar walls on powder-coated steel frames, which hold mirrors and marble tiles, and accommodate the plumbing. Showers are similarly outlined in black, carefully slotted into place and patterned with hexagonal tiling.

Furniture throughout the home is again treated like pieces of art, imbuing each of the rooms with personality through flashes of colour, a variety of textures, and a surprising mix of scales. Huge domed pendant lights create continuity between the kitchen, dining area and hallway, while an oversized Anglepoise lamp standing in the living room warps the perspective when looking through to the kitchen.

Hues from a dichroic glass vitrine beside the entrance, and a console with pixelated sides in the living room, are picked out in accent pillows, coffee table books, and other upholstered items. The cottage's six bedrooms are treated in the same way, using colourful textiles and playful lamps to ensure none of the spaces feel too cold or serious.



Green Room

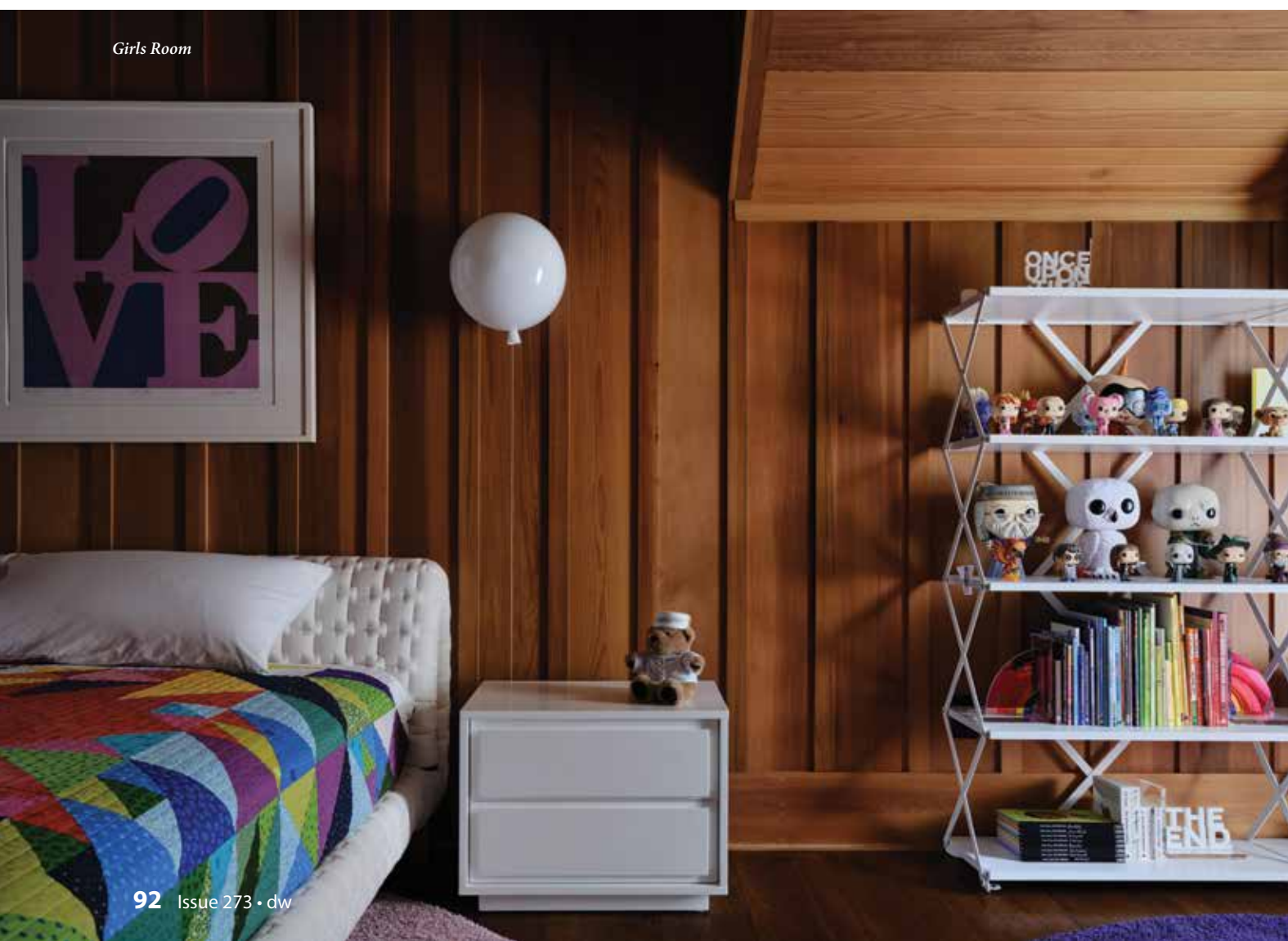


Master Bedroom



Master Bedroom Detail

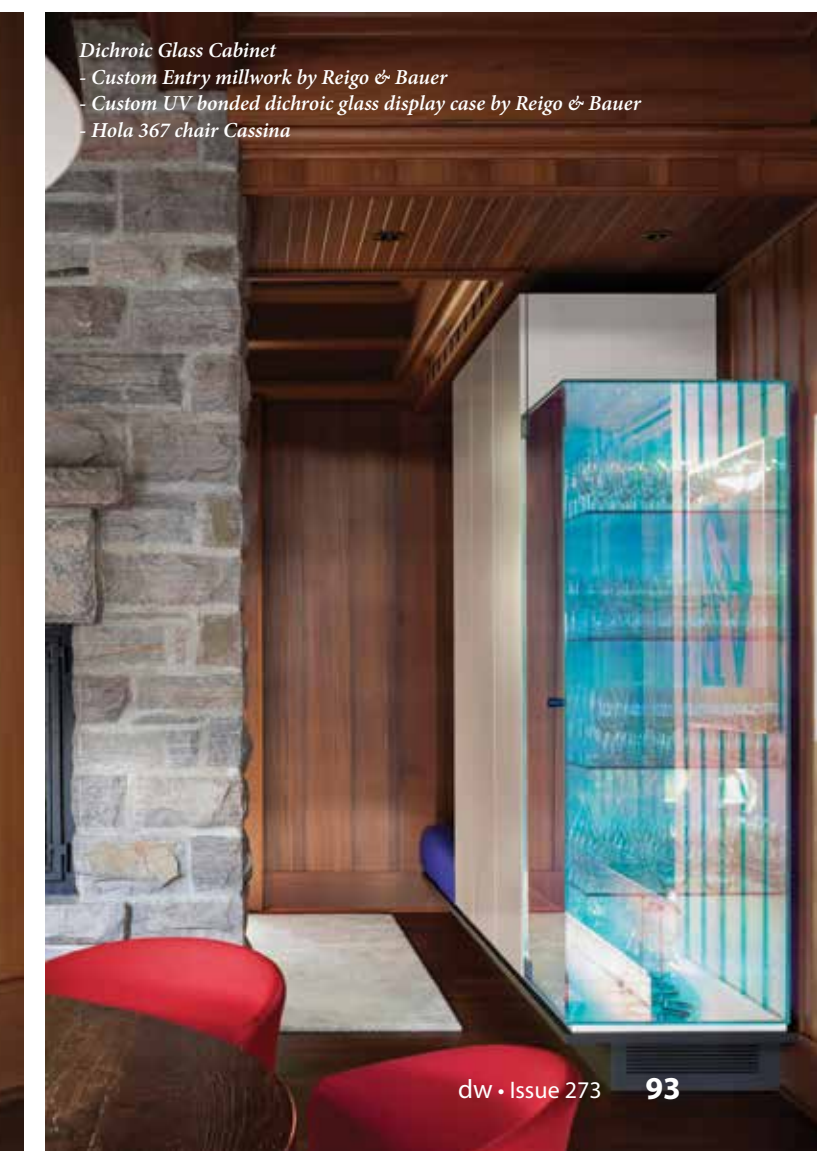
Girls Room



Master Vanity



- Dichroic Glass Cabinet
- Custom Entry millwork by Reigo & Bauer
- Custom UV bonded dichroic glass display case by Reigo & Bauer
- Hola 367 chair Cassina

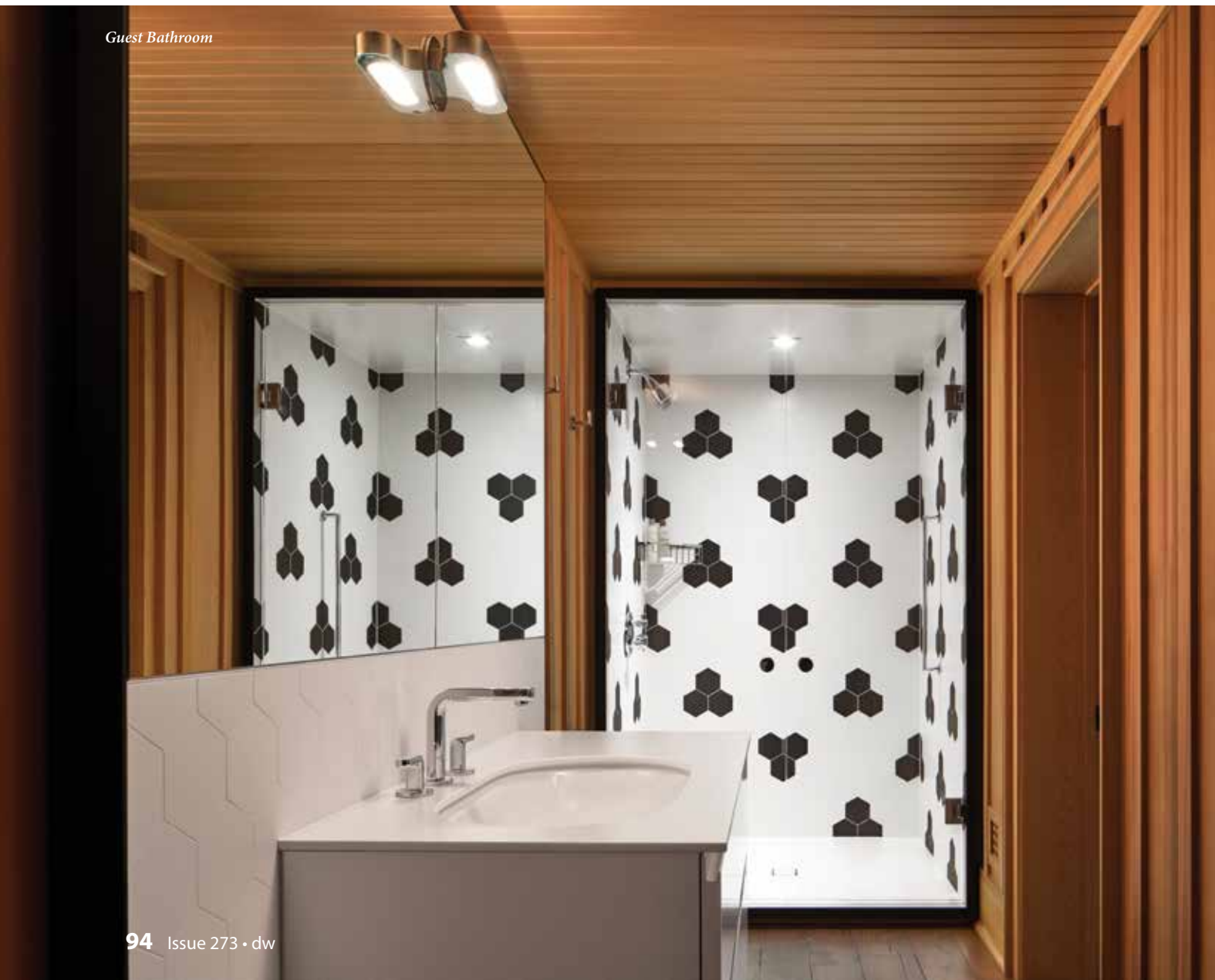




Birds Eye



Custom Outdoor Table



Guest Bathroom



Original Screened Porch Exterior

A fresh lick of white paint transformed the screened back veranda into a bright and airy room that capitalises on views out to the water. The narrow space is arranged into separate seating areas for adults and kids, which are demarcated using blue Paola Lenti outdoor rope rugs and populated with hard-wearing yet comfortable outdoor furniture.

An additional area for entertaining is found on the lake itself, where custom units that hold storage, cooking apparatus, and even a TV are built into a shelter on the dock. Expertly detailed to resist water damage, particularly in the case of inevitable spring floods, each unit is constructed entirely from powder-coated aluminium, and includes cleats around its perimeter so that a cover can be quickly pulled over in anticipation of adverse weather.

Throughout the project, the unexpectedly harmonious relationship between the modern and the traditional created by Reigo & Bauer's light touch results in a celebration of the old, while enkindling an appreciation for the new. dw

Project Details

- Project Name: Muskoka Cottage
- Location: Lake Muskoka Ontario
- Area: 6600 sf (615 m2)
- Completion: 2022
- Architecture & Interiors: Reigo & Bauer
- Design Team: Merike Bauer, Stephen Bauer
- Construction: Stockridge Construction
- Millwork Fabrication: Renca + Heilimo Inc
- Metal Fabrication: Filo Timo
- Photography: Doublespace Photography

www.reigoandbauer.com



TAIL OF THE DOG

Bushveld Babies

Despite the heat, November is a good time to visit the bushveld, so many adorable babies are about.

Tiny zebras are so pretty, their stripes not quite as dark as the adults, but they stick closely to their mothers. Each animal has a different stripe pattern, just like human fingerprints. The family herds will have one male and several females, and other families will live in the same space. Apparently, if a baby is not one of the male's offspring, it will be rejected and possibly killed – possessive father behaviour.

Baby hippos are really cute, and after being born under water, spend time on their mother's back, learning how to stay underwater, and how to breathe and swim. They weigh about 25 – 30 kgs at birth. Baby giraffes fall two metres to their birth, severing the umbilical cord with the fall. They are huge, 60 kgs, and two metres tall. I saw a photo recently of a

giraffe mother giving birth, delicately holding her own tail out of the way of her baby coming out. Rhino babies weigh in at 40 to 50 kgs, and the mother protects them ferociously. They will even shield larger calves from the boisterous teenagers in the same herd.

Impalas are synchronised breeders – the females drop their calves within days of each other, but only after the early rains, so there is enough nourishment around. They can graze grass and browse leaves, so have extra nutrition if necessary. Each herd has the one ram to protect it, but he will allow other males from a bachelor herd nearby to help if there is a threat of predators to his pregnant ladies.

The village weaver birds weave their colonies of nests hanging over water, to protect the chicks from snakes and other predators. They will sense if there is going to be good, normal, or light rainfall, and will build the nest

colony higher up against possible floods, in the middle for normal rainfall, and lower down for drought conditions. An interesting bird is the hornbill, who builds her nest inside a tree hollow. She will incubate herself in this hollow, stripping off all her outer feathers so she cannot fly, then the male will close up the hole with mud and dung so only a slit remains. The female adds her own soft chest feathers to the nest, and the male will feed her through the slit, calling when he arrives, and waiting for her answering call before giving her the food. She will circulate the nestlings so no one gets preferential feeding. Pity any predator who tries to get near the nest – a very sharp bill will poke out an eye in a flash.

All these sightings and all this bush lore in one weekend – thanks to people who preserve this incredible wilderness in areas within reach of our cities.

Gill Butler

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The light tells its story...
by Catellani & Smith

Catellani & Smith narrates its *Storie di Luce* in a unique volume that captivates its 'readers.' A book without pages, an original piece that is able to illuminate the bookshelf, accentuating the details of the books.

Storie di Luce is, in fact, Catellani & Smith's new rechargeable battery-operated lamp that replicates the format of the company's most recent catalogues. The tan-coloured cover creates an elegant contrast with the spine, made of Setalux® yarn in a brilliant magenta shade. The spine displays the volume's title, hot stamped and finished in a gold colour, just like the brand logo featured on the cover.

Inside *Storie di Luce*, the pages are replaced by a metal structure and by a brass flex with a copper rod that you can bend to adjust the light beam. Thanks to the absence of cables, this new lamp can be placed anywhere, among a collection of books or even individually. The magic of light happens thanks to the blue bookmark, which has been transformed into a switch. By gently pulling the cord, the light of *Storie di Luce* turns on and off to start or conclude a pleasant evening of reading.

Storie di Luce is available in a limited quantity until stock runs out. 

www.catellanismith.com/en/



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