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# SETTING A NEW RHYTHM



#### "What's next? What's new?"

Close your eyes and repeat those words. Louder. Keep going. Stop, can you hear that? It's the heartbeat that keeps *Hotel Designs* alive. Two questions, which, said together, form a pulse.

The answers – all different, of course, depending on who we speak to – can lead to fascinating discoveries and innovative, sometimes unimaginable, possibilities.

For half a decade now, *The Brit List* has been about championing progressive thoughts and attitudes, while celebrating the individuals who are the true influencers behind meaningful change – answering effortlessly those two questions with breathtaking solutions, to keep the tempo strong.

This year's nationwide campaign has not been short of stimulating design and heartening hospitality – I would go as far to say that we have never seen this level of variety. It's as if someone just opened the floodgates and in washed all these waves of ideas and stimulating concepts.

Each hotel referenced within the bios that you will read in this carefully curated edition of *The Brit List* has been born from extensive research and development into shifting traveller demands and future hospitality trends. From metaverse metropolis' to breathing new life into heritage buildings, the visionaries profiled in this year's publication are boldly, as well as sensitively, setting a new rhythm. The new question is whether or not you can maintain their pace.

Harrish Kilburn

Editor, Hotel Designs

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# MEET THE JUDGES



#### Kit Kemp

Kit Kemp, Founder and Creative Director of Firmdale Hotels and Kit Kemp Design Studio, needs little introduction. Winner of Outstanding Contribution for the Hospitality Award at The Brit List Awards 2019, among many other accolades, Kemp is passionate about creating exciting and unique interiors. The interior designer is an author, a successful product designer and respected champion of British art and craft.



#### **Lauren Ho**

With more than a decade of editorial experience as the Travel Editor at Wallpaper\*, Lauren Ho has travelled the globe several times over, and in the process has become one of the foremost authorities in luxury hospitality, with a particular focus on design and architecture.



#### **Libby Bull**

Libby Bull, President of the NEWH UK Chapter, is an Associate and interior designer at HKS, a global firm of architects, designers, advisors, and makers devoted to creating places that combine beauty with performance. Working in the hospitality interiors studio, she specialises in luxury hotels and resorts and works with some of the world's leading operators to design spaces that enhance the customer journey.



#### Glenn Huskie

The Founder and CEO of Artizan Group, Glenn Huskie is an understated influencer on the hotel design scene in Britain and further afield. Artizan Group, equally capable of representing owners and developers as well as major hotel and independent operator groups, is a client advisory and project delivery company. The group was established in response to meet the need for specialist development, project management, design and construction consulting services in the hotel and luxury residential sectors.



#### **Sue Timney**

With more than 30 years' experience working in Britain, Europe and Japan as a designer, Sue Timney is known for celebrating her own brand of exotic classism. Her work ranges from residential to commercial and product design. Timney, a Past President of the British Institute of Interior Design (BIID), has had her work exhibited in the V&A museum and she appeared on the 100th programme of Grand Designs.



#### **Hamish Kilburn**

Leading the judging panel for the fourth consecutive year is Hamish Kilburn, Editor of *Hotel Designs*. In addition to being at the helm of all editorial decisions for the brand and speaking regularly at major events in the design and hospitality calendar, Kilburn is also the host of two global podcasts, DESIGN POD and Marriott Bonvoy's Behind The Design.



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**Charles Dragazis**Production Manager

## HOTEL DESIGNS.





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#### Alex Bauman-Lyons, Head of Design, edyn

Since becoming Head of Design at edyn in 2020, Alex Bauman-Lyons continues to oversee all design decisions at edyn – including the look and style of all Locke and Cove properties – working to ensure each brand shelters its own personality.

Following this year's activity, which saw the arrival of Locke in Munich, Bauman-Lyons and his team are currently working on designing a Locke property in Zurich, which will boost a selection of restaurants and bars, as well as paired back appartments.

When asked what the DNA of each brand under edyn represented, Bauman-Lyons answered: "We push the boundaries at Locke. For us, it's proof that we are doing something bold and unique. Cove is a very different approach. Great design is still at the heart of the product, but the approach is more familiar and residential. It is less about a specific response to the location and more about evoking a sense of home. The FF&E and finishes are selected to reflect the way we furnish our homes – unrelated, yet complimentary pieces that are collected over time."



#### Alex Holloway, Co-Founder and Creative Director, Holloway Li

Alex Holloway is the Co-Founder of Holloway Li, and, together with Na Li, is responsible for the overall creative output and design direction of the company. He also manages the studio's London projects.

One of the studio's recent projects was an aparthotel, owned by edyn, called Wunderlocke. Containing 360 serviced studio apartments, and situated in Munich's buzzing Obersendling district, the property takes over an office building that previously belonged to German tech company Siemens.

Holloway Li aimed to celebrate the building's raw structure and reveal its authentic soul, avoiding a more traditional 'material intensive' approach to retrofitting. Inspired by this approach, the studio stripped back the building to its concrete shell and added a carefully curated selection of furnishings, using natural colours and materials where possible.









#### Alexander Evangelou, Creative Director, Alexander Waterworth

Alexander Waterworth, established in 2010, is a distinguished international interior architecture practice, providing a fully comprehensive service to clients around the world. Its Creative Director, Alexander Evangelou, believes that, "design excellence is the relationship between design, aesthetics and functionality. Neither one should be compromised. They should work in harmony by complementing and enhancing [a space] to achieve a beautiful and practical solution."

The studio's latest project, which has been a labour of love for Evangelou and his team since 2017, is the interior design inside Rosewood Vienna, housed in a restored 19th century building. Inside, the guestrooms and suites have been created to conjure up feelings of home. The relaxed design scheme includes warm, amber curtains, crisp white linen, herringbone hardwood floors and an unmatched view over the Old Town's skyline.



#### Charlie North, Vice President of Interior Design, Ennismore Design Studio

In what quite possibly has been one of the most anticipated hotel openings in Scottish history – from early teasers to the doors swinging open in Spring 2022 – Gleneagles Townhouse has finally arrived. During a painstaking five-year restoration project, Ennismore Design Studio was tasked to expand the legacy of Gleneagles, to create a boutique hotel in the heart of Edinburgh, sheltered inside a converted bank.

Beyond the strong public areas, which give a nod to the building's former purpose, and sit under a striking glass-domed ceiling surrounded by ornate architecture, the hotel features just 33 well-dressed rooms. These fall into three categories: 'Nook' the smallest, located in the eaves of the building; 'House', moderate size, sumptuous and sedate; and 'Master' the largest and most luxurious, all pulled together by Charlie North, Ennismore's Vice President of Design, who has been a main protagonist in creating the soul of the boutique jewel, which some have described as 'Gleneagles' sassy little sister'.









#### Constantina Tsoutsikou, Founder, Studio LOST

Constantina Tsoutsikou, the former Creative Director of HBA London and Founder of Studio LOST, said that, "it wasn't hard to find a sense of place" when designing the interiors inside – and outside – Numo lerapetra, Crete, which opened last year.

The design vision for the hotel was to renovate a 'tired resort' and create an escapist destination where people can come together to relax and create memories. Confronting the task with an open mind, Tsoutsikou realised that the resort had been built one building at a time over a period of thirty years. It therefore lacked personality and was not suitable for modern travellers. The designer created an intimate dialogue between the surrounding landscape and the accommodation inside. The result was a simple yet stylish design scheme that oozed beach vibes.

The renovation of the resort was a great opportunity for Studio LOST to put into action its approach around sustainability, and in particular upcycling. This allowed the designer to restore and repair existing items, such as wardrobe carcasses and other furniture pieces that now sit, in harmony, in between new elements.



#### German Mendoza, Senior Associate, Wimberly Interiors

With more than 20 years of experience in architecture and interior design, German Mendoza has a keen eye for detail and a passion for quality. His experience includes extensive work worldwide, with a specific focus throughout the Middle East, Asia, and Europe.

Prior to joining Wimberly Interiors, Mendoza specialised in high-end residential projects for a well-established London firm. Over the course of his career, Mendoza has developed expertise in the design and delivery of exclusive projects, ranging from high-end residential to urban and resort hotels, for both new-build and renovation projects.

Known among his team for being proactive and self-motivated, Mendoza collaborates with owners, developers and operators to deliver unique and inspiring interior design. His portfolio includes an array of prestigious and internationally acclaimed projects, such as the newly opened EDITION Hotel Abu Dhabi, Kempinski Hotel Jinan, Viceroy Kopaonik Serbia, Ritz-Carlton Amman and St. Regis Astana.







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## INSPIRED BY NATURE, NOT TRENDS

The latest collection from Arte opens the door to a plethora of possibilities in interior design. Inspired by nature, and placing art truly outside the frame, the Tangram Collection is something of a masterpiece...

Taking its name and inspiration from the puzzle of the same name, the Tangram Collection – an ingenious enigma – is based on natural grasses, coarsely or very finely woven and inlaid by hand in various patterns. An interpretation of each design was then created using water-based inks, printed on non-woven wallpaper. The high quality inks contain an exceptionally high amount of pigment, giving the wallpaper depth and relief, whilst producing strikingly bright, fresh colours that deliver incredible design impact.



Image credit: Arte

#### Myriad

An abstract and tropical print that gives a real inlaid feel. If you look closely, though, you can see the texture of woven grasses in the background. The watercolour effect lends a soft touch to the exotic flowers.

#### Dome

The inspiration for this design, as well as for Bounty and Caprice, comes from finely woven grasses, cut and inlaid by hand. The geometric, rounded shapes create a soft yet dynamic feel.

#### **Bounty**

Bounty is an abstract, geometric representation of lush palm leaves that seem to be reaching higher and higher across the wall.

#### Caprice

The playful, irregular pattern of straight and rounded corners of Caprice creates an artistic and creative effect.

#### Intarsio

This design took its inspiration from somewhat rougher, open-weave grasses, cut and inlaid by hand. The pattern itself, with its combination of rectangles and squares, appears as though it has been expertly woven together.

#### **Splice**

Rougher open-weave grasses, cut and inlaid by hand also serve as the inspiration for this design. The irregular pattern of asymmetrical shapes immediately feels very natural.





#### Jacu Strauss, Creative Director, Lore Group

One Hundred Shoreditch sent shockwaves through London when it opened in February of 2022. Not only was it the result of a strong desire to truly 'breathe life into a tired building', but it also marked Lore Group's fourth property designed by Jacu Strauss.

The hotel was a conscious refurbishment, taking the 'bones' of Ace London Shoreditch and updating all areas for a more 'grown up Shoreditch'. Externally, the building was made to feel more democratic and part of the community with the addition of oriel windows and a new front to the wine bar. The brief was for the hotel's public areas to retain the fun and vibrancy associated with the area, while the bedrooms were designed to represent a sense of calm in the heart of Shoreditch.

Past projects from Strauss include his work on Sea Containers London under Tom Dixon, the refurbishment of select spaces at Kimpton de Witt Amsterdam, creating Riggs Washington D.C. and his work on office and residential properties in New York City.



#### Jane Landino, Head of Creative, Taylor Howes Design

Together with Lottie Suckling, Senior Interior Designer at Taylor Howes Design, Jane Landino has, put simply, set new hospitality standards in Soho London with the design of Chateau Denmark. Set across 16 buildings, the 55-key hotel shelters a vintage-gothic look and feel mixed together with a punk personality.

The attention to detail within the interior design scheme, and in particular furniture specification, was unparalleled – think hand-carved skulls on desks, skull-button detailing, bronze-cast feet on the drawers and a striking lighting scheme to match.

Most of the pieces were bespoke creations that needed a lot of research and development along the way as prototypes with different materials to achieve the look and feel that would be both contract grade and commercially viable.

The overall hotel's aim to create 'party like a rockstar' interiors has been met thanks to the team at Taylor Howes Design, which, most impressively, is the studio's first hotel project, after making its name in the high-end residential market.









#### John Williams, Founder, SpaceInvader

SpaceInvader, launched in 2009 by John Williams with the aim to provide word-class interior design solutions, has become a regional, national and international player on the hotel design scene.

The hands-on designer is currently working on a boutique hotel design in Chester for Wildes Group. The scheme is luxurious and highly creative whilst being sensitive to its Grade II listed building in Chester's famous historical centre 'The Rows'. The studio's remit covers the whole interiors, from reception and public spaces, to room design, a spa area as well as the hotel's brand-new restaurant, X by Harry Guy.

At the other end of the style spectrum, the studio has created the interiors for a new-build, nine-storey, 95-bed Tribe hotel within Malta's fast-developing airport city complex for client Claret Group in partnership with Accor. The hotel will encompass ground and mezzanine floor F&B, co-working spaces and external decking, as well as a rooftop bar, terrace and pool. The scope of work includes all standard and executive bedrooms and corridors, as well as public spaces, with an exciting, ultracontemporary feel driven by a narrative of the Zoetrope – an early form of animation technology, offering fast-moving contrasts from light to dark.



#### Lauren Hughes-Glass, Associate, Ica

Maintaining relationships is key to project success, and Lauren Hughes-Glass thrives on collaborative energy, combining creativity with methodology in all her projects. With more than 15 years' experience in hospitality, she continues to lead design teams on large-scale, complex projects, working alongside some of the world's leading brands, including delivering the first Virgin Hotel outside the US, which is the 222-key Virgin Hotel Edinburgh.

Collaborating with the Virgin team, Hughes-Glass led her team to bring the brand's playful concepts to life, designing for Edinburgh's past and future while creating joy in the unique spaces that the Virgin brand offers within both the listed and new-build elements of the structure. The existing grandeur of the exterior extends into the interior design to enhance the features of the listed buildings while anchoring everything in the signature Virgin experience.

In combining the old with the new, more contemporary design features were sprinkled throughout the hotel to inspire wonder and awe: a glasspanelled corridor leading to the reception area, a very modern 'scarlet lounge' sitting within a very traditional corniced room and the exposed stone in the Commons Club restaurant combined with eclectic lighting and artwork bring a playfulness to the public spaces.

The luxury Chambers and Grand Chamber Suites are combined with a variety of bars, restaurants, and private dining spaces at street level enlivening both Victoria Street and Cowgate. The Chambers themselves combine sophisticated, neutral tones and pops of bright red colour, faithful to Virgin's signature brand.





# IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Kit Kenp

Editor Hamish Kilburn caught up with fellow judge Kit Kemp to discuss today's meaning of 'luxury' in design and hospitality – and why she wants to design a hotel in Stoke-on-Trent...

Charming, kind and passionate. The force behind the iconic look and feel that put Firmdale Hotels on the global hospitality map is, like her designs, full of character and oozes effortless style. Kit Kemp, winner of Outstanding Contribution to the Hospitality Industry award in 2019, joined this year's judging panel with enthusiasm and magnetic energy. I caught up with the designer midway through her next big venture – building Warren Street Hotel in New York that is slated to open in 2023 – to understand what sets Britain aside from the rest of the world when it comes to design and hospitality.

Hamish Kilburn: First things first, Kit. What were you looking for, and what stood out, when reading through this year's entries?

**Kit Kemp:** I was looking for originality and a new way of experiencing art and hospitality and how they work together; I was looking for inspiring, fresh ideas. And boy did we find it!

## HK: What is it about Britain that allows it to harbour such design talent?

**KK:** I think it's quite simple. In Britain, we have great all-around education and a certain boldness and curiosity to seek out exciting

design. The UK has many inviting exhibitions and platforms for different design talents. Hotel design is the perfect showcase among them all. Owners or developers are willing to experiment and feel secure in the knowledge that the design will enhance their investments.

#### HK: What makes a luxury hotel special in 2022?

**KK:** Entering another atmosphere that, put simply, takes your breath away as you enter. Somewhere that gives you a 'lightness of being'. Somewhere that peaks your curiosity around every corner. I also can't help but smile when I see staff looking as if they are enjoying their stay as much as you are.

## HK: If you could design a hotel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

**KK:** Stoke-on-Trent, believe it or not. I went there recently and the hotel I stayed in had no air conditioning – in general, it was a dump! That would be a fun challenge to take on.

## HK: And finally, what advice would you give to young designers?

**KK:** Don't let anyone tell you what you can't do. Insist on telling them what you can do and be aware of everything happening in the marketplace. Always work with people who love what they do – it is the most inspiring atmosphere to work in.





#### Lewis Taylor, Design Director, David Collins Studio

As Design Director of David Collins Studio, Lewis Taylor has led the design and delivery of the studio's hospitality and retail projects. These include the Alexander McQueen and Jimmy Choo worldwide store roll-outs, projects for Harrods, David Morris, McQ, Louis Leeman, Pret A Manger, de Grisogono and most recently the 376-key hotel Le Meridien in Seoul.

He works closely with Creative Director, Simon Rawlings, ensuring that Rawlings' creative vision is realised and overseeing each element of the design and delivery process at a senior level. In the 12 years since he joined David Collins Studio, Taylor has tackled an increasingly global scope of work.

Up-coming projects include Anantara Nice Plaza Hotel, Scarpetta Doha and Queen Anne for Cunard, which is being designed in collaboration with Richmond International, Sybille de Margerie and Adam D. Tihany.

"What David [Collins] taught me was always to put myself in the customer's shoes; to painstakingly consider every aspect of the user journey," Taylor said. "When you're entering a hotel room, for example, is there somewhere to leave your keys and hang your coat? It's easy to lose sight of the practical requirements of a space when you're in the midst of the design process, but that is one of the major strengths of David Collins Studio – we're always acutely aware that a space has to work operationally as well as aesthetically."



#### Marie Soliman, Co-Founder, Bergman Design House

Marie Soliman is an interior architect who, in her own words, "loves telling stories", with a diverse portfolio stretching across many contexts and continents, from hotels, wellness and restaurant design to high-end residential and boutique retail projects. She is passionate about travel and loves designing spaces that 'enhance the enjoyment of life'.

Soliman recently completed The Other House South Kensington, which is the brand's debut property; a hotel and club residence. Inside, the aim was to explore maximalism in a way that gave a nod to the local area, while also creating an elevated hospitality experience that felt warm, inviting – like a good friend's living room, if you like.

In addition, she has recently completed the Where Is Laowai, a speakeasy bar and restaurant in Vancouver, Canada, while also steering her and the studio's attention towards the design and redesign of luxury yachts.

With every project, Soliman develops the client brief by delving into the specific context and history to create a bespoke narrative and design language that tells a unique story. She believes in style over fashion in design to ensure the result is timeless yet remains fresh.





## 25th & 26th September 2023

Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre London Heathrow

For more than two decades, the Hotel Summit has been bringing together senior hospitality professionals with suppliers. The event consists of pre-arranged one-to-one meetings and seminars.

For more information contact Carly Walker on **01992 374055** or **c.walker@forumevents.co.uk**.





# IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Cauren Ho

Jet-setting travel and design journalist Lauren Ho joined the judging panel for The Brit List Awards 2022. Editor Hamish Kilburn caught up her, in between flights and commissions, to understand the world of hotel design and hospitality from her perspective...

With more than a decade of editorial experience as the Travel Editor at Wallpaper\*, Lauren Ho has (probably) 'been there', 'done that', travelled the globe and captured the Instagram post to prove it.

In the process of combining work with pleasure, she is fast-becoming one of the foremost authorities in luxury hospitality, with a particular focus on design and architecture – many would argue, therefore, that she is the perfect judge for The Brit List Awards.

In the short period Ho was on home soil, I caught up with her inside one of last year's winning projects, Nomad London, to understand what sparks her attention when exploring the ever-evolving international hotel design and hospitality scene.

Hamish Kilburn: Given the nature of your role, you're never in one place for too long. What's inspiring you at the moment on the hotel design and hospitality scene globally?

**Lauren Ho:** That sustainability is becoming more of a norm. Hotels in general are raising the bar with lots of interesting and new initiatives that cover everything from food waste to design. And then there are entire brands – such as like room2 – that are setting new standards with low-carbon, low-energy and zero-waste concepts.

#### HK: What does luxury mean to you?

**LH:** Since the pandemic hit, luxury definitely means to be able travel freely.

HK: As we have established, sustainability was a key theme in this year's entries. What particular initiative(s) stood out?

LH: I always find luxury and sustainability to be a particular conundrum, so I was impressed by Anne Golden, the General Manager at Pan Pacific London who launched the initiative to introduce Diptyque Paris' recyclable aluminium tubes of body wash, shampoo and conditioner.

HK: If budget was no object and you were asked to design a hotel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

**LH:** In South Africa, where I am from. I think I could bring a lot to the table in terms of my worldwide experience in both luxury and design.

# DDURAVIT



# **ZENCHA**Design by Sebastian Herkner

CEREMONY OF ZEN
A homage to mindfulness: a balanced bathroom
design blends with high quality material combinations.





#### Mark Bithrey, Founder, B3 Designers

Mark Bithrey founded B3 Designers 20 years ago with the vision of creating a positive impact on people and places. Since then, he has worked with entrepreneurs, restauranteurs and hoteliers to bring hospitality spaces to life.

Recent projects include the ambitious refurbishment of the dualbrand Sheraton and Marriott Frankfurt that was revealed this year. The remarkable three-year renovation saw the first European Marriott dual-brand hotel operating two Marriott International premium brands, Marriott and Sheraton, under one roof.

The design challenge posed to B3 Designers was multi-fold. The project was technically demanding, owing to its location and range of offers. As the functionality of an airport hotel is unique and different to a business/ leisure hotel or resort, the areas designed had to serve multi-purposes.

With every project, Bithrey works to build strong relationships, while motivating his creative teams to introduce fresh concepts and inspiring ideas, and ultimately deliver exceptional spaces against all briefs.



#### Martin Goddard, Director & Co-Founder, Goddard Littlefair

Director and Co-Founder of Goddard Littlefair, Martin Goddard spearheads projects with more than 20 years of experience, introducing high-profile clients to forward-thinking design.

The company, which this year celebrates its 10-year anniversary' now has two studios – one in London and the other in Porto. In a decade, the studio has worked with brands, such as Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts, Marriott International, Raffles Hotels & Resorts, Mondrian, Hilton Hotels and Corinthia Hotels, as well as developers, such as Qatari Diar and The Berkley Group.

Demonstrating the diversity and strength of the company in all its projects, Goddard Littlefair has shown, effortlessly, how hard work, resilience and consistency drives success.

Goddard's dedication to design is clear in the turnover of exciting projects. Although no project is the same, each offer dynamic and unique experiences for guests, and all are inspired by location, sustainable design and have a luxury finish.







#### Mustafa Afşaroğlu, Co-Founder, Taner's Sons

Taner's Sons is an architecture and design studio founded by two brothers, and is now a team of six creatives. Located in London, the team works globally with projects in the UK, Switzerland, France and Cyprus.

Not conforming to one sector, Mustafa Afşaroğlu and his team have completed projects in workplace, hospitality and residential that ultimately enables them to understand how people live, work, socialise.

A recent project was M'Arks Skybar, a new destination bar with the wider aim to help revolutionise the general neighbourhood in South East London. It's the power of carefully articulated, versatile design that has allowed this place to become a community space.

The studio's overall mission as a disruptive design studio is to upset the ordinary, create inspiring spaces and memorable experiences.



#### Neil Andrew, Head of Hospitality, Perkins&Will

Neil Andrew joined the London studio of Perkins&Will in March 2020 to lead the hospitality team. In two and half years, Andrew has made significant impact on the industry; he has seen through the completion of a major city centre hotel, won a range of new projects and has become a leading voice in sustainable design in the hospitality sector.

When Andrew started his role at the studio, the team had already designed a major refurbishment for Hilton London Metropole in Paddington. The hotel is one of Europe's largest and most popular venues for conferences. Under his leadership, Perkins&Will delivered the phased refurbishment, which completed in May 2022. The design included new guest suites and created a fresh look in the hotel's public areas. Paying homage to London's heritage, the reception, lobby bar, all-day dining and conference areas have all been inspired by different parts of London, celebrating the city in a contemporary, stylish and sophisticated way.

In addition, Andrew has spearheaded Perkins&Will's ESG efforts in the hospitality arena, driving progress through research and innovative design. Passionate about climate change, but aware of the huge impact of the modern tourism industry, Andrew weaves eco-conscious design into everything that he does. In 2021, the London studio published NetZero Now: Hospitality, a research-based pledge for delivering net-zero interiors for hotels. The team's experimental Guestroom 2035 digital installation for the Sleep&Eat Conference 2020 has been taken forward as net-zero hotel room prototype by a leading hotel brand that will be opened in spring 2023.





#### Nick Hickson, Director & Founder, THDP

Nick Hickson and his team at THDP are the design masterminds behind The Pigeon Post Bar & Eatery, a new F&B experience inside Hilton Cologne, which expresses a vintage vibe, while being considered and contemporary with some fun and quirky details.

The Hilton Cologne lobby, bar and social spaces were redesigned and refurbished to accommodate a modern, innovative gastronomy concept. The centrepiece of this is the Pigeon Post, a combination of restaurant, bar and lounge and social-working area. Its unusual name and amusing details are a clear reference to the building's history as a post office in the early 1950s through to the late 1990s. Later, after a long vacancy, in 2002 it was finally gutted and converted into the Hilton Hotel.

The optically chic restaurant and bar was built with a total of 110 seats, with a variety of furnishings and seating options that include intimately lit dining areas. A feature central bar dominates the space with a prominent overhead gantry in wood and copper colours. The table tops are in a faux marble, expressing the previous functionality of the building, while updating the effect to offer a more intimate but contemporary vibe.



#### Robert Angell, Founder & CEO, Robert Angell

Continuing to design prestigious, luxury and amazing projects for visionaries across the globe, Robert Angell is well-recognised due to his prolific projects that help define the hotel and hospitality design industry. The studio is award-winning and strives to deliver 'fabulous concepts' that are individual.

Having recently completed Fredericks Berlin and Aqua Hong Kong, Angell is currently working on the design for Raffles Jeddah. Inspired by Middle Eastern heritage, and with an enviable location, the hotel will feature 181 guestrooms and 188 branded residences.

The projects in Angell's portfolio are unique, considered and approached with a view to enriching peoples' lives. They give inspiration to those who wish to experience the interiors, reminding them that design should be timeless, enjoyable and theatrical in all the right places.





# INTERIOR DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE SUMMIT.

## **Monday 26th June 2023**

Hilton London Canary Wharf

Interior Design & Architecture Summit is *Hotel Designs'* premium meet-the-buyer event for designers, architects and suppliers.

The one-day event is designed to dynamically bridge the gap between senior designers, architects and key-industry suppliers. The Summit includes pre-arranged face-to-face meetings and a networking lunch. In addition, Hotel Designs has curated a captivating seminar programme that will run throughout the day, inviting leading industry figures to discuss a range of relevant and thought-provoking topics.

For more information contact,
Carly Walker on
01992 374055 or
c.walker@forumevents.co.uk

Scan to visit our website







#### Rose Murray, Director, These White Walls

Rose Murray, Director of These White Walls, has achieved the impossible. The small studio emerged thriving from the pandemic with an exciting list of current projects and upcoming launches – each showcase the studio's visionary approach.

The studio recently launched the new independent boutique hotel Nordelaia, a 12-bed converted farmhouse set in the beautiful hills of Piedmont in northern Italy. The client's intentions for the estate inspired Murray to develop a conceptual narrative of nature meets nurture as the driving force behind the hotel guest's experience, promoting an idyllic form of rural escapism that also celebrates cultivated indulgence.

The finishes and materials of the rooms have been designed to connect directly with the landscaped gardens and the changing seasons. Murray encouraged the hotelier to remove televisions from the guest's rooms so that they could better connect with the views and the circadian rhythm of life. She also encouraged a rejection of the standard tickbox hotel room layout, replacing it with an alternative 'Yours and Mine' symmetry of furniture, giving each guest their own wardrobe, desk and chair, conjoined to celebrate both individualism and union.



#### Terry McGinnity, Executive Design Director, G.A Design

Terry McGinnity takes the overall design lead for G.A Design's global operations, whilst being an acknowledged leader and outstanding designer in his own right. His continued efforts within the industry revolve around designing hotels that respond sympathetically to their environments, a process that G.A Design calls 'resonance'. This is in evidence this year with prestigious openings in Japan, Westin Yokohama, and Shanghai, Shangri-la Qiantan.

McGinnity continues to curate and develop an impressive list of work-in-progress projects around the world, including the much-anticipated Royal Atlantis Dubai, a \$1.4bn new-build development on the Palm in Dubai with architecture by KPF New York. This highly anticipated property will open in Q4 2022. McGinnity's approach has brought all the luxury and glamour of Dubai to life, in a typically controlled and playful design.

He is also working on projects for clients such as Corinthia Hotels, specifically in Rome, and has embarked in new forays with Rosewood and Conrad brands (in Austria and Japan respectively).

Most recently, he has helped the G.A Design with explorations into digital technology and how this can augment the more traditional design skills. This has produced interesting developments with AI and algorithmic design explorations helping front-end concept development, a process the studio believes is unique to G.A Design in the interior design space.







## Theresa Obermoser, Founder & Creative Director, Theresa Obermoser Interior Design

Theresa Obermoser Interior Design is an award-winning studio with offices in London and Vienna. Theresa Obermoser is the Founder and Creative Director who incorporates a unique style that can be best described as effortlessly elegant, grounded in efficacy and practicality.

In 2019, Obermoser designed Chic Chic, a charming farm in Ibiza. The aim was to modernise the Ibizan Finca while preserving the beautiful, traditional elements. The farm was designed as a home with a striking view over the campo as well as the coast, and a strong focus on enhancing that vision. The building's interior is characterised by microcement floors, natural tones and bohemian elements with an amazing view and outside area.

Most recently, the designer breathed new life into a former post and coaching station in Austria. The new design scheme of the 120-year-old Hotel Tiefenbrunner in Kitzbühel was inspired by traditional values combined with modern travel, with strong emphasis on materials, lighting and texture.



#### Tim Griffin, Principal, Wellbrook Hospitality

Taking on the challenge to achieve meaningful luxury/lifestyle hospitality in the heart of Manchester required individuals who were able to navigate the lifestyle sector and pinpoint valuable opportunities. Cue the arrival of Tim Griffin, PJ Kenny and Shanthan Balakrishnan, the Founders of Wellbrook Hospitality who prior to this accumulated 20 years' experience between them as senior leaders at Ennismore.

Designed by Griffin, LEVEN Manchester became the brand's debut hotel, and it is located on the corner of the infamous Canal Street – where the brand's narrative begins. From the outside, the property's striking red bricks and characterful crittal windows reflect the same style as many other building's in Manchester: original, untouched and charmingly rustic. Inside, though, is a different story.

Griffin used his own skill, talent and eye to create a textured interior design scheme that feels homely yet elevated.

Up next, LEVEN was wanting to make a statement, so it announced that its second hotel will be located in the metaverse – and is slated to open in Autumn 2022. The 'LEVENverse' will be one of the first lifestyle brands to blaze a digital trail in the early Metaverse. It will push traditional boundaries, bring the LEVEN brand to new audiences and explore the opportunities the digital future holds.





# IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Glenn Huskie

Editor Hamish Kilburn meets Glenn Huskie, the Founder and CEO of Artizan Group, who has perhaps the most interesting perspective over the British and global hotel development landscape, making him an ideal judge for The Brit List Awards 2022...

If hotel design was a performance – and in many ways it is – then Glenn Huskie, Founder and CEO of Artizan Group, would be the choreographer, or stage manager. His role in the hotel development arena is to help deliver some of the most prestigious developments in the world. He leads a committed team to work with clients in order to balance client's ROIs, the operator's brand ethos and ultimately the guests' overall experience.

Huskie forms together teams of dedicated architecture, design, F&B, sensory design, MEP and sustainability experts. Due to his wide vision over the industry, we asked if he would join this year's judging panel for The Brit List Awards 2022, and following this process, we caught up with the man in-between deadlines and meetings.

Hamish Kilburn: Your role at Artizan Group is very much between the owner and the various consultants on a hotel design project. What's exciting you from your perspective on the hotel design scene at the moment?

**Glenn Huskie:** There is so much to talk about, but I would say what's most exciting is the current energy and optimism in the market. Despite all the present uncertainties and noise, the hotel investment market, and therefore design scene, is really buzzing, and owners and investors are genuinely driving a new refreshed agenda – this is clichéd but quest experience, ESC, hybrid

hospitality, bleisure, and food & beverage are sectors that are really coming alive.

HK: What's the most challenging part of your role at Artizan Group?

**GH:** Time. Finding the hours to deliver to our own high standards and to exceed our clients and collaborators is probably the biggest challenge right now. We don't want to let our clients, partners, or consultant teams down – it's a tough balancing act, but one we thoroughly enjoy.

HK: From this year's entries in The Brit List Awards 2022, what were the stand-out themes?

**GH:** A couple of stand-out themes were present; attention to local materiality and its preservation, a strong focus on sympathetic heritage restoration and a clear focus across nearly all entries was the inclusion of environmental efficiencies within the building fabric and its surrounding landscape and built-environment.

HK: Britain has long been considered a significant hotel development landscape. In your opinion, where's the next hotel development hotspot at the end of the rainbow?

**GH:** Now there's a question...there is so much happening right now, it's hard to pinpoint on destination. The Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) is really booming with hospitality development, and I see Saudi Arabia as a very strong market for the next 10-15 years so very difficult to ignore. I'd personally like to see Africa take off, it's such a wonderful country rich in history and hospitality... fingers crossed.





#### Tina Norden, Partner, Conran & Partners

Former Interior Designer of the Year, following her win at The Brit List Awards 2021, Tina Norden is yet to peak in her career as she continues to be a valuable and much-respected leader within Conran & Partners as well as in the wider interior design and architecture arena.

Her and the team's latest project, Park Hyatt Jakarta, is a new landmark hotel in the heart of Jakarta, with the design narrative inspired by the natural beauty and traditional craft of Indonesia, combined with the contemporary and diverse culture of Jakarta.

Conran & Partners was appointed to design the interiors for the hotel that is set within a landmark tower, developed by MNC Land. The property is situated in the centre of the Indonesian capital, and the hotel occupies the first three and the uppermost 17 floors of the 37-storey tower.

The design includes the interiors of more than 220 guestrooms and suites, including a variety of food and beverage spaces, a pool, fitness centre and full-service spa, plus a three-storey function and ballroom facility. The design seeks to respect Park Hyatt's guidelines while creating a luxurious sense of space for guests, combining inspiration from the multi-cultural aspects of Jakarta and the natural beauty and traditional crafts of Indonesia.



#### Toni Black, Director of Interior Design, Blacksheep

With more than 25 years of industry experience, working with world-class brands across the globe, Toni Black leads the interior design team at Blacksheep, specialising in directing hotel and hospitality projects.

Since joining Blacksheep, Black has been behind some of studio's most highly acclaimed projects including Montcalm East Hotel London, St. Regis San Francisco and Prince De Galles Luxury Collection Hotel in Paris, among many others.

The designer is an avid storyteller who is always pushing her designers to consider the why and the why not. Her impeccable eye for detail ensures each interior narrative is expressed and followed through in every aspect of the design scheme. "For me, design is not about my own ego and putting my stamp on things," she said. "It's about working as a collective to create a unique design experience that tells us a story from not only a brand point of view but for that individual user/quest experience."

Black and her team are currently working on a boutique lodge hotel in Scotland and a luxury residence in Macau. She is also helping to reimagine the world's oldest luxury casino and is also designing a new wellness and health resort.





# WHERE ARE THE TOILETS?

ESP: Donde esta el inodoro? FRA: Où sont les toilettes? GRE: Pou eínai i toualéta? ITA: Dov'è la toilette?

2022 the long-awaited return of the foreign summer holiday – phrase books at the ready – google translate on your device – one of the most translated phrases we all use.

Everybody is certain about the necessity for a bathroom – no matter where or what your project. A hotel bathroom, whether fivestar luxury or three-star functionality, spa and wellness facilities, the humble B&B and commercial projects and public washrooms all have the need to facilitate rudimentary human needs, to be clean and refreshed, relaxed and pampered, de-stressed and invigorated and ready for the world outside.

So, whose job exactly is it anyway to design and facilitate the bathroom of your clients' dreams (and their budget)? Let's illustrate this with a well-known story.

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. The story ends with Everybody blaming Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.'

Utopia Projects' experience has taught the team that not all designers are born equal! Let's just clarify that – some designers love bathrooms, designing in all the features and finishes, taking on the technical challenges of flow rates and drainage flow and ensuring all aspects of the interior scheme are compatible and flow into a finished design.

On the other hand, many feel lost with the practical aspects of bathroom design and function but are excited by the creativity of finishes and textures but don't have the experience or the time to fill in the blanks.

This is where you need not just 'anybody' but 'somebody' to lead you through the process and specification of your concept bathroom designs. Utopia Projects is the 'somebody' you need.

Utopia Projects are professional, focussed and experienced at assisting hotel designers find the perfect solutions to bathrooms of any shape and size- we will ensure that the devil is in the detail talking you through the steps of style, function and finish, while considering brand, budget and bespoke solutions for your projects, infront and behind the wall – from concept to completion and beyond.

One of the pitfalls of our 'whose job, is it?' scenario is poor communication – Utopia Projects will maintain open, clear and concise communication with you from the initial discussion to understand your needs through to providing technical support detail and the most importantly the pitfalls to avoid.

Pure Freude an Wasser





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#### Wren Loucks, CEO & Creative Director, Be-kin

Fuelled by research into wellness, wellbeing, mental health and sensory design, since launching Be-kin in November 2020, Wren Loucks has published six projects, ranging from Grade II listed buildings to a private gym in Fitzrovia. In addition to design, Loucks aims to educate her clients on how they are affected by spaces across their senses and create spaces that stimulate their wellbeing. For the studio's commercial clients, Loucks creates spaces that support social sustainability – designing for a range of cognitive, physical, and sensorial differences. Backed by science, the company published a whitepaper on conceptual design, WISH, which was awarded highly commendable for the Celia Thomas Prize for disabled quests at the International Blue Badge Access Awards in April 2022.

Whilst Be-kin is, first and foremost, an interior design studio, it has been important for the brand that its work also inspires a wider community - including other designers. Given the early stages of Be-kin – and its statement into the market – Loucks is only just getting started on her exciting and meaningful journey.







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## MEMBERS ONLY: BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Ahead of HIX 2022 where *Hotel Designs* will moderate a panel discussion exploring the rise of hotel private members' clubs, Kristofer Thomas, Head of Content at HIX, highlights a few disruptive gamechangers...

Today's guests want to feel like they are part of something, not just temporary strangers passing through. Operators, meanwhile, are increasingly recognising the need to facilitate organic connections between people and the hospitality spaces that welcome them.

Cue the arrival of hotel members' clubs that allow guests to engage with the property beyond the limits of a physical stay. "The hotel sector is changing as the demands of guests have evolved," says Naomi Heaton, CEO of The Other House South Kensington. "We have seen people wanting to live like a local, rather than being treated as a transient hotel guest."

But this model is not solely the domain of local neighbourhood clubs. Indeed, scaling up a member's club to encompass experiences around the world can allow guests to stay loyal and engaged even whilst travelling. Opened last year at Barcelona's Sir Victor, The Cover is Sircle Collection's first foray into the members club market. Crucially, however, there are plans to roll out additional clubs in Amsterdam, Berlin and Vienna, as well as the ability of members to access all locations. Indeed, if guests have access to a wide network of these clubs they might never need to stray beyond the brand's remit.

Experience, however, can only carry a club so far, and it is the job of designers to both give this community form and differentiate the club portion sufficiently from the wider hotel, while also keeping a cohesive design language between each space. Spatial variety – as in

locating the club element away from the main offer – is a start, and some sort of visual signifier in the vein of FF&E that is exclusive or bespoke to the club can set this tone.

But perhaps exclusivity is not always the ideal state for these environments. Yes, the presence of a membership model implies some degree of privacy and a restrictive door policy, but bridging the club with the wider hotel via design could be mutually beneficial to both elements. With a continuous aesthetic bridging the two sections, standard guests are given a taste of what they will gain with a subscription without feeling second rate, whilst paying members are made to feel like they are part of a community as opposed to a clique.

"We wanted to create flow and cohesion between all rooms and looked at the project as a whole rather than separate parts," explains Natalia Miyar, the designer behind London's The Twenty Two.

In a market where genuine community is key, and consumers are seeking more personal resonance than a simple one-off transaction, the longevity of members' club is an enticing prospect. It's no surprise that major brands have invested so prominently in the launch of their own clubs, but the next step for this movement will be to find a means to develop these facilities organically and at larger scales without sacrificing the intimacy guests sign up for.

Want to hear more about hotel private members clubs? Come to watch the exclusive panel discussion, 'Members Only: Behind The Curtain of Hotel Members Clubs', with Editor Hamish Kilburn, Naomi Heaton, Myriel Walters and Natalia Miyar (November 17, 13:00pm) as part of HIX Talks 2022. Hotel Designs will also be present at HIX on Stand A63.



## STYLISH BATHROOM SOLUTIONS

To understand exactly what the statement 'full bathroom solutions' looks like, Bathroom Brands Group, Headline Sponsor of The Brit List Awards 2022, breaks down its latest styles...

Over the last few years bathrooms have become an integral part of hotel design, and are now a key consideration for guests when choosing where to stay. Creating a covetable bathroom requires creativity, vision, and – most importantly – products that blend both style and function. Bathroom Brands Group recognises the need for a full bathroom solution that offers both.

The British group is celebrated for its diverse and extensive portfolio of bathroom products that fall within its four brands, Crosswater, Burlington, Britton, and Clearwater. An industry leader in bathroom design, Bathroom Brands Group has recently launched several new collections that represent the latest technology and trends.

#### Crosswater | 30NE6

3ONE6 is an extensive brassware collection crafted from 316 stainless steel. It boasts contemporary design, premium precision finish, engineered performance, and an extraordinary lifespan. It features a variety of brassware products, ranging from taps and bath fillers, to shower valves and soap dispensers, all of which come with a 15-year guarantee.

Classed as 'marine grade', 316 stainless steel has a material composition of 16 per cent chromium, 10 per cent nickel, and two per cent molybdenum. This composition enables superior corrosion resistance, impact resistance, and durability. By using lead-free stainless steel, alongside precision manufacturing, and strict quality controls, Crosswater can produce extremely smooth internal water channels that prevent bacteria build-up and offer ultimate hygiene. 316 stainless steel is also a sustainable raw material that is

100 per cent recyclable. It can be regenerated and reused time and time again without any reduction in quality.



#### Crosswater | Limit

Limit fuses functionality with harmonious design to deliver bathroom furniture that embodies the beauty of Japandi style.

The textured furniture collection comprises of wall hung units designed to instantly transform any bathroom space into a spa-like sanctuary, with neutral tones, clean lines, balanced proportions, and natural wood effect finishes. Limit's homage to both Japanese and Scandinavian design is further enhanced with striking 3D slats, perfectly spaced to deliver on-trend texture and subtle luxury. In addition to delivering style, these uniform lines divert the gaze away from the edges of the room, presenting a space that appears instantly larger.

The Limit Single Drawer Unit is available in two sizes, two finishes, and a choice of three built-in basins or a countertop basin for ultimate luxury.



#### Crosswater | Tranquil

Using the latest multi-jet technology, the new Tranquil Shower Head doubles up on outlets to revolutionise the showering experience. Available in four key finishes, with single and dual outlet options, Tranquil is available in two recessed styles, 500 and 380, as well as a 300 fixed head option.

The innovative shower head offers three different flow modes, as well as a chromotherapy option for added wellbeing.

- Rainfall featuring a built-in cartridge that aerates the water, Rainfall creates a quiet cocoon of relaxing rainfall, via the 576 nozzles, without excessive water consumption.
- Intense Rainfall delivering a full-bodied shower, Intense Rainfall provides a stronger flow via 144 nozzles positioned in the middle of the shower head.
- Waterfall creating a truly refreshing shower, Waterfall delivers a cascade of flowing water directly from the ceiling.



#### Crosswater | Sensor

Crosswater's MPRO and Belgravia sensor taps combine expert functionality, award-winning design, and state-of-the-art infrared technology to create stylish taps that require no pushing, turning, or touching.

With both MPRO and Belgravia Sensor taps, the infrared sensor is integrated within the spout.

In addition to allowing a sleek and streamlined design, this position will enable the sensor to detect hand movement swiftly, activating rapid functionality in less than a second.

- Hygienic touch-less operation significantly reduces the transmission of germs and bacteria.
- Water Saving infrared sensing technology with customisable automatic shut-off time helps reduce water consumption in intensive use applications.
- Easy Maintenance built-in filters avoid impurities that could affect water flow and performance.
- Reliability valves and sensors have a service life of over 500,000 cycles. MPRO Sensor taps come in deck mounted or wall mounted designs and are available in four finishes.



**Image credit:** Sensor by Crosswater combines function with style

Available in three finishes, Belgravia Sensor deck-mounted taps blend classic styling with cutting-edge technology to bring advanced touchless operation to traditional bathroom designs.

#### **Britton Bathrooms | Camberwell**

Camberwell is a collection of stylish furniture units designed for trend-led consumers with smaller bathrooms and a greater focus on budget.

The range is available in three sizes and four matt-finish colours, with a choice of three handle finishes. It partners with either a built-in Cast Marble Basin for a seamless aesthetic or a Carrara Marble Countertop for added luxury.

Ensuring harmonious design within the bathroom, Camberwell pairs beautifully with every Britton Bathrooms brassware collection, notably Hoxton and Greenwich. More impressively, the handle finishes match perfectly with all the brand's brassware collections, enabling complete design consistency.









### Alastair Shepherd, Director, Falconer Chester Hall

In 2019, against a number of notable practices, Alastair Shepherd was instrumental in winning the commission to transform the former Harrington Hall Hotel in South Kensington alongside client The Other House. To create the newly opened hotel, the architect radically reinvented the existing building through the introduction of natural light and space. The existing structure was dated with cramped accommodation behind a historic yet tired facade; there was little sense of hidden potential.

To address these shortcomings, Shepherd introduced a series of double-height courtyards, bringing natural light into the dark basement and visually connecting to the transformed public areas at ground floor. As residents now move around the building, these spaces offer unexpected moments of surprise.

The architect is currently working on The Other House Covent Garden, Municipal Buildings in Liverpool and other hotels in Plymouth, Blackpool, as well as The Forum in South Kensington, a reinvention of one of the largest hotels in London, with more than 900 rooms, including an extensive rooftop bar.



### Chris Fegan, Design Director, Ica

In the more than 20 years that Chris Fegan has been immersed in hotel design, he has been at the core of substantial change.

The past few years have seen Fegan excel and reach the 'top of his game' as a hotel architect. The bold statement is backed up with projects such as the new Virgin hotel in Edinburgh, The Gantry at Stratford and Marriott Tribute. One of Ica's core values is to 'love hospitality'. That tenet is imbued throughout the studio's design work. What that means in practice is that Fegan designs from the inside out; he creates the hotel spatially first, making sure that the spaces work and that no guest flow or back-of-house functionality is compromised. Once the hotel 'works', he then wraps it in architecture to suit aspirations, context and cityscape.

The new Virgin hotel in Edinburgh was altogether a different challenge. For this project, Fegan led the Ica creative team on a journey to create a unique, sympathetic yet unapologetic architectural response. One of the key 'gains' achieved by Fegan's design was the development of 225 guestrooms within the sensitive World Heritage site, that cannot be seen from any other point in the city. Beyond that, the real skill lay in weaving together diverse listed buildings in a layered city context. The architecture that has emerged is simultaneously contextual and iconic.





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#### David Chipperfield, Principal, David Chipperfield Architects

David Chipperfield, an architect, author and all-round creative, recently completed Taoxichuan Hotel, part of the Unbound Collection by Hyatt. Situated in the vibrant Taoxichuan creative and cultural district of Jingdezhen, China, the project is a collaboration between the two architecture studios, David Chipperfield Architects (architecture) and AIM Architecture (interior design). The hotel occupies three interconnected buildings, and every part – from the structure to the finishes – pays tribute to the city's porcelain heritage.

The contemporary brick architecture consists of three courtyard blocks connected by a generous interior street. AlM's approach with the interiors was first to continue the architecture into the interiors by extending the brick facades of the exterior, and then, from translucent white to glazing greens and blues, each of the three interior volumes was dedicated to one technique. The lounge uses green Celadon glazing. The restaurant and spa are committed to the methods of using cobalt for blue colouring. The meeting and ballroom spaces are all about the lightness and transparency of porcelain. To move through the hotel is to move through different techniques of porcelain.

With roof lights designed to evoke the powerful heat of the kiln, through to the use of softer clay tones in the guestrooms, the hotel is a tribute to the technique and experience of porcelain in the heart of its birthplace.



#### Davide Bertacca, Associate Principal, Woods Bagot

Davide Bertacca has 16 years' experience leading design teams for international clients located in the UK, Europe and the Middle East. He has acquired extensive knowledge working across a wide range of commercial and mixed-use projects, specifically in the hotel, hospitality and residential sectors.

Having joined Woods Bagot in 2014, Bertacca is now an Associate Principal and hotel sector leader for Woods Bagot Europe. His role within the London Studio started with the Sheraton Park Lane hotel project refurbishment. Bertacca has also worked on the recently completed Hotel AMANO Covent Garden – a top-to-bottom project for the architecture studio, including all architectural refurbishment and interiors, located in one of London's most popular theatre districts.

Currently, the architect is leading the design and delivery of Antognolla, a major masterplan and resort in Umbria, Italy. He is also delivering the final stages of MINTHIS, a luxury residential golf resort in Cyprus, due to open its doors in late 2022.





### STIMULATING WELLNESS THROUGH TOUCH

In an article that's part of an exclusive 'wellness series' with Hotel Designs, interior designer Wren Loucks, CEO and Creative Director of Be-kin, explores the role of touch and tactility when creating more meaningful and textured hospitality spaces...

When I walk into a space, I like to run my hands over the walls and countertops – rub the curtain fabric, slip my finger over the contours of objects and take off my shoes to feel the nuance of the floor below. In doing so, I have a sensory rich experience, and I learn more about my own sensory preferences.

When we touch something, it sends sensorial information to a region of the brain called the somatosensory cortex. It then connects the information to other regions of the brain, to process the sensory information. For those with visual impairments, this information is particularly important – tactile paving, braille and the use of different materials can help immensely with wayfinding.

When it comes to transforming spaces using touch, indoor plants are just one wonderful way to introduce texture and can be incredibly supportive to mental wellbeing. Caressing plants can help manage PTSD and anxiety.

Describing a military veteran who shares how touching plants helped him manage PTSD, Samantha Walton wrote in Everybody Needs Beauty: In Search of the Nature Cure: "His own hands shake as he demonstrates a technique

that he found helpful for coping with dissociative episodes. Holding a leaf between his fingers, he traces its web of veins, holding It up to the light to see the delicate matrix of green and yellow revealed by the sun," she said. "It is an exercise in paying attention, in becoming conscious of life beyond our own that carries on its processes of creation and destruction regardless, and in his most desperate states he found it both comforting and captivating."

As our world speeds up through new technologies, Al, and more pressure to be engaged with the metaverse, more than ever do we need to create sensory rich, tactile environments, to ground us and help offset anxiety. Each one of us will have our own tactile preferences, which are built up over a lifetime of memories and associations with different materials. Your wardrobe and the type of bed linen you buy, is a good clue into your instinctive preferences. Spend time exploring this, remain curious, and have fun with it.







### Ed Murray, Associate Architect, Studio Moren

Ed Murray is an accomplished Associate and architect who has led a wide range of projects for independent owners and international brands across the entire hospitality spectrum, including luxury hotels, banqueting and conference venues, resorts and spas. Murray has meticulous attention to detail, a good sense of perspective and a proven track record in delivering projects from conception to completion. He has a strong value set based on honesty, integrity and respect for the individual.

Earlier this year, he was finally able to unveil his work on Westin London City, following a two-and-half-year project. The 222-key, new-build hotel, which is the brand's first hotel in the UK, shelters nine residential apartments and a more than 740 square-metre spa.

Murray's ability to coordinate and manage large teams, his rapport with colleagues, clients, design teams and contractors alike makes him an indispensable interface between projects and their stakeholders.

His role goes beyond architecture, as he is also involved in the practice's inclusivity forum group, as well as mentoring other team members.



### Geoff Hull, Director, EPR Architects

No stranger to The Brit List Awards, Geoff Hull, with more than 35 years' experience behind him, has completed many hotel projects during his time at EPR Architects, including refurbishments such as The Waldorf, Kimpton Fitzroy, Rosewood London and Home Grown, along with four new-build hotels for the Devere Group.

He is currently overseeing several exciting conversion and new-build hotel schemes, including The OWO, Marylebone Lane Hotel, The Audley and Brickmakers Yard Hotel (all of which are currently on site), along with many planning applications and feasibility studies for new projects. The Audley is on site and due for completion in 2022. The OWO and Marylebone Lane Hotel are due for completion in 2023.

Hull continues to be an integral member of the EPR hotel team, offering a wide range of experience for operators, investors, contractors and developers and has a passion and drive to invest in his internal team as a mentor – along with an open ongoing collaboration with other disciplines within the hotel sector.









### Helen Taylor, Head of Design, Caudwell

Prior to her move to become Head of Design at Caudwell, Helen Taylor was the Project Lead on behalf of Woods Bagot with the ambitious task to help bring the renders and sketches of The Londoner, which opened late last year as London's new eco hotel, to life. Both passive and active measures were applied to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions by more than 30 per cent.

The architecture feat of this project is not the building above ground, but more what happens below. The hotel shelters one of the deepest commercial basements in Europe – at 30 meters deep, the entire structure sits on a series of 20-metre-long, single-cast steel trusses, each weighing 55 tons. In this area of the hotel, guests will find a ballroom, leisure facilities, two Odeon Luxe cinemas, a spa and state-of-the-art conference facilities.

To stay sympathetic to the surrounding historic buildings – such as the Gregorian Westminster Reference Library – the façade was developed to project a bold language while using traditional materials.



### James Dilley, Director, Jestico + Whiles

For 28 short years, James Dilley has been working as an interior designer and architect at Jestico + Whiles. In this time, he specialised in architectural and interior design of hospitality projects including hotels, restaurants and bars, clubs and cinemas. In an interview with *Hotel Designs*, Dilley said: "The best designs come from challenging convention and doing things that haven't been done before. Innovation and creativity are therefore key."

Dilley, now a Director at the firm, has led teams on hotel projects both in the UK and internationally, including completing hotels in territories, such as Malta, Marrakesh, Berlin, Amsterdam, Tbilisi and Kyiv.

Working under appointment as either architect or interior designer, and under combined appointments to provide a comprehensive service, Dilley's portfolio includes the remarkable W Edinburgh, which is currently in design and expected to complete in 2023.







### James Soane, Director, Project Orange

Project Orange was the architecture studio behind London's first hometel, room2 Chiswick. The building makes reference to the classic loft apartment warehouse conversion where a simple exterior serves as a foil to a rich and individual interior.

Low-rise, simple brickwork mixed with classic steel windows are a simple typology in traditional mixed contexts as found in the immediate neighbourhood of Chiswick High Road and Windmill Road. The 86 crafted rooms, designed by House of Dre, offer convenience and luxury each with a kitchenette and access to the cafe and restaurant. It is the world's first whole life, net-zero hometel, meaning that all the carbon emissions from conception through to end-of-life have been reduced and rebalanced to zero.

room2 Chiswick is 89 per cent more efficient than your average hotel. A heat pump under the building provides hot water while the solar panels meet five per cent of energy demand and the roof is covered in greenery to boost biodiversity. Guests are accompanied by 75,000 bees living on the roof, supporting biodiversity in the area, and in the process making unique, local honey.



### Jen Samuel, Head of Hotels, 3DReid

Jen Samuel, Head of Hotels at 3DRied, has extensive experience working with listed buildings and is interested in the challenges and opportunities that they present.

The 33-key Gleneagles Townhouse is a fine example of this, which opened in June 2022 following a five-year project to convert the former Bank of Scotland headquarters at into a hotel and private members' club as part of an expansion of the Gleneagles brand.

In addition to guestrooms, and inspired by the highly significant historic features of the original building, 3DReid created the shells for an all-day restaurant with glazed courtyard, a member's lounge, co-working spaces, a rooftop bar with terrace and a basement gym and wellness suite.

Externally, the materials of the new-build elements included Catcastle Buff sandstone, reclaimed West Highland slate from the removal of the original pitched roof and a natural copper cladding panel, which takes on a warm bronze patina allowing it to blend in with the weathered sandstone of the existing banking hall building.







# IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Sue Tinney

When it comes to British design, Sue Timney dances to the beat of her own drum. Editor Hamish Kilburn caught up with the celebrated interior designer, in London, following her role as a judge for The Brit List Awards 2022...

Whether it's unveiling product lines for leading retail companies, transforming a water tower into a luxury abode (and appearing on Grand Designs in the process), or designing homes for celebrities, there's not a lot that interior designer Sue Timney hasn't done – and executed in her own style. Drawing on more than 30 years' experience, the designer channels her knowledge and natural ability to challenge convention into creating iconic spaces that feel deep and meaningful.

For The Brit List Awards 2022, Timney was invited to join the judging panel, and after the judging process, we caught up with her to understand what British design means to her.

# HK: As someone who has created in both interior design and product design, what do you prefer and why?

ST: I have never wanted to be too pigeon-holed as a designer, I enjoy working across various areas of creativity – feeding the results from one focused area into another... it helps stimulate new ideas and helps produce a fresh energy around every project I'm working in.

### HK: What would say are the most significant qualities of a leader in this arena?

**ST:** Creative leadership is about empathy, clarity and creativity – all coming together.

Communication and listening skills are essential. But most of all, if we are passionate about the work we do as designers it has a wonderful way of rubbing-off within our teams.

### HK: What has been the most rewarding project you have worked on?

**ST:** One of the scariest moments was when I was working on the Grand Designs Water Tower in London for Channel 4. I asked the client at the beginning of the project, 'what's the budget?'. He handed me a credit card and said, 'take this there is not limit on that card!' It was a terrifying idea. Needless to say, I was even more careful than usual to make sure we worked within a tight budget – it almost became a challenge!

### HK: Why are the boundaries between residential and hospitality blurring?

ST: I believe its not just the boundaries between residential and hospitality that are blurring but between a Club mood and a feeling of Home (not necessarily the same as residential). If we can capture the magic that exists within all of these areas, then I believe we are beginning to create a new genre of shared living. And, well, its time to challenge these traditional moods as everything around us is changing.- Lets look at new ways of living in this most intriguing of decades and restimulate.

### HK: What advice would you give to young designers in 2022?

Work hard, keep looking forward and never give up. There's always something new and amzing around the corner.





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#### Jennifer de Vere-Hopkins, Associate Director, Jestico + Whiles

Jennifer de Vere-Hopkins is an Associate Director at Jestico + Whiles, and part of her natural leadership approach is to be a mentor to other women within the studio. Since joining in 2006, the architect has worked across a wide portfolio of buildings – from hotels, cruise ships, restaurants and guest experience suites.

Most recently, Vere-Hopkins led the team behind the transformation of the two historic luxury Swiss hotels; Mandarin Oriental's latest European hotel in Luzern, and the Kempinski Palace Engelberg. In Luzern, Vere-Hopkins and her team have sensitively reinterpreted the vision of eccentric Swiss hotelier Franz Josef Bucher, remixing faded Art Deco grandeur with fresh and spirited interior design elements.

She leads significant projects in the hospitality studio, currently overseeing the interior design for a series of innovative workspaces and immersive customer experience centres for a well-known leading tech company across Europe. Through Vere-Hopkins' visionary research developed for these technology centres, the team have developed methods of designing for cognitive differences, through creating spatial conditions where social and private environments can co-exist.



### Kerry Acheson, Associate, Ica Studio

With conceptual talent and flair for problem solving, Kerry Acheson is currently working as an Associate at Ica Studio in Glasgow where she is responsible for the oversight of many professionals, including managing the development of Ica Studio's aspiring student architects as well as the office mentors.

For the architect, the new Virgin Hotel is the outstanding result of many years of specialised experience, a lot of hidden challenging work in both design and technical expertise to de-risk and make the project viable. Acheson first put 'felt tip' pen to paper for this complex site in the middle of Edinburgh's Old Town and a UNESCO World Heritage site at the start of 2013, and after many years leading the Project Team, is finally seeing the first Virgin Hotel outside the USA opening to the public in 2022.

In an area of the capital renowned for its varied topography, picturesque medieval streets, closes and wynds and diverse architectural character, her challenge was to combine the restoration of three distinctly separate 'at risk' listed buildings, which occupy dramatically different levels within the local cityscape, with new-build elements carefully considered to re-establish the historic form of the site, whilst also showcasing a bold, contemporary Edinburgh.

Acheson led the studio's team with expert heritage know-how combined with creative talent and world-leading hospitality expertise to a design that was able to unlock the viability of this challenging city-centre site.





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### Laurence Pinn, Director, Tate+Co

A key member of the team at Tate+Co, which won The Eco Award at The Brit List Awards 2018, Laurence Pinn aims to unlock the potential in projects to create a sense of place as well to bring spaces back to life. This has been evident in the studio's work on the extension at Watergate Bay Hotel to create seven new suites, The Beach Lofts, that frame the best views in the hotel.

Pinn and his team started by re-cladding the exterior of the building with robust materials appropriate for the coastal setting and created a series of cosy interiors with views across the bay. The design included some key adjustments to the existing building to dramatically improve how it fits into the beautiful natural setting. The studio also significantly reduced the operational energy consumption of the building by introducing super-insulation and triple-glazing.

Another hotel recently completed by Tate+Co is Callow Hall, a Grade II listed building that the team transformed into a completely fresh guest experience centred on health and wellbeing, allowing visitors to connect to the spectacular natural setting of the Peak District.



### Lee Sze Wei, Director, Translation Architecture

Lee Sze Wei joined forces with Nicholas de Klerk in late 2020 to grow the new design studio Translation Architecture after more than 19 years in practice in London and Melbourne, working on projects as varied as hotels, and restaurants to student housing and destination retail.

The first project that Lee tackled at the studio was the comprehensive refurbishment of the former Red Lion Hotel in Henley-on-Thames into the first property for new hospitality brand The Relais Retreats. The Relais Henley was born. Lee is passionate about working with existing buildings to make them more energy efficient, and thereby to improve their sustainability ang longer term viability. This is often a painstaking and delicate process as it requires experience, technical knowledge and a deep understanding of the building in question – how it performs and how to sustain its character and material qualities while improving the overall performance.

The next hotel for the Relais Retreats is located at Cooden Beach, near Bexhill on Sea. Here, Lee has been able to go further in detailing and specifying the interior fitout (developed with Paris-based Interior Designer Pascal Allaman) to achieve high environmental standards. This has included specifying fitted joinery to eliminate VOC's and formaldehyde, as well as using standard timber sizes to reduce waste and improve viability for re-use, a fundamental issue in circular design.





# IT'S MORE THAN A TROPHY

Elevating the awards campaign up a deserving notch, The Brit List Awards 2022 called upon Sans Souci to design this year's trophies. Editor Hamish Kilburn spoke to Jiří Krišica, Head of Design at the lighting brand, to find out more...

For five years now (and counting), The Brit List Awards has been a major event in the design, architecture and hospitality calendar. To add a further spark this year's campaign – and to add a bespoke touch to the awards ceremony – the nine individual trophies have been designed by lighting design studio Sans Souci.

I caught up with Jiří Krišica, who is the brand's Head of Design, to understand the narrative behind the creation of these prestigious masterpieces.

### Hamish Kilburn: What was the concept behind the trophies?

Jiří Krišica: The concept itself was to come up with something related to the interior design industry, while keeping it contemporary and in line with the event vibe. The shape of each of the nine awards is inspired by a room, or a model used in architecture. The open door represents openness and welcoming attitude.

The overall piece is made from glass and enhanced with Sans Souci Aurum nanocoating.

As the final touch the logo and The Brit List Awards branding is incorporated.

### HK: Why did you decided to sponsor this year's awards?

**JK:** Sans Souci works with architects and interior designers on regular basis and it feels natural to be part of events and projects such as The Brit List Awards. As a lighting brand we are part of the industry and it is a privilege to see the latest trends and novelties and meet with the creative minds behind the best projects in the hospitality industry.

### HK: How does the trophy design reflect Sans Souci?

**JK:** As a lighting brand we are part of the industry and it is a privilege to see the latest trends and novelties and meet with the creative minds behind the best projects in the hospitality industry.

The Aurum nanocoating technology is something we have great expertise in. Our in-house nanocoating facility one of the largest in the region. The design is effortless, but with a twist, which is also characteristics for our products and collections. The award was made in the North Bohemian, the region famous for glassmaking as all our products.





#### **Lorraine Stoutt Griffith, Director, Twelve Architects**

Start your engines. Last year, the industry got excited about Escapade Living's new hospitality concept at Silverstone, home of the UK Grand Prix. Well, the project, designed by Twelve Architects, and led by Lorraine Stoutt Griffith, with interiors of the residences conceptualised by Bergman Design House, has gone up a gear. The trackside luxury retreats are being designed to be an abstract representation of a Fl car overtaking another. The residences themselves have cantilevered terraces, allowing spectators to get even closer to the racetrack. Light-filled and with high acoustic specifications, each sanctuary will have underfloor heating, comfort cooling and ensuite bathrooms.

In addition to the architecture-meets-engineering project, the studio is also working on creating a modern yet sensitive extension of Bodmin Jail Hotel Spa, which will shelter a destination spa underneath a glass structure. Its form is inspired by the tri-arched windows on the gable ends of the Naval and Women's Wings, and a modern interpretation of the trefoil arched leisure pavilions of the Victorian era.



### Luke Fox, Head of Studio, Foster + Partners

Luke Fox has led one of six of Foster + Partners' design studios, with teams in London, Hong Kong and Beijing, on a wide range of different projects around the world since 2010. As part of the Partnership Board, Fox also helps set the future direction of the practice.

Currently, Fox and his team are working on Hermitage Plaza, which is expected to create a new community at the gateway to La Défense, in the area of Courbevoie in Paris. The extensive mixed-use scheme is intended to regenerate the site with a sustainable, high-density development.

This brave, shared vision has shaped the form of the building, and the ambition to create two 323-metre-high towers – slightly less than the Eiffel Tower – a new arrondissement in the sky. The scheme brings together a hotel, spa, panoramic apartments, offices and serviced apartments, as well as shops and cafes at the base.





# AXOR



**AXOR One** by Barber Osgerby





### Martin Dobbs, Director, BrightSPACE Architects

Martin Dobbs is a Chartered Architectural Technologist and Building Engineer with more than 30 years' experience designing, detailing and delivering buildings in a variety of sectors. With a passion for producing high quality, well-detailed buildings, Dobbs enjoys working closely with contractors from early design stages through to completion on site, helping to ensure delivery is within budget and on programme.

BrightSPACE Architects has worked alongside Savills Planning Consultants, Calcinotto Structural Engineers and Arc Landscapes to submit proposals to improve and extend the current Savoy Hotel for Nicolas James Group. Following pre-app consultation with BCP, proposals were submitted for planning in December 2021.

The proposals include a new bedroom wing, providing 21 guestrooms; a luxury spa with hydrotherapy pool, sauna and steam room; a roof-top sky lounge restaurant; external pool and landscaped gardens and a garden restaurant with sea views. The proposed extension to the hotel and garden interventions will contribute to a much-needed five-star leisure facilities in the Bournemouth West Cliff area.



### Murray Levinson, Partner, Squire & Partners

In addition to a collaborative project on the Msheireb Downtown Doha masterplan in 2019, Squire & Partners is making noise on the hotel design scene closer to home. The 170-key Ruby Zoe hotel, due to open in Q1 2023, makes up part of the studio's work regenerating three adjacent sites at Notting Hill Gate Estate. Taking inspiration from the vertical repetition inherent to the surrounding Georgian and Victorian terraces, the design of Ruby Zoe is expressed with a regular rhythm across the façade and a setback top floor. Prominent neighbouring mid-century developments influenced the design by incorporating coloured glazed tiles, textured concrete and angled glazing elements within the structural frame.

At art'otel Hoxton, completing early 2024, architectural style will be infused with art-inspired interiors in a building that occupies a prominent corner, where Old Street meets Great Eastern Street. The studio's design is evocative of the industrial history of South Shoreditch, responding to a precedent of bull-nosed buildings that characterise the area with a cylindrical form that references a fractured cogwheel form in plan, adapting as it rises in response to the internal functions of each floor. Twisting aluminium fins on the façade are a decorative response to the area's association with technology, and are carefully spaced to create solar shading as well as the desired levels of privacy on each floor whilst maximising views of the city.





# A TRIBUTE TO ITALIAN OAK

Atlas Concorde recently launched Entice, a collection of porcelain tiles that evoke the essence of oak wood with extreme realism...

The Entice collection from Atlas Concorde conveys a timeless beauty as it reinterprets Italian oak of the finest quality. Delicate nuances, slender veins and natural colours make it one of the most widespread and versatile woods for interior design projects. The collection includes two design variants, allowing architects and designers to add spirit and character to their projects:

Entice Natural, with knots and light tone-on-tone grouting expresses the most spontaneous and authentic traits of oak, while Entice Elegant has a more uniform grain that brings out the slender veins of this precious wood.

Entice Natural is inspired by the natural beauty of oak wood – an earthy look with knots and grouting typical of untreated wood. The three-dimensionality of the surface is evident to the touch, recalling ancient planing techniques. In the Natural variant, the surface conveys a pleasant tactile sensation achieved through the innovative Sensitech Itechnology that combines superior slip resistance performance (R10b) with easy cleaning and a soft, delicate touch.

A distinguishing feature of the Elegant selection is the delicately reflective surface interrupted by opaque veins inspired by the technique of oiling natural wood, giving a luminous, extremely realistic look to the surface. Both design options are ideal for any setting, able to make rooms warm and welcoming without betraying its simple spirit.

The collection comes in a palette of four natural tones, embracing the hues of honey and amber, cool browns with contemporary nuances, and the enveloping shades of warm grey and sand.

Pale Oak is a warm straw yellow colour typical of oak, and is an enveloping colour that makes every room bright and natural. Copper Oak is a golden shade with orange-peach-hazelnut tones that make rooms warm and cosy, while Browned Oak has a medium-intensity burnished colour with highly trendy cool shades. Completing the range, Ash Oak is a warm light grey colour with delicate sand-coloured veins. Bright and contemporary, this shade adds light to rooms and amplifies the space, creating an ethereal, delicate appearance.

The surface collections are available in a variety of finishes and specifications for both indoor and outdoor applications.





#### Patrik Schumacher, Principal, Zaha Hadid Architects

Patrik Schumacher, who joined Zaha Hadid Architects in 1988, is the Principal of the London-based studio, and has been leading the firm since the passing of Zaha Hadid in 2016. Widely recognised as one of the most prominent thought leaders within the fields of architecture, urbanism and design, Schumacher recently spearheaded the studio's 'cyber-urban' city in the metaverse.

Named Liberland Metaverse, the virtual city is based on the Free Republic of Liberland. "While [the project] is meant to spearhead the development of Liberland as a libertarian micronation, it will also function as free-standing virtual reality realm in its own right," explained Schumacher, who argues that physical spaces will coexist alongside virtual ones. "The ambition is for it to become the go-to site for networking and collaboration within the burgeoning web 3.0 industry, it's the metaverse for metaverse developers and the crypto ecosystem at large."

The studio designed all buildings using parametric design style, in its typical approach with curvaceous, sinuous forms and rounded corners. However, many of the buildings have elements not supported from the ground – something that is not possible when limited by gravity.



### Paul Wells, Partner, Studio Moren

Paul Wells, who joined Studio Moren as a Project Architect in 2012, has worked his way up to Partner over the past 10 years, and now leads on a number of projects.

Having previously spent time working on conservation, Wells has a keen interest in heritage buildings and recently completed the RIBA course in Conservation Architecture to assist with his daily projects. He is currently leading on the upgrade of the Grade II listed Driscoll House in Southwark, which will be reimagined as a design-led hostel, and on the restoration and reconfiguration of the Grade II listed Welcombe Hotel in Stratford Upon Avon, which will be rejuvenated as a destination hotel.

In a similar vein, the architect, who was instrumental in the delivery of Hyatt Place London City East, is currently bringing forward through planning a new-build golf and spa hotel in Buckinghamshire. The Magnolia Park Hotel and Golf Club that features a contemporary triwinged design with undulating roof form to respond to its rural context, is set against a backdrop of the Chiltern Hills.

In addition, he is leading on the construction stages of a new-build spa hotel and residential development at Noss on Dart, Devon, a former boatyard site with incredible views down the River Dart estuary.





### ON THE PATH TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

With the maxim 'In Touch with our Planet', Hansgrohe is passionately committed to its social responsibility. The bathroom brand marked World Water Day by publishing an interim review of the brands forward-looking sustainability strategy...

With transparency being as important as sustainability, Hansgrohe already achieved some of its milestones in 2021, and as a result, all of its German sites are now climate-neutral in terms of direct emissions and energy consumption. At the beginning of the year, the international sites also switched to green electricity, making an annual savings of more than 26,000 t CO2.

At the German plants, in Wasselonne, France, and in Shanghai, China, supplementary energy efficiency analyses have identified potential further savings of electricity, utilising block-type thermal power plants and photovoltaics, peak load and solar irradiation planning. In Shanghai, the heating system for the electroplating baths is already based on heat pump technology. All international production plants have also set their own sustainability targets.

The net result is that by the end of 2022, all international sites will have switched to green power and achieve climate neutrality in terms of direct emissions and energy consumption. All site emissions are measured and made transparent for the entire Hansgrohe Group as

part of the Corporate Carbon Footprint project. An Operational Sustainability Board headed by the Chief Operations Officer, Frank Semling, has also been installed across all international sites to identify and monitor sustainability potential.

"Our plan is to successively decarbonise the company," said Steffen Erath, Head of Innovation and Sustainability at Hansgrohe, who is at the helm of a strategic initiative founded in 2020 that drives Hansgrohe's green transformation. "This process is costly and requires a lot of effort, but compensating for climate damage would probably cost us more."

Another focus of Hansgrohe is on water. "Water is life and our passion," said Hans Juergen Kalmbach, Hansgrohe CEO. "That is why we protect this valuable resource and consistently implement all measures necessary to achieve our ambitious sustainability goals."

Today, Hansgrohe already has showerheads in its portfolio that use up to 60 per cent less water than conventional products – without compromising the showering experience. The entire product portfolio will be converted to water- and energy-saving products. In production, too, water is protected through closed water cycles in the individual manufacturing plants. In addition, research is being conducted into a vision of a completely climate-neutral bathroom.



## DON'T LOOK UP (OR DO)

From designs inspired by the 'birds and the bees', right through to the metaverse and beyond, Pauline Brettell explores hotel concepts that are setting trends, responding to change and answering all the contradictions in-between...

After being locked down and earth-bound for so long, it is perhaps not surprising that hotel designs are being inspired by flight – whether in the literal or more metaphorical sense – as design moves both up and out; up into the trees, and out into the metaverse. In a world that so often seems characterised by extremes, the universe of hospitality can reflect, deflect and direct those intensities. While some designers are moving into the virtual space, others are becoming more focussed and grounded as questions around sustainable and circular design resonate louder.

What is, in fact, the way forward? Is it that nuclear-powered hotel in the sky? Should we be looking to the horizon for design inspiration, or keeping our feet firmly on the ground? Focussing on both the bold and bizarre while exploring these concepts, I have thrown some slightly more contained designs into the mix, which, to my mind, embrace larger and brighter concepts than those floating about in the metaverse – but perhaps I have missed the point there.

### Architecture reconnected to nature

Earlier this year, on *Hotel Designs* (hoteldesigns. net), we featured the plans by BIG Architecture for BIOSPHERE – this project has moved from concept to reality, and you can now stay in this suspended bird-nest adorned pod in the trees. Aside from the design, the guiding concept behind this is nature – reconnecting to nature, re-wilding, regenerating – it truly is all going to the birds.

Another concept firmly rooted in the natural world while simultaneously embracing technology, is the Glam Pod design. Designed by Wimberly Interiors, these sustainable 3D-printed glampods embrace forward thinking technology, yet are all about creating an immersive experience in nature while offering guests luxurious lifestyle solutions. Envisioned for ultra-remote locations, Glam Pods, inspired by the spiralling coil of a shell, have been designed as a solution for everything from a backyard guest house to an off-the-grid lifestyle.

#### **Contained architecture**

Landing back to the bird and flight analogy, designer Ora Ito is no stranger to the virtual world of design, having started his career with virtual products highjacked from top brands that instantly became global icons of the digital revolution. In a collaboration with Accor, the Flying Nest shipping container hotel project was designed as a mobile, temporary hotel offering with low environmental impact at its core. With its bold design, this concept of mobile and sustainable accommodation rethinks the future of hospitality design with an emphasis on exclusive and intense, yet transitory experiences.





#### Head in the clouds

From small and contained to infinity and beyond, as things move both virtual and into the metaverse, companies such as citizenM, LEVEN, PLP Architecture and Zaha Hadid Architects have taken strides into the future, and are planting their brand flags in this new territory. With this, suddenly, virtual hotels and spaces are no longer the realm of the future. How and if they will become more integrated into our social spaces will be an interesting design journey.

For Patrik Schumacher, Principal at Zaha Hadid Architects, a virtual development, such as the Liberland Metaverse the studio has created is about getting ahead in a meaningful way. "While the Liberland Metaverse is meant to spearhead the development of Liberland as a libertarian micronation, it will also function as free-standing virtual reality realm in its own right," he explained. "The ambition is for it to become the go-to site for networking and collaboration within the burgeoning web 3.0 industry, it's the metaverse for metaverse developers and the crypto ecosystem at large."

#### Birds and the bees

And finally bringing in the bees to join those aforementioned birds. Going a little off topic with this, as it is less about the concept, but more about the intention. The perfectly formed structure, designed by Invisible Studio and sheltered on the estate of The Newt in Somerset, provides both a home for bees, a Beezantium, along with an exhibition centre for guests and visitors. The design is practical for the insects and immersive for the visitors, with elements of design whimsy thrown in for good measure.

The point about the Beezantium is that increasingly there is a move to introspection, and sometimes, it is in fact the little things that count. Should cutting edge design shift from looking beyond our planet for outlandish inspiration to something entirely more grounded? Are the truly exciting designs for the future the ones that can embrace both? You tell me.









### Richard Collings, Vice President, SB Architects

Marking a significant milestone, SB Architects, has recently opened a London studio. Richard Collings, who joined the team in early 2022, has already delivered inspiring and impactful design that has set the foundation for the new London base. Collings has been spearheading its expanded design capabilities, forging new client relationships and advancing business development efforts. Leading talent acquisition efforts as well as project work, he's been instrumental in the studio's strategic growth into the Middle East, Africa, and the Mediterranean.

SB Architects structures itself and runs its projects with an equitable working environment that nurtures teamwork and communication, and Collings has worked hard to instill that same entrepreneurial ethos into the London office.

The architect has more than two decades of experience in the architectural sector, including a focus on mixed-use projects and master planning. His impressive project portfolio includes large-scale, mixed-use planning projects in Egypt, Viacom International Media Networks headquarters in London, a renovation work for a world-class The Landmark hotel in Cyprus, and hospitality projects in Dubai and Turkey.



### Richard Holland, Director, Holland Harvey Architects

Set across a crescent of Grade II listed, mid-19th century townhouses in Bayswater, Inhabit Queen's Gardens, structurally designed by Holland Harvey Architects, comprises of 159 bedrooms, as well as a 70-cover restaurant and bar, lounge, library and wellness area including treatment rooms, a fitness suite and yoga studio.

The hotel promises a commitment to environmental initiatives and meaningful community partnerships, pledging to work with 100 social enterprises and small, socially conscious businesses, including an extension of its furniture range collaboration with Goldfinger.

Holland worked alongside Caitlin Henderson Design, There's Light, and art curators Culture A to create a design that blends contemporary Scandi inspiration and Eastern philosophical awareness with quintessential British design. Key design features include a fire surround made by Granby Workshop from waste materials salvaged on site.

Notably on this project, during construction, 100 per cent of waste was redirected from landfills, with 59 per cent being recycled or donated via the online platform Globechain.







# HOTEL DESIGNS. MEET UP LONDON

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### Richard Woolsgrove, Director and Head of Digital Technology, PLP Architecture

Following the completion of Pan Pacific London, PLP Architecture, led by Richard Woolsgrove, is making itself known in the virtual universe, having created 5,000 NFTs based on the concept for a virtual skyscraper in the metaverse. The architecture studio collaborated with VerseProp, which describes itself as the "leading metaverse property platform", to create the collection of non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

Each of the animated digital images were based on the form of a conceptual skyscraper designed by the studio, which previously designed numerous real-world skyscrapers, including London's second-tallest building that shelters Pan Pacific London.

Through the project, the team is exploring and conducting vital research into the role of architects and designers on the blockchain and in the metaverse, from the use of smart contracts through to virtual design services. PLP has designed a concept building that is used as the basis for the NFT collection, based on the research work of PLP Labs.

VerseProp is the first metaverse platform to focus on transforming virtual real estate into a professional, institutional asset class.



### **Rob Gibbs, Director, Synergy Architects**

Working with Starwood and Property Alliance Group, Synergy Architects, led by Rob Gibbs, is working to create Treehouse Hotel Manchester, which will be the lifestyle hotel brand's second hotel in the UK.

As part of a wider masterplan for the site, the vision included the transformation of the old Renaissance Hotel site into a fresh new Treehouse offering aimed at the eco-conscious modern guest. The proposals undertook the high quality redevelopment of the existing hotel building to reposition it as a market-leading up-scale destination hotel. Working with Treehouse Hotels, a robust design has been prepared in line with their brand identity and their strong commitment to promoting sustainability.

The new hotel is seen as a key component in ensuring a deliverable scheme for the wider regeneration site (the 'Ramada Complex'). The works will fully modernise and transform the hotel both internally and externally, into something that gives back to the community and meets the needs of modern quests and hotel operators.





## MATTE BLACK BEYOND THE TREND

Exploring a contemporary side of hotel bathroom design, Schluter-Systems identifies how designers can use matte black in a way that adds meaningful layers...

Matte black accessories within a bathroom design create a striking finish. Whether the colour is paired with clean whites for a timeless look or combined with opulent marble, it produces a modern aesthetic which is perfect for achieving a feeling of luxury, ideal for the hospitality industry and hotel quests.

Schlüter-Systems, a market leader in essential accessories for tile and stone, has a selection of products that come in matte black finish for a coordinated bathroom design, including protective tile trims, storage shelves and shower drain grates. Whether you are planning a fully monochrome look, want to use black elements for a bold contrast or are choosing accents sparingly, there are plenty of options to suit your needs.

For both style and substance, designers should choose a tile trim in one of the many variants Schlüter-Systems has to offer, including JOLLY, RONDEC and SCHIENE. Matte black provides a sleek finish alongside the expected protection that Schlüter tile trims give.

Storage shelves in matte black create a practical solution, whilst also working within the design parameters. If designers choose to add a shelf to a complete bathroom or wetroom, the corner shelves can easily be installed within the grout lines. If you want more space within the shower area, you can choose to add a niche. Using the black tile trim to protect the corners of the niche and adding a matching shelf will create an eye-catching and striking feature, effortlessly blending form and function.

Lastly, the slimline linear drain grates present a minimalist look alongside being extremely versatile. The optimally matched components of the Schlüter-KERDI-LINE system create linear drainage in floor-level showers whilst offering a stylish finish.

Pairing this beautifully rich tone with the renowned reliability of Schluter's products means that not only will the bathroom be sleek and welcoming, but you will also have the peace of mind that the installation will stand the test of time.





### Ross Stewart, Architect, Ica Studio

Ross Stewart is passionate about architecture conservation and restoration. With more than a decade's experience in hospitality projects, primarily in converting existing building stock into new and exciting uses, he enjoys the challenges of repurposing historic buildings.

Working for Ica Studio, he is the architect alongside his colleague Kerry Acheson for the first Virgin Hotel outside the USA, which recently opened in the oldest part of Scotland's capital.

Stewart's heritage expertise combined with his creative talent and world-leading hospitality knowledge led to a design that was able to unlock the viability of this challenging city-centre site. The design allows for the three listed buildings to be linked both to each other and to the new build part of the hotel with sympathetic yet modern interventions, creating a new flow through the complex site and deliberately framing unexpected views out into both the more intimate bustling local streets and closes and towards the grander views of Edinburgh Castle and the Old Town roofscape.



To find out more about this event, please contact

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### Anne Golden, Vice President of Operations for UK & North America, Pan Pacific Hotels Group

Anne Golden was invited to join Pan Pacific Hotels Group, as General Manager, in 2019 to oversee the pre-opening, launch and operation of the group's first UK/European property that would become the flagship hotel for the company.

During the pandemic, Golden oversaw a pre-opening team of 21 working from home to ensure preparations for the opening were all in place.

Since then, Golden has been the driving force to establish the hotel as a complete destination for business and leisure, for local and international guests, offering gracious service alongside great drinking and dining outlets, exceptional events spaces and unique wellbeing opportunities. In September 2022, in recognition of her success in London, Golden took on the role of Vice President of Operations for UK & North America in addition to her General Manager status at Pan Pacific London.



### Conor O'Leary, Managing Director, Gleneagles

After winning the coveted title of Hotelier of the Year at the Brit List Awards 2018, Conor O'Leary continues to steer the iconic Gleneagles brand forward as it takes on new challenges, while maintaining all the traditional offerings its loyal client base value.

O'Leary was appointed as Managing Director in 2020. Since then, he has continued to expand the hotel footprint with the recent addition of the Gleneagles Townhouse, successfully shifting gears from rural to urban hospitality within the same portfolio. Under O'Leary's guidance, Gleneagles Townhouse, a hybrid hotel and members club offering, has kept the quintessential Gleneagles spirit embedded in different model.

Running a legacy hotel within an 850-acre estate is no small task, but due in part to O'Leary's attention to detail, everything that Gleneagles has to offer looks effortless while the clockwork below the surface runs to a tight schedule. His time at the helm of Gleneagles has coincided with a significant period of investment. His ability to focus on the team behind the brand is what sets Gleneagles, not to mention his management approach, apart.







### David Taylor, CEO, Lore Group

David Taylor was promoted to CEO of Lore Group just as the company prepared to launch One Hundred Shoreditch, the company's sixth hotel and its second in London. Taylor joined the group in 2020 as Chief Operating Officer, steering its global portfolio of properties through the pandemic. His history in Shoreditch, having opened the original Hoxton hotel in Shoreditch in 2006, made the appointment particularly appropriate and significant.

With more than 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Taylor has been at the forefront of some of the most exciting hospitality brands throughout the last two decades, from launching the EDITION brand in 2013 to leading the Principal Hotel portfolio for Starwood Capital, where he held the role of Chief Operating Officer.

Following much anticipation, One Hundred Shoreditch opened its doors earlier this year to critical acclaim from both within the industry and beyond, and Taylor has been pivotal in ensuring that launch interest has translated into loyal support.



### Edward Workman, CEO, The Newt in Somerset

Reinventing a country estate is no easy feat. As CEO at The Newt in Somerset, Edward Workman has played an integral part in the transformation of a rural site into a luxury hotel. His experience in the hospitality industry has taken him across several creative platforms, and it is this creativity, along with a strong team building focus, that has helped him steer The Newt on the path to being one of the most sought-after boutique destination hotels in the UK. Drawing on his experience working with organisations like Hauser & Wirth, through to the critically acclaimed Fife Arms Hotel in Scotland, the hotel has become the meeting point of gallery and hospitality, on an impressively large canvas.

Operating far more than just a hotel, Workman has had to develop a team across multiple offerings, from the farm to the table, while running a contemporary boutique hotel alongside a traditional estate setting. There is a strong narrative running through the hotel and its grounds, and The Newt in Somerset has played a key role in bringing the experience concept into the hotel remit. It is about community and collaboration and Workman has ensured that the hotel has immersed itself in both. More so than many others, this is a hotel that is continually evolving, changing with the seasons while bringing new options and offerings to the table.





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### Elli Jafari, Managing Director, The Standard, London

Elli Jafari has been instrumental to the success of The Standard flagship in London, from the moment it opened, making a statement as the first opening outside of the US for The Standard Group. Jafari joined the 226-key hotel as General Manager, and within a short space of time was promoted to Managing Director in 2021. Before heading up The Standard London, she had major roles with W Hotels and Morgans Hotel Group, as well as being Managing Director for The Curtain Hotel & Members club. This experience, along with her personal style and energy, has equipped her for the role at The Standard London, making both a strong and stylish statement while simultaneously steering a successful team through unpredictable times.

Jafari has ensured that the curiosity and energy of the opening continues on a day-to-day level with the hotel's demanding schedule of high-profile events. Maintaining the industry spotlight on the property and the brand within the extremely competitive London scene requires the ability to step outside the traditional hospitality box to keep in step with the brand vision of 'un-standard-ness'.



### Franck Arnold, Managing Director & Regional Vice-President, The Savoy Hotel

In 2020, Franck Arnold stepped into the role of Managing Director at The Savoy, one of London's most iconic luxury hotels that has always prided itself on being 'just slightly ahead'. Prior to this, his 30 years' experience in the industry has included working with brands like Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, IHG and Ritz Carlton to name just a few. This experience has been integral in his role at The Savoy where he has been able to elevate the historic brand while injecting it with a current and contemporary energy, seamlessly merging the two.

His vision has resulted in the reinvention of the historic Savoy forecourt, Solas, through to imagining a Savoy take-out mid pandemic. last year, keeping a finger on the pulse of contemporary culture alongside traditional luxury to ensure the historical brand maintains its position, the Royal Suite by Gucci was timeously unveiled. It is this combination of iconic brand with innovation that continues to mark Arnold's time at the helm of The Savoy, driving it forward during a time when competition on the London luxury hotel scene is fierce.

Not only is Arnold currently Managing Director at The Savoy, but he continues to direct and impact the hospitality sector more broadly as a Regional Vice President for Fairmont, while overseeing operations at Sofitel London St James, Sofitel Legend the Grand Amsterdam, and Fairmont Windsor Park.







#### Gareth Banner, Group Managing Director, The Ned

Gareth Banner has played a key role at some of London's top hospitality properties, and now, in his role as Group Managing Director at the Ned, he continues to influence the hospitality arena, as the hotel remains as ambitious and demanding.

With a team around the 900 mark, in nine restaurants plus spa, gym and the combination of hotel and members club model, this is no ordinary management role. Banner has been a protagonist in ensuring that The Ned delivers on all fronts, as a hotel, as a place to meet, to work and to socialise. Despite the sheer size of the project, Banner's leadership style remains essentially hands-on, seeing himself as part of a team, and importantly making sure he maintains a relationship with the guests.

Having cemented his role as a key player on the London hospitality scene, his role as Group Manager will see him extending this influence to New York and Doha as the year unfolds.



### Giovanni Valentini, Vice President of Operations and New Openings, The Fellows House Cambridge Curio Collection by Hilton

As Vice President of Operations, Giovanni Valentini is responsible for the overall running of The Fellows House, Curio Collection by Hilton in Cambridge, a unique, luxury aparthotel.

The past year has been particularly challenging due to post-pandemic recovery efforts and lingering Brexit issues that have impacted staffing and acquisition of resources. The increasing supply chain prices have also pushed the industry to be more creative and supportive of local economies. During this unstable period, Valentini and his team had to create a solid, successful strategy to continue to offer the best experience and hospitality to guests from all over the world.

Valentini's passion for The Fellows House and his inventive, intuitive thinking have led to enormous success, which is seen in the record-breaking rate, occupancy, and retention levels. With continually good reviews and increased social media engagement, Valentini's positive attitude, alongside great enthusiasm, has driven every employee throughout good and bad times.







#### Grace Leo, Managing Partner, Relais Retreats

Under Grace Leo's leadership, The Relais Henly, which was where the vision of Relais Retreats started, has now been joined by The Relais Cooden Beach where she continues to roll out her signature style of luxury in the English countryside. The properties are all about understated, localised luxury in a context in which Leo makes sure that the local fabric is reflected. For her, luxury is all about authenticity and an uncompromising approach to aesthetics and detail.

Demonstrating a strong conviction in the future of hospitality, Leo embarked on this project during the height of the pandemic. Her insistence on delivering a sense of place, along with a particular considered luxury that manages resources sensitively, is the driving force behind this portfolio. Both projects are going from strength to strength and there are more Relais plans in the pipeline. The Relais brand underpins Leo's key strengths, which are strong leadership skills, strategic and financial oversight, creative market positioning and branding.



### Guillaume Marly, Managing Director, Hotel Café Royal

Hotel Café Royal, part of the London-based curated hotel portfolio, The Set, has been under the leadership of Guillaume Marly as Managing Director since 2017. Marly has been an integral part of the journey to develop Hotel Café Royal as a truly iconic luxury destination in the London market, epitomising all that The Set stands for with a focus on delivering guests the essence of a location through contemporary design and traditional service.

Stepping up the trademark mix of the old with the new to a fresh level of luxury, the Hotel Café Royal reflects both, earning it the title of 'London's modern grand hotel.' The hotel is perfectly located, straddled between the elegance of Mayfair and the vibrant energy of Soho. Marly brings his wealth of experience to the table, ensuring that the hotel amplifies the best of both neighbourhoods.

Believing that leadership is best done by example, he works hand in hand with the hotel team to continually strengthen the hotel's position in the market.

The hotel focusses on both design and delivery of service, along with an element of tradition. All of these elements are visible in the stylish and contemporary rooms and suites, as the design of the hotel answers to the discerning demands of the contemporary traveller. From cutting-edge wellness and spa offerings to traditional afternoon tea, Marlys attention to detail and guest experience in the F&B areas has ensured that the hotel continues to stand out with its own grand personality.





### Hector Ross, Founder and Managing Partner, The Signet Collection

In a remarkably short space of time, Hector Ross has not only set up a brand-new hospitality business, The Signet Collection, but has completed two projects, both involving an extensive restoration and imaginative design of historic buildings that are now part of the collection. The first project, The Mitre Hotel in Hampton Court, was on hotel and hospitality 'hot lists' within days of opening.

The second property, The Retreat Elcot Park, followed close on its heels. Housed in a Grade II listed, 18th-century building, located between Hungerford and Newbury in the North Wessex Downs, the luxury hotel, set in magnificent grounds, cemented Ross' reputation as both hotelier and developer.

Ross has been involved in both projects from start to finish, in the design and building, through to the delivery of the uniquely focussed guest experience, which has been so well received and has been designed to set the properties apart. His hands-on approach is all about the combination of great design within historically significant properties. There is a strong design aesthetic that runs through the portfolio, but this is done with an emphasis on the unique – a quirky take on tradition that has captured the imaginations of travellers and quests.



### **Hubert Viriot, CEO, YOTEL**

Hubert Viriot is CEO of YOTEL, best known for its compact hotels in major airport locations. Over the past two years, Viriot has spearheaded a rapid expansion of the innovative brand, opening nine hotels across Europe and North America since the start of 2020. While competitor brands laid low, he made challenging decisions and jumped on the opportunities in preparation for post-pandemic recovery.

Viriot joined YOTEL in May 2014 to roll out an aggressive growth strategy targeting city centres and international airports in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. Under his leadership, YOTEL has expanded from a portfolio of three properties to 22 operating hotels around the globe, including five in the UK, located in some of the world's most sought-after city centre locations.

In line with YOTEL's sustainability strategy of supporting the development of intelligent buildings, designed with the future in mind, recent success has been secured through the ability to convert existing buildings into the YOTEL concept. YOTEL Glasgow, for example, opened in 2021 following the conversion of the Westergate building – a disused office block built in 1986 and located right beside the city's Central Station. The reuse and refurbishment of the structure enabled YOTEL to breathe new life into an existing building.





### A HOTEL MASTERPIECE RE-VISITED

Editor Hamish Kilburn checks in to NoMad London, the protagonist project of The Brit List Awards 2021 campaign that saw Mark Bruce, Director, EPR Architects win Architect of the Year, and an iconic property that allowed BECK to show the industry what it was made of...

NoMad by name, nomad by nature. The NoMad properties are famed for their understated luxury and residential comfort. Their ethos is to create hotels as 'great homes', layered with stories. NoMad London is no exception, which has drawn inspiration from the grade II-listed building it inhabits – a former magistrates court – and the rich history of the local area. It is also, though, an exploration of cultural connections between London and New York.

The project, and all those working on it from the team at EPR Architects, the interior designers at Roman and Williams and the fit-out specialists at BECK, faced significant challenges to create additional space within the existing footprint. This included the excavation and formation of three new basement levels, major demolition, rebuilding works and a glass roofed atrium, all working within a retained period façade.

A number of food and beverage offerings in each location is something the NoMad group is known for. BECK fitted out the stunning

'NoMad Restaurant and Bar', inside a glass atrium flooded with natural light. 'Side Hustle' is based on traditional British pub styling and finally, this London location features the first NoMad cocktail lounge, 'Common Decency'. The contractors completed the final scheme with high-quality finishes and attention to every detail. The joinery for all hotel bars and a stunning bespoke library was manufactured in-house, at its own joinery workshop.

For Edward Kent, Board Director at BECK, the project was one that was taken on with immense sensitivity and pride. "The team are extremely proud of what we have achieved for NoMad London," he said, looking back. "The restoration of culturally valuable, listed buildings in built-up, central London always presents huge challenges but this is what we thrive on. For this project, we used a wide variety of construction techniques to retain the façade, create new basement levels and install new lift shafts. The long-standing experience of our on-site teams means we have a vast pool of knowledge to solve even the most complex of issues, which are often thrown up mid-build, when timings are critical."

With a blend of both heritage and new build, this significant building has received an exciting, new lease of life. The NoMad London truly is something special.





#### Jacqui Griffiths, General Manager, Stock Exchange Hotel

With considerable experience across brands like Hotel du Vin, Malmaison and most recently Native, Jacqui Griffiths was appointed General Manager at Stock Exchange Hotel in Manchester in 2021, after its 2019 opening, following an extensive six-year renovation. Under her leadership, Stock Exchange Hotel became the first hotel in Manchester to become part of the Small Luxury Hotels portfolio.

As a woman in hospitality, she has been described as being 'the embodiment of women building staircases for other women to climb'. Her approach to running the hotel means that she is involved on every level from the flawless guest experience Stock Exchange Hotel has become known for, to ensuring the smooth running of back-of-house.

Griffiths has ensured that the hotel is constantly taking on new challenges in the F&B offerings and integrating them seamlessly into the hotel experience. The recent addition of Sterling on the lower ground floor of the hotel has further ensured that Griffiths and Stock Exchange continue to play a key role in pushing the food and beverage scene in Manchester forward.



#### James Clarke, General Manager, Hilton Bankside London

James Clarke has always aimed, as a leading General Manager, to challenge conventional hospitality. This simple mission led him and his team on many routes that include sustainable approaches to hospitality while sheltering a sensory design experience unlike any other.

The hotel is anything but a conventional hospitality experience. In 2018, it partnered with Bombas & Parr to create a unique multi-sensory meeting room inside its hotel, under the name The Agora.

From flooding the room with scented air at the push of a button to specially curated objects designed to increase productivity, moodimproving lighting installations and refreshments designed to recharge physiologically, every detail is based on the science and psychology of fruitful human interactions and innovation. The rooms take inspiration from their location on Bankside, with a central table featuring inlaid ley lines pointing to important sites of creativity nearby, such as The Globe, The Tate and Royal Festival Hall.







## Javier Beneyto, General Manager, COMO Metropolitan London and COMO The Halkin

Javier Beneyto joined COMO Hotels and Resorts in 2012, as Acting General Manager of COMO Cocoa Island in the Maldives before filling the same role in London at COMO The Halkin. He then moved to the United States as a Pre-Opening General Manager of COMO Metropolitan Miami Beach, before relocating to Bali to oversee the pre-opening of COMO Uma Canggu. In 2018, he returned to the UK as General Manager of COMO Metropolitan London and in 2020 he was also named as General Manager of the second London COMO property, COMO The Halkin. In short, Beneyto lives and breathes the COMO brand.

In 2019, Beneyto played a key role in the re-launch of the brand's Brick Street Residences, ten luxury accommodations adjacent to COMO Metropolitan London, following a complete renovation. This was pivotal for COMO, as it meant they could offer the same five-star facilities and services as the hotel to guests looking for a more discreet, private long or short-term stay. This year has seen him instrumental in the launch of COMO's Hertford Street Residences, adjacent to COMO Metropolitan London. Beneyto is currently leading the reopening of COMO The Halkin in September which is undergoing a complete renovation.



#### Kurt Macher, General Manager, Shangri-la Hotel at the Shard London

Since joining Shangri-La Hotel at the Shard London as General Manager three years ago, Kurt Macher has softened the character of the hotel, injecting life and colour in a way that has earned the hotel success as one of London's best-loved hotels for celebrations across the UK and internationally. He has been an exceptional force in reimagining the hotel as a space for escapism from the everyday to a place that is warm, welcoming, and unforgettable, a Shangri-La in the true sense of the word.

Macher has masterminded now-staple experiences at its flagship London property to give flavour to its special brand of luxury with personality, and include immersive themed decorations centred around occasions close to the hearts of guests and the local community. He believes in taking personalised service to the next level and this is reflected in other popular initiatives he has put in place.

Recently, his efforts in transforming Shangri-La, London into a welcoming and warm hotel for celebrations of all kinds have been recognised by the wider Shangri-La group with a new position, Innovation & Luxury Customer Experience Lead for the Group across Middle East, Europe, India and Americas. This recognition of Macher's innovative thinking will see him consulting other hotels within the brand to create even more magical experiences for guests in other parts of the world.







#### Lina Zakzeckyte, General Manager, Hart Shoreditch

Hart Shoreditch was one of the very few hotels open during England's second Covid-19 lockdown, running on an extremely limited workforce in order to offset payroll and overall hotel expenses. This was a particularly challenging time for the hotel employees, but Lina Zakzeckyte was able to motivate her staff and create a strong sense of morale. With determination and incredible teamwork, Hart Shoreditch was back to full occupancy by the end of August 2020. An incredible feat.

More recently, Zakzeckyte has gone above and beyond to solidify Hart Shoreditch as a central hub in Shoreditch for those who work from home. By creating a communal table in the hotel lobby, self-entrepreneurs are invited to find creativity and a sense of community within the area.

Currently, Zakzeckyte has been central in developing the partnership with Atelier Roc for London Design Festival 2022. Hart Shoreditch has partnered with Atelier Roc to showcase the first limited-batch throw collection, taking visitors through the journey of the design and fabrication process. Wanting to ensure that the partnership went beyond London Design Festival, Zakzeckyte has commissioned permanent pieces that will be integrated into the hotel design.



#### Michael Bonsor, Managing Director, Rosewood London

Michael Bonsor has been with the Rosewood London since the start of its journey and has worked tirelessly to ensure that a hotel labelled as being 'off the beaten track' has both claimed and retained its position amongst some tough competition on the London luxury hospitality landscape.

Bonsor began his career at the Four Seasons, and his experience includes time at Claridges before taking more than 17 years of luxury hotel management experience to The Rosewood. Having used the time during the pandemic to re-evaluate, Bonsor has always maintained a finely tuned focus on appealing to the local luxury market. Under his leadership The Rosewood has constantly been pushed the boundaries of creativity on the on the F&B concepts sheltered within the hotel, viewing this as a key element in attracting Londoners and maintaining a loyal and local client base

Concepts like the Scarfe Bar and the Macallan Manor House has kept the hotel at the forefront of desirable destinations in the capitol. In addition to award winning F&B offerings, Bonsor looks after the hotel's impressive 308 rooms and suites, Il event spaces and three restaurants and bars ensuring that all remain current.

The hotel has more than a few trophies on the shelf, having been awarded Best Hotel in London by Conde Nast Traveller, Best Hotel by GQ Magazine and Hotel of the Year by The Caterer, to name a few – and all these awards have been under Bonsor's leadership as he puts an essential London spin on the 'Rosewood Sense of Place' ethos.







#### Paul Bayliss, Regional General Manager, Hotel Brooklyn Hotels

Paul Bayliss is an award-winning pioneer in accessible design and conscious hospitality, leading the way in Europe through its facilities and services. He has been at the forefront of the hospitality industry, leading the Manchester Hoteliers Association, Europe's Largest hospitality Association, through a time of change.

Hotel Brooklyn is all about a luxury experience, with accessibility at its core, Bayliss has ensured that Hotel Brooklyn properties are inclusive safe zones for all employees. As certificated members of the Greater Manchester Disability Charter, all employee roles were open to applicants with disabilities. Bayliss signed up to Manchester's Disability Charter and has worked closely for many years with Pure Innovations providing work placements and full employment for people with special needs.

He is an outstanding example of a leader, operating at the forefront of society's challenges, striving constantly for others to be included and creating the best opportunities for them. With ambitious plans for Hotel Brooklyn's future, Bayliss' continued work with the brand will ensure 'accessibility for all' finally becomes the norm for luxury hotels.



#### Paul Rafferty, General Manager, The Mayfair Townhouse

Paul Rafferty has been with The Mayfair Townhouse for its entire journey – starting pre-opening as Director of Rooms, then Deputy General Manager, and finally earlier this year being appointed General Manager. His personality and professional impact on the success of the hotel is part of its fabric, from the day-to-day running through to its vision of the luxury hospitality market.

The Mayfair Townhouse is the fifth British hotel in the Luxury Hotels brand portfolio and Rafferty has been part of the Townhouse journey since the beginning. Although he is now at the helm as General Manager, Rafferty has experience across the board in hospitality which he has brought with to the running of the hotel and its offerings like The Dandy Bar. His personal style and innovative approach to hospitality has been integrated into the brand to help define its place on the London hotel scene.

The hotel breaks away from the usual Luxury Hotel mold and is a bit more irreverent and playful, yet Rafferty has ensured that personalised and intuitive service is what sets The Mayfair Townhouse apart. It is the combination of history with contemporary design that has ensured that the hotel received media attention, but it is Rafferty's attention to detail and unfailing delivery of approachable luxury that makes sure the hotel continues to command attention.





# TECHNOLOGY: A FORCE OF NATURE

With design, technology, sustainability and innovation at its core, GROHE discusses how technology advancements are future-proofing sustainable specification...

Technology is a force of nature that is advancing as rapidly as humankind itself. In recent years, various technological advancements have evolved, granting us endless opportunities when it comes to design and manufacturing possibilities. Such advancements have given designers and architects an immense opportunity to incorporate macro societal shifts into projects, particularly when it comes to sustainability, with wellness and luxury design being a valuable by-product.

GROHE consistently provides eco-conscious product solutions, with resource-efficiency technology incorporated throughout its product offering, from flow-limiters to sensor-activated fittings. Resource-saving products are not only vital to our environmental future but are hugely beneficial in the industry to reduce the carbon footprint of a building and encourage green specification.

Shower toilets are a great example of where technology, sustainability and wellness can work holistically together, with shower toilets seeing an increased demand across the UK commercial, hospitality and care settings in recent years. Products such as the state-of-the-art GROHE Sensia Arena significantly reduce the need for toilet paper, providing eco-conscious credentials while delivering a luxurious experience. With advanced smart-technology, the Sensia Arena delivers optimum hygiene, personalised settings, and app connectivity giving users an opulent experience, while supporting designers and architects to incorporate sustainable-minded

specifications. However, there's scope to advance further still with the end goal providing a longterm, global solution that will support markets and industries across the board.

There's a viable solution to the worldwide waste crisis and that is a global movement away from a linear economy to a circular one, where the narrative moves from take-make-waste to take-make-recycle. GROHE's flagship Cradle-to-Cradle Certified® Level Gold product range has been designed to work towards a circular economy, meaning each product's components can be broken down and re-used endlessly to produce new products – creating a more eco-conscious process from start to finish. With the unique manufacturing technology utilised to create endlessly reusable products, there's scope to mimic this across other industries and products, supporting the global shift to a circular economy.

Another emerging area that utilises cutting-edge technology is 3D printing. With 3D printing being a bespoke design method, manufacturers and designers can reduce resources and materials needed for projects, with each item being produced for its specific requirements, cutting waste drastically. If 3D printing was to be become common place when it comes to manufacturing, there would be a significant reduction in excess materials and wastage on a global scale. GROHE first unveiled its Icon 3D tap collection in 2019, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in manufacturing and shining the light on the innovative solutions when it comes to sustainable design.

With viable solutions now in place to improve sustainability efforts, there's little room not to utilise such options and drive the industry in a much-needed eco-centric space.



# CUSTOM-MADE, FIT FOR A KING

British decorative wiring accessories brand Hamilton Litestat was called upon to add a layer of luxury inside Thornbury Castle Hotel, Bristol...

Renowned for the design and production of custom-made solutions for frequently challenging briefs, Hamilton Litestat was the obvious supplier-of-choice for decorative wiring accessories during the multi-million-pound refurbishment of Thornbury Castle Hotel, Bristol.

Welcoming the regal and wealthy throughout its history and operating as a luxury hotel since 1966, Thornbury Castle is a Grade I listed building. The overarching ambition for the project, taking place under the watchful eye of Historic England, was to seamlessly blend modern-day luxuries with historic features to create an air of authentic Tudor opulence.

Inspired by the 24-carat gilding, gold-finished tapestries, carpets and Tudor-styled soft furnishings throughout the castle, Antique Brass finished wiring accessories were the natural choice – with the exception of the bathrooms, where Bright Chrome compliments the polished chrome tapware.

While aesthetic decisions were simple, such are the intricacies of a heritage renovation, that architect Childs Sulzmann and electrical contractor, Electrio Limited, were required to work sympathetically – using existing recesses to fit accessories within the timber skirting and leaving the stonework that dates back to the 1500s untouched.

Providing lighting controls for the room chandelier, table and bedside lamps within easy reach of the sumptuous bed in each bedchamber, was a prerequisite that was achieved with Sheer CFX® plates. Custom-made from architect's drawings, with a 3-Gang Toggle Switch – selected to compliment the Tudor aesthetic and featuring etched labelling for each light, the plate, which sits almost flush to the wall with concealed fixings also features a single plug socket and 2.1A USB charging port – a must-have for modern quests.

In some bedchambers, where the bedhead is positioned against the original 1500s stone wall, plates were fixed to stained oak panels fastened directly to the bedhead to ensure conservation requirements were met.

A second multi-functional custom plate comprising a double switched socket, dual 2.1A/1A USB charging points and RJ45 CAT6 outlet for internet access was installed in the desk area of each bedchamber, providing everything a guest would need to use/charge any electronic device. The Sheer CFX® range was again used for consistency.

In the larger bedchambers and deluxe suites an occasional table with decorative table lamp is positioned centrally in the space, where running cables across the floor would prove unsightly and a trip hazard. Sheer floor power sockets with a protective cover plate, again finished in Antique Brass, provided the ideal, discrete solution.

Standard plates from Hamilton's Hartland Collection were utilised for more general services plus the shaver socket in each bathroom.





#### Ray Goertz, General Manager, The Prince Akatoki London

Ray Goertz achieved a Five Star Forbes rating for the hotel a year after it was rebranded as The Prince Akatoki London, one of 21 luxury hotels in London to achieve this coveted title.

His outreach to the community during and after the pandemic has shown the warm-hearted nature of what Goertz believes hospitality is all about. This has included significant gestures such as welcoming senior citizens from the local area, through Age UK, to come and enjoy afternoon tea in the Prince Akatoki after the pandemic ended in 2021.

As an experienced hotelier, Goertz understands how important it is to appreciate and be part of the local community. Aside from the demands of the day-to-day running of the hotel, he continually makes the time to reach out to all sectors, donating over a hundred warm duvets to the local shelter as part of the hotel's outreach programme in London. Under his leadership, the hotel has also welcomed Ukrainian workers in the hotel, who are now thriving and loving their London experience in hospitality. Goertz's leadership style makes him both successful and popular with his team, as well as within the community more broadly.



#### Robert Godwin, Managing Director, Lamington Group

Robert Godwin, Managing Director of Lamington Group and Co-Founder of room2 hometels, has gone beyond the remit of hotelier to offer exceptional and sustainable hospitality. With the most recent hotel opening of room2 Chiswick, the world's first whole life net-zero hometel, Godwin has shown that sustainable tourism is possible, without sacrificing style, convenience or comfort. He has pushed past existing boundaries to create innovative features in the hotel, achieving a 'world first' and creating a hotel that is predicted to use 89 per cent less energy than any other UK hotel.

The property uses a range of unique features, from underground heat pumps to the blue roof system that reduces the chances of local flooding. But perhaps the most inventive sustainable feature in room2 Chiswick is the three-in-one in room recycling bin. Having struggled to find a bin that kept in line with the company's values, Godwin and his team designed and manufactured a bespoke bin to include waste, recycling and food waste, ensuring 100per cent of waste is recycled or converted into energy off-site.

Lamington Group, owner of room2 hometels, is to be completely net zero by 2030; 20 years ahead of the Paris Agreement. All future properties under Godwin's leadership will be built to a Whole Life Carbon Net Zero standard as the group hopes to show by example that it is necessary for hotels to contribute to the ongoing battle against climate change. The team at room2 Chiswick are also working with a nature-based reforesting partner in Nicaragua to calculate their footprint and offset for the unavoidable emissions.





#### Robin Hutson, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, THE PIG Hotels

Having been awarded Hotelier of the Year at The Brit List Awards 2021, in no minor part due to his energetic 'Seat at the Table' campaign, Robin Hutson continues to lead the team at The PIG Hotels and take the trend-setting collection of country hotels to new heights. With a significant recent investment in the group, Hutson remains at the helm to maintain what has become the much-loved essence of the brand while expanding and developing the brand.

With 45 years' experience, Hutson has led some of the world's most famous hotels, including, but not limited to, Claridge's, The Berkeley, Hotel de Crillon and Hotel de Vin. Between 1995 and 2008, he was Chairman of Soho House Group, assisting Nick Jones shape the ambitious expansion of the game-changing brand into Europe and the US.

Hutson continues to champion hoteliers and the industry more broadly as well as developing mentoring programmes to encourage young people into the hospitality trade and ensuring that keeping things local applies to more than the food on the table.



#### Stuart Geddes, Managing Director, The Lanesborough

In 2019, Stuart Geddes left his position as General Manager of The Goring Hotel to join The Lanesborough as Hotel Manager, with the aim to help the Oetker Collection property reinforce its position as a market leader on the luxury hospitality scene in London. Two years later, Geddes was promoted to Managing Director, following the most challenging 18 months the industry has perhaps ever experienced. Geddes' respect for heritage while 'constantly pushing for creativity and innovation, has meant he has been able to lead the 93-key hotel into a new chapter of hospitality.

He brings a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry to his new position, having worked in some of the finest hotels in London, including the Ritz, before moving to the Goring, and then on to The Lanesborough, and as a result has made an indelible impression across the landmark luxury hospitality market.

The Lanesborough is a quintessentially British landmark which delivers a bespoke product to guests, and Geddes knows what it takes to deliver the ultra-luxury experience that is expected from the hotel. With a trademark attention to detail, he is as focussed on the day-to-day operations, as he is on ensuring that the elegant Regency-style décor lives up to every expectation. Never complacent about the position the hotel occupies, he continues to work on elevating the hotel experience, securing collaborations with like-minded brands to refresh the guest experience.





## 26th September 2023

Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre London Heathrow

The Tech in Hospitality Summit is an event for senior hospitality procurement professionals. It allows them to meet with innovative and competitive suppliers to the industry for a day of business meetings and networking.

The summit consists of one-to-one business meetings, keynote seminars and valuable networking opportunities - all to enable you to create lasting business relationships.

> For more information contact. Jennie Lane on 01992 374098 or j.lane@forumevents.co.uk

HOTEL DESIGNS.







#### Zoë Jenkins, General Manager, Coworth Park

Set in 240 acres of Berkshire parkland, Coworth Park is the Dorchester Collection's only country house hotel. It is, as *Hotel Designs* described it, 'the group's secret weapon'. Since opening the hotel as General Manager in 2010, Zoë Jenkins has been committed to ensuring that guests have the best possible hospitality experience, and that her team have an enjoyable environment to work in.

The hotel recently launched new accommodation within the estate's gatehouse. North Lodge is the latest addition to Coworth Park's 22 suites, and unlike the rest of the estate, the three-bedroom cottage was not created by an award-winning interior design studio. Instead, the space was designed by the people who knew the DNA of Coworth Park best; Jenkins and Director of Rooms, Rowan McFeat. A marriage of the pair's 'expertise in hospitality and a confidence in knowing what the guests desire', the suite was restored and designed to capture the hotel's charm and residential origins.





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