

# SPACE

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL DESIGN

Mar/Apr 2024

PEOPLE

|

PLACES

|

PROJECTS

|

PRODUCTS

# WELCOME TO SPACE






**EMMA KENNEDY**  
Editor  
[emma.kennedy@purplems.com](mailto:emma.kennedy@purplems.com)



**JESS MILES**  
Deputy Editor  
[jess.miles@purplems.com](mailto:jess.miles@purplems.com)

## SOCIAL

-  @HotelSpaceMag
-  @HotelSpaceMag
-  Hotel SPACE magazine

[hotelspaceonline.com](http://hotelspaceonline.com)

**N**ew and exciting is king in the world of design. We search and hunger for the designers delivering the innovation we crave and are often fooled in the process. Like a painting on a re-used canvas, scratch the surface and an earlier version will soon reveal itself. While Brutalism may not be a word naturally associated with luxury travel, minimalism, whose roots are firmly planted in the former, is. Lanzarote was the unlikely location I found myself in to experience first hand the Brutalist delights of Paradisus by Melia Salinas. With so many references to modern day trends, it was a thought-provoking exercise, which in truth asked more questions than it answered.

Understanding the importance of historical referencing, Italian designer Biagio Forino returns to Hilton Molino Stucky Venice after his celebrated redesign of the Presidential Suite, to reimagine 24 additional suites – whilst preserving the hotel's iconic status (page 68). Muza Lab founders, Inge Moore and Nathan Hutchins, are the creative brilliance behind some of the world's most luxurious interiors. Sharing their latest endeavours, they discuss their hands-on approach and crafting spaces that inspire wonder and joy (page 62).

Leading the frontier in bespoke hospitality, our industry leaders delve into their brands' latest offerings and ambitious future plans. Banyan Tree, renowned for its subtle opulence and harmony with nature, has made its debut in Dubai. We talk to Dharmali Kusumadi, Senior Vice President of Design and Development, on aligning the brand with a city synonymous with luxury and extravagance (page 48). Carlos Couturier, the Founding and Managing Partner of Grupo Habita, is hailed for introducing chic minimalism to Mexico's hospitality landscape. Celebrating its 24<sup>th</sup> year, Couturier reflects on the brand's original ethos and its envisioned trajectory (page 42). Neena Gupta, CEO of the soon-to-launch Miir, emphasises the pivotal role of the team in determining a hotel's success. With a roster of seasoned hoteliers, Gupta sheds light on the intricacies of brand building (page 56).

Travelling the globe in search of design excellence, takes us to mainland Greece where One&Only Aesthesis, have combined nostalgic glamour with mid-century style, in their latest opening (page 74). byKK Design are the creative vision behind Mondrian's latest opening in Hong Kong (page 80), and Dusit Thani, have taken the brand to Kyoto, with a design reflecting two ancient cultures (page 88). Next stop Indonesia, where we head to the southernmost tip of Bali, and the sprawling clifftop resort of Umana LXR, Bali (page 94). Introducing the all-inclusive concept to a Brutalist backdrop, Paradisus by Melia Salinas, Lanzarote is a cultural haven (page 100), and last but not least, Oetker Collection's, Hotel la Palma, in Capri, Italy, brings sublime elegance to the island (page 106).

Finally, we hope to see many of you at Salone del Mobile Milan and Clerkenwell Design Week. Until then, I'll sign off and leave you to enjoy this issue of SPACE.

*Emma*

Emma Kennedy, Editor



Front cover:  
Detail from Avoca restaurant,  
Mondrian Hong Kong.  
Photograph ©Edmon Leong





Photographs courtesy of Ennismore

## AT A GLANCE

Owner: Peterson Group

Operator: Ennismore

Interior design: byKK

Keys: 324

mondrianhongkong.com

## MONDRIAN HONG KONG

Brand seeks to win hearts and minds with community and artistic collaborations

In a densely built-up city like Hong Kong, the ability to enjoy unobstructed views is a precious and extraordinary experience. Which is why the first Mondrian to open in Greater China capitalises on its own unique architecture and outlook. Towering 40 floors high, the hotel offers stunning views of Victoria Harbour and the cityscape.

Set in the heart of Hong Kong's most vibrant neighbourhood, Tsim Sha Tsui, with elements inspired by the city's rich history and design flourishes such as a floating minibar, the hotel has 324 rooms including 12 two-bay suites, state-of-the-art wellness facilities, and rooftop space for cultural collaborations.

The hotel's unique vantage point informed the interior design concept, 'the lookout', as the ultimate place to view the city, its people, and its majestic harbour.

Karin Krautgartner of byKK lead the design, with guestrooms acting like private lookouts over the city, with a 'lookout' table and chair. The chandelier above is reminiscent of the Bauhinia blakeana flower on the Hong Kong flag. Sheer curtains add a softness to the space. One wall is dotted with compartments of different sizes showcasing art pieces, photos and paintings created by emerging local artists, including Angel Hui and Lao Chin Tao. The minibar is hidden in a mirrored pedestal with a hand painted sewing box on top containing snacks.

The hotel lobby has a small footprint but is double height and features a large fresco of an underwater world of dancers created in glass mosaic. The artwork, which was customised for the Mondrian Hong Kong, is based on Celestial bodies and

Tenderness series by Christy Lee Rogers and was translated into glass mosaic by Italian brand Bisazza. Guests check in under the oversized arch, revealing a glass chandelier carrying water bubbles. ▶



Many elements in the hotel take their water-themed design cues directly from Hong Kong's origin as a fishing village. Ancient stories tell of wondrous creatures living beneath the rough waters of Victoria harbour. These are imagined again now in four wallpaper designs along guest corridors, featuring fantasy creatures – the octo-rabbit, fish-crab, Deer-whale and bird-fish.

Even the gym was designed as an art gallery, showing oversized strobe-photography of movement and athletes next to strong graphic patterns. Triangular cut mirrors reflect the daylight and create an illusion of space and circular ceiling lights are organised in an Olympic rings formation. The artwork is by Tom Hegen and Jean-Yves Lemoigne.

The games continue in the lifts where guests are surrounded by multiple mirrors placed in a triangular formation, reminiscent of the game Tangram, which was invented in Hong Kong and played widely throughout the city.

The ultimate lookout is from the skybar. A place to see and to be seen, its interior is colourful, eclectic, and almost theatrical, as if on a stage, with bold black and white flooring, soft amber curtains and angled mirror walls that reflect the crowd and sky. A DJ desk seems to float above the ground and the central bar has an integrated circular sofa, creating a VIP spot where the bar tender can be watched from a laid-back relaxed position. Above the bar is a large light feature designed by Dirk van der Kooij and made of recycled and 3D printed plastic. Local artists Wong Ting Fung and Simple Bao painted murals on the walls. ▶



ARNO Table Lamp  
Quintesse Collection







Joyce Wang Studio, which has offices in London and Hong Kong, designed Carna by Dario Cecchini, a contemporary steakhouse from Tuscany.

Despite its upscale, luxurious offering, Mondrian is keen to be seen as a good neighbour and to embed itself in the community. At the hotel's launch in December, the team eschewed the traditional welcome of VIPs and celebrities as the first guests and instead invited single parent families to a staycation. The brand partnered with SoCO and the Hong Kong Single Parents Association, both NGOs, to invite single parent families to enjoy a complimentary one-night stay including breakfast and dinner at the restaurants, along with a gift bag and museum tickets.

"Our vision is the hotel as a progressive and imaginative community, a place to connect, have fun, be challenged, experiment, and come away inspired," said general manager Dirk Dalichau, who was inspired to take an unconventional approach to the launch of the hotel in a move to extend a deeper ethos of community uplift from the beginning. ▶





PHOTOGRAPH: Edmon Leong

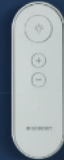
This commitment will be taken further by offering single parents job sharing possibilities that provide some extra flexibility to meet their unique needs. It's a chance to make a positive impact, position Mondrian as a brand that takes its responsibilities to the community seriously, help those who need it most, support local talents, and inspire future collaborations that can have a lasting impact.

Gaurav Bhushan, co-CEO, Ennismore, said: "Mondrian takes its inspiration from people, and their stories. It is through collaboration with local and international artists, designers, and chefs that we create experiences for global travellers that are rich in culture and surprises. The brilliance is in its allure as a destination for locals as well as travellers. This is where the power of lifestyle hospitality lies – the ability to invite an energising mix of the community and world beyond – celebrating the local roots of the destination while allowing an infusion of global ideas to inform further and enrich the hotel experience." 📍

NEW

# PLEASANTLY SIMPLE

GEBERIT AQUACLEAN.  
THE SHOWER TOILET.



DESIGN  
MEETS  
FUNCTION

Simple and elegant, the new Geberit AquaClean Alba enhances the guest experience for any hotel washroom design. The AquaClean Alba is a simple, stylish WC complete with shower spray functionality that ensures perfect personal hygiene after using the toilet. This perfect entry-level model offers all the most important functions of a shower toilet at a very affordable price.

Find out more at [geberit.co.uk](https://www.geberit.co.uk)



WHIRLSPRAY  
SHOWER  
TECHNOLOGY



TURBOFLUSH



REMOTE  
CONTROL

■ GEBERIT

150  
YEARS  
OF TOMORROW