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This restaurant, a cathedral to Valencian pilota, revamps its image with reminiscences from the past.

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Ellen van Loon has just inaugurated the Danish Architecture Centre in Copenhagen.
Excellence is not the end of the road. It is the road. On this journey, Porcelanosa Group is not alone but is accompanied by the best fellow travellers. Architects, designers, developers, all of them in tune with a human team – our company’s team – who respect and nourish the values that made us unique in this sector whose aim is a more beautiful and comfortable life for people. A sector whose staunch ally, Porcelanosa, puts technology, passion, experience and hard work at its service. Words like sustainability, environmental purity, quality of life, are not mere adornments without content; they are reality embodied in our eight brands, each endowed with an uppermost level of specialization.

Thanks to all these reasons, the 25th International Global Architecture and Interior Design Fair, held in Vila-Real, welcomed more than 14,000 visitors this year, and our Architecture and Interior Design Prizes, the most-awaited event in Madrid, brought together great professionals and friends.
ART AND DESIGN IN BARCELONA AND MADRID

Side Gallery and Machado-Muñoz are two spaces that are introducing a number of emerging talents: artisans, architects and designers who bring us a new vision of the worlds of art and design, and whose work represent both functionality and freedom of expression. At his space in Madrid, Machado-Muñoz has produced and presented works by Lucas Muñoz (see photo), Aurelia Muñoz and Antón Álvarez. In Barcelona, Side Gallery exhibits 20th- and 21st-century Italian, Brazilian and Spanish design and craftsmanship.

MIGUEL VALLINAS. The work entitled Root No. 1 is for sale at the Kreisler online gallery. Photographer Miguel Vallinas creates concept photographs after working extensively on their photo planning and doing much post-production work.

Berlin, always avant-garde

In recent months, architect John Pawson has undertaken the renovation of an old WW2 telecommunications bunker – located in Berlin’s borough of Kreuzberg – to convert it into the new home for the Feuerle art collection. Items in the Feuerle Collection range from antique works from Southeast Asia to contemporary artworks by different artists such as John Cage, Adam Fuss, Cristina Iglesias and Anish Kapoor.

The bare structure of the construction has been preserved as it was, and the thick concrete walls and columns are undecorated. The huge number of visitors it has received since it opened reflects the success of a museum that focuses on its essence: visits here are an immersive experience. The lighting – as if for a set – generates a sort of chiaroscuro via which each work can be observed; a theatrical effect that offers a different perspective.

PROTAGONISTS

Tamara Kreisler
ONLINE ART GALLERY OWNER

Kreisler is a pioneer of e-commerce in the field of art in Spain. She has been involved in the world of art since she was a child thanks to her relationship with her family’s gallery, Kreisler, in Madrid. She studied Economics in Madrid and at New York’s Columbia University, and worked in communication for years at The Wall Street Journal. Later, she founded the Theodora Foundation in Spain with which she is still involved. She has worked exclusively as an online gallery owner for the past two years and her website’s initial sales have increased fivefold. Her main role models are Saatchi and Artsy, a goal that encourages her to make solid headway and grow. ‘I coordinate the whole process: work with the artists, manage my website, communication, sales... It’s hard work, but the greatest satisfaction is feeling that you are opening up a new path. It’s very exciting for me to know that there are increasing numbers of people working with online art sales with the aim of taking art closer to the largest possible viewing public, breaking down the barriers of how traditional collecting has existed until now. Thanks to new technologies and sales channels, selling art online is not only possible, but it can even be done in a quick, easy and fun way.’ kreislerart.com

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Seville gets with it

After successfully revamping the Los Patios restaurant, architects Cristina Domínguez Lucas and Fernando Hernández-Gil have designed the interior of a second restaurant in Seville, Casaplata, with an approach that is the opposite of nostalgic. The furniture, rounded and subtle at the same time, and also designed by them, stands out from the neutral silvery-grey background.

PROTAGONISTS

Petra Blaisse
INTERIOR DESIGNER AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Petra Blaisse (London, 1955) is an interior designer and landscape architect, but she is most famous for her ‘curtains’, covering both the inside and outside of buildings with fabrics. She works with the best architects in the world, creating projects that brim with simplicity yet are spectacular in nature. They are strongly textile oriented as can be seen by her recent refurbishment of the Kunsthal Museum and the Rabobank in Rotterdam for which she undertook the work on the interiors and the landscaping.

‘My work at our Inside Outside studio brings me into contact with photographers, fashion designers, advertisers, architects, engineers… a transversal vision that I began at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, and I still use this multiple approach as a landscaper and interior designer. When we begin a project, we first study every angle of it: the country, the city, the place, the light, climate, culture and, of course, the building. Right now, we are completing the Biblioteca degli Alberi Park, in Milan’s Porta Nuova area, a new green network connection for the people who inhabit the city: creating meeting points in cities is important.’

CATE & NELSON’S NORTH AND SOUTH

Cate Högdahl (Stockholm) and Nelson Ruiz-Acal (Seville) opened their studio in Sweden in 2006 after studying design at Madrid’s IED. Now in London, they work on product and interior design based on the simplicity and precision of Nordic design, and on the Spanish passion for sustainability and functionality. Among their latest successes is a furniture collection for the Swedish brand BLÅ Station.

CURTAINSG IN THE FOREGROUND. A detail of a curtain at Rotterdam’s Kunsthal Museum. This is a prevailing element both inside and outside the building.
Mexican colour re-emerges in Monterrey

In late January, the Moneo Brock studio inaugurated one of the most singular projects in Monterrey. Belén Moneo and Jeff Brock designed a house with all the flavour and intensity of colours that are deeply rooted in Mexican culture. Evoking works by architects like Barragán and Legorreta, the house was built in Mexico for the Sorteo del Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM lottery) and will be on show for six months. In June 2018, it will be raffled as the first prize in order to raise money to fund scholarships for students with little financial means. "Via this project, we have sought to innovate while exalting local traditions. Our design includes the most efficient materials such as Tortona 1L Strada flooring for the whole house, Matt White Arctic Classic marble for the main bathroom, and Gravity Aluminium Metal on the walls of the guest bathroom – with Metal Brick (steel mosaic tiles, and an Epoque washtaiin, all by Porcelanosa," remarks Belén Moneo, to Lifestyle magazine.

PROTAGONISTS

Blanca Fajardo López
ARCHITECT AND URBAN PLANNER

Blanca Fajardo López is among the most well-known architects and urban planners in Spain. She was President of the COAC – the Association of Architects of the Canary Islands – and the first Dean of the new COALZ – the Association in Lanzarote – for seven years. One of her hallmarks is working to develop all kinds of land preservation with a particular way of designing landscape that has an architectural approach.

Her work is scattered over several of the islands that make up the archipelago of the Canary Islands, but particularly in Lanzarote; she has recently completed the 24 Grados restaurant, the Suite Hotel Fariones in Lanzarote, the Hotel Aguere in La Laguna and the Rancho Texas zoo park, located in Puerto del Carmen. Also, and not to be missed, are the MAC shop, and the refurbishment of historical buildings.

'Lanzarote is a landscape-island, a fragile island that has to combine a difficult balance between the natural landscape and the cultural landscape created by man. When we use the term ‘landscape’, we refer to the environs in which people move, the space they inhabit. In Lanzarote, this is even more pertinent because it is a benchmark as landscape has become a brand that everybody recognizes: present in our memory, it is part of the economy, of our history, of the present and the future, with all that that involves. The landscape is not just a brand, an image – it is also the imprint that remains in both the individual and collective memory. Architects who work in these natural settings work daily to combine respect for the environment with their new architecture that either mimics the landscapes, slightly modifies them, or interprets them, thus turning architecture into landscape.’

The New Tower

The original building – dating from 1900 – and its historical structure have been preserved to every possible extent. The refurbishment work will centre mainly on the interior courtyard where movable floors were installed and whose configuration can change according to the scheduled event.

GALERIES LAFAYETTE FOUNDATION

Architect Rem Koolhaas, at the age of 73, has just undertaken his first building project in Paris. Galeries Lafayette, the French department store, is setting up a Foundation that will be housed in a five-floor building in the Parisian rue du Plâtre. Design and creation, together with research, will be the driving force behind this new centre for exhibitions and activities located in Le Marais, very close to the Pompidou Centre.

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Carabela kitchens in Santo Domingo

The Gamadecor kitchen range, by Porcelanosa Kitchens, was the star at the presentation that Carabela, one of the top distribution companies in the Dominican Republic, organized at its shop in Santo Domingo. Yissel Feliz, Marketing Director for Carabela, expressed her satisfaction with the new range: "Carabela has allowed us to expand our catalogue to offer a more complete service by introducing the famous Gamadecor kitchen range: Porcelanosa Kitchens." Porcelanosa Group’s representative Joaquín Muniesa thanked Carabela for offering the different equipment and solutions of this range. José Herrerias, Gamadecor’s Managing Director, stated: "Gamadecor kitchens are superb, combine design and functionality, and are characterized by the quality of the best materials and finishes yet without forgoing style."
A commitment to aesthetics and the natural environment, technological innovation, and creative passion were the pillars of the 11th Edition of Porcelanosa Group’s Architecture and Interior Design Prizes. The event, held at Madrid’s Villa Magna hotel, brought together 330 professionals from the fields of architecture, interior design, and real estate development in a very special gala evening at which Porcelanosa showed itself to be a successful forward-looking company with a secure place in the future.

The Prizes had a jury panel of international prestige. Its members, Luis Vidal, Rebecca Jones, Ricardo Mateu, Pierre-Yves Rochon, and Rafael Robledo, remarked on the quality of all the work, created with structures and products from the Porcelanosa Group.

In the Future Projects category, professionals and students entered projects for a Porcelanosa Group showroom at the company’s headquarters in Vila-real, whose AutoCAD plans were provided by the organization of the competition. Both categories used different materials from the eight Group brands.

The category of Executed Projects encompassed work carried out from January 2016 to February 2018 using products by the Porcelanosa Group.

The work that won the prize for Future Projects in the Student section went to The Origami, by Estudio Master Bim Manager. The work that won the prize for Future Projects in the Professional section went to Watercourse, by Estudio Kiga. For Executed Projects, the First Prize went to Estudio Morph and its Terrazas del Lago Residential Development in Valdebebas, Madrid.

The evening also had Special Prizes, recognizing the work of different professionals in the worlds of architecture, interior design, and real estate development around the world, thus highlighting the work they do in a sector which makes people’s lives more beautiful and comfortable through the use of quality state-of-the-art materials. The winners talked about their work on stage.

The best African Prize went to Nana Kwame Badiko, the owner of Wonder World Estates and the creator of a new—as cosmopolitan, modern and accessible—Ghana.

The Prize for Outstanding Real Estate Initiative went to Grupo Inmobiliaria for its Krion© ventilated façade for the Terrazas del Lago project in Valdebebas, Madrid.

The Kronos Homes real estate development firm— that works with architects such as Rafael de La-Hoz, Joaquín Torres, and Jesús Gallego— received a prize for its avant-garde architecture.

The Adeli & de Rham studio, headed by Siavosh Adeli and Joakim de Rham, was awarded for its use of materials from Porcelanosa at the UN’s Emirates Hall in Geneva.

Finally, and as the icing on the cake of a unique event, the Honorary Prizes were announced.

Fernández-Abascal architects were recognized for their contribution to the development of Spanish architecture in the world, and the Conran & Partners studio was awarded for its contribution to the world of architecture.

The RCR Arquitectes studio, winner of the 2017 Pritzker, received a prize for its national and international work.
1. From left to right: Juan José Divason, Rafael Robledo (architect), Marta González (architect), Bárbara Rubio, Hector Colonques (President of Porcelanosa Group), Mark Fenwick (architect), Gaspar Sánchez-Moro (architect), Palomo O’Shea, José Antonio Rizo (Porcelanosa Madrid).

2. From left to right: Macarena Gea (blogger and architect), Irene Echevarría (blogger and interior designer at Blanco Metro), Nacho Viñau (journalist at Decoesfera) and Leticia Blanco (blogger and interior designer at Vintage&Chic).

3. From left to right: Santiago Manent (Porcelanosa USA), Rebecca Jones (member of the jury panel), Chris Harvey from RD Jones, and María José Soriano (Porcelanosa’s Managing Director).

4. Some guests from Santander Group with Héctor Colonques, President of Porcelanosa Group, Anna García-Perez (fourth on the right), Anna Colonques, Porcelanosa’s Financial Director (first on the right).

5. Guests at the cocktail party.

6. From left to right: Juan Carlos Cabanelas Rodríguez (C+C Arquitectos), Elena Caballero (MKV Arquitectos), Enric Torner Mondragon (Torner Architects), Ana Pesudo (GPAD Architects), Victoria Whinery and Simon Kirkham (Davis注明来源 & Partners), Ricardo Meru, JHM Madrid, and Leonie Turner (third from the left).

7. From left to right: José María Colonques (Porcelanosa Valencia), Santiago Darder, Julio Gómez-Perretta (Perretta Arquitectura), Rubén Muedra, Jaime Martínez (Vimarvi), José María Tomás Llavador, Antonio Altarriba, Jaume Chiralt (Chiralt Arquitectos), Marta Ferraz, and Fran Fernández (Porcelanosa Valencia).

8. Héctor Colonques, President of Porcelanosa Group, greets Guillermo Morenés.

9. Guests at the gala dinner.

10. Architect Julio Touza at the event.

11. From left to right: Cristina Colonques (Porcelanosa Group’s Marketing Director), Vicente Dalmau Cebrián-Sagarraga (Marquis of Murrieta), Nieves Álvarez (the event’s host), Michi Primo de Rivera, and Sandra del Río.

12. From left to right: Santiago Manent (Porcelanosa USA), Rebecca Jones (member of the jury panel), and Chris Harvey; the latter two are from the RD Jones studio.
13. Hector Colonques, President of Porcelanosa Group.
14. Hector Colonques delivers an Honorary Prize to Carme Piguem and Ramon Vilalta, from the RCR studio.
15. Members of the RCR Studio collect their prize for the Future Projects-Professionals category from Pierre-Yves Rochon.
16. Gases fires from the Moosh studio, collect the prize in the Future Projects-Professionals category from Rebecca Jones (RD Jones) and Ricardo Mauje de ARI London – both members of the jury panel – together with Nieves Alvarez.
17. Maria Jose Sotomayor, Porcelanosa Managing Director, delivers one of the Special Prizes to Santa Eulalia Bedrano, founder of Wonda World Estates.
18. Hector Colonques, President of Porcelanosa Group, delivers one of the Special Prizes to Jordi Roig, Operations Director at Inmoglaciar.
20. Said Hejal, founding partner of Kronos Homes, collects one of the Special Prizes from Mr Colonques, President of Porcelanosa Group.
21. Mark Fenwick, founding partner of the Fenwick Iribarren Architects studio, receive an Honorary Prize for their contribution to the dissemination of Spanish architecture in the world. In the background, the event’s host Nieves Alvarez, and Hector Colonques, President of Porcelanosa Group.
22. Silvestre Segarra, Porcelanosa’s Executive Vice President, gives one of the Special Prizes to Siavosh Adeli, founder of the Adeli & de Rham studio.
23. Simon Kincaid, from the Conran & Partners studio, receives one of the Special Prizes.
24. Rafael Robledo, a jury member, delivers the prize for the Future Projects-Students category to Luis Orlando, Ricardo Álvarez, and Santiago de Pablo – all of them students at the USC.
25. Photo of all the winners of the 2018 11th Architecture and Interior Design Prizes.
The concept is based on the course of a river using materials by Porcelanosa Group. Located in Vila-real, Porcelanosa’s main showroom is designed to look like a glassed-in stream laid out on five floors. For the top one, white is the star of the snowy peaks. A space created using the latest-generation Krion® Solid Surface solid mineral surface, and bathroom equipment by Noken. The next floor shows rocks and the river thawing, with light grey shades of porcelain stoneware everywhere. Darker rocks star on the next level, with Ston-ker porcelain stoneware. The level representing wood features Par-ker ceramic parquet floors and several ranges of natural wood tiles by L’Antic Colonial. The lowest level is the sea, with waves as the protagonists; a seascape made with Urbatek technical porcelain stoneware with a marble finish. It is the expression of the wellbeing of man and earth: the natural cycle of evolution.
THE ORIGAMI
This project presents an attractive solution for the showroom at Porcelanosa Group’s main facilities in Vila-real, and is based on the endless possibilities offered by the topography of the terrain in Spain. Set out like a cave, it is composed of a mesh that perforates the material to recreate a natural spot for the enjoyment of visitors. The Porcelanosa Group materials selected reproduce the natural contrasts of a harmonious, rocky and colourful landscape. The space has natural lighting thanks to a skylight, which in turn, creates a symbiosis between the rock and mesh to shelter visitors within it. The layout takes advantage of the building’s existing perimeter to arrange the home spaces (display areas). Light enters, and the central nucleus with its skylight is used for illumination, for the flow of people, and for singular exhibitions. In addition, the mesh itself demarcates the different spaces, except the perimeter areas which are separated by partitions in different finishes.

The materials chosen were by Porcelanosa, L’Antic Colonial, Venis, Noken, Butech, Gamadecor, and Krion®.

RESIDENTIAL PROJECT ‘TERRAZAS DEL LAGO’
For architect César Frías, innovation ‘comes from curiosity, a desire to improve, and hard work’. This was how the first sketches for the ‘Terrazas del Lago’ residential development came about – a construction designed and executed by Frías together with Pradillo and the Inmoglaciar group. Overlooking the Felipe VI Park and the Valdebebas lake – Madrid’s second green lung – this group of 83 homes, that have from one to five bedrooms, has over 2,000 m² of terraces, in addition to a swimming pool, a paddle-tennis court, and outdoor landscaped areas. The curved façade was built of Krion® and Ston-ker, by Porcelanosa Group, and is designed to make the most of the daylight. Each of the building’s nine floors has an energy system that takes advantage of the sun’s rays. In addition, the homes’ general flooring was done in Lama Supreme laminated tiles, 24.3 x 220 x 0.8 cm, by L’Antic Colonial, and the bathrooms, in Krion® by Systempool.

State-of-the-art, sustainable design.

Master BIM Manager Studio CICE Centre
Luis Orbaiceta de Navascués, Rubén Añalba Vizcay, and Santiago de Pablo Fernández

MORPH Studio
César Frías Enciso and Miguel Pradillo

PORCELANOSA Grupo
11th ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS 2018
FUTURE PROJECTS / STUDENTS

PORCELANOSA Grupo
11th ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS 2018
EXECUTED PROJECTS

FIRST PRIZE

FIRST PRIZE
As soon as you meet them, it is noticeable that there is an unusually good rapport between them: they only have to look at each other to agree on everything, and they laugh when they tell us anecdotes about their work in recent years. It is obvious that they enjoy their work, as they talk with determination and enthusiasm about the evolution of their studio and their professional paths.

Today, among other projects, they outline the finishing details of the fifth tower on Madrid’s Paseo de la Castellana that will be inaugurated in 2020, and of three of the stadiums for the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022.

When did you start to evolve together as Fenwick Iribarren Architects?

JAVIER IRIBARREN

We started together in the 90s, after diverse experiences. We are two complementary people: one of us sells very well, and the other collects (they laugh). This is a simplification, meaning that we know each other very well and each of us has different specific assigned tasks: there is no conflict because our thinking, when it comes to work, is the same.

MARK FENWICK

Due to my British origins, at first we began carrying out work for foreign companies that wanted to be based in Spain, such as the HP headquarters in Spain – that was an opportunity we took very naturally.

As for our way of working together, it is true that we are different. Although we are both architects, I am a salesman and creative, and Javier is very solid and more engaged in the financial side of things.

How do you face the challenges posed by each project?

J. I.

Each good building means a good client. This driving force in our work has to do with careful attention paid to detail and to the needs of each challenge. We don’t work with the government, therefore our estimates are accurate and expenses never surpass our budgets. From this starting
UEFA CONSULTANTS. The Fenwick Iribarren studio is one of the great experts at designing football stadiums. They have been commissioned to create three of the eight stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Their most impressive project is the one for this stadium which appears in the images and is fully recyclable as it is made with containers. The other photos show the new office building on Madrid's Calle O'Donnell.

point, it is very important to follow the client’s guidelines and needs, and the context where the construction will be built. Once all this is established, our creative work starts as does the coordination of every element until the project is completed.

M. F.

We have a young, dynamic team that contributes many ideas, and we encourage a horizontal way of working. We grant plenty of freedom, intervening at the start to mark general guidelines that are discussed by us all. Innovation in each challenge is very important — in our studio, we embrace three architectural areas: the design of construction, interior design, and landscaping. Knowing about the latest materials — like ceramic tiles by Porcelanosa — is very important, as is how they fit into a project and whether they evoke the most specific details or those that are global.

What is the meaning of the main catchphrase you use to define your architecture: Blue Architecture?

J. I.

Echoes of sustainability; ‘Green Architecture’ has, rightly, been influencing all work processes, but from our point of view, it lacked the human and humanistic element that is the key element we have introduced into a way of thinking and doing that we have dubbed ‘Blue Architecture’. It is a step forward, an extension of all things eco-friendly, green and sustainable, careful attention to the human experience in each environment is vital for us.

M. F.

We avoid scenic architecture as we are more interested in functional content than in aesthetic form; how people can interact with each of the spaces that we create and the building’s living experience. Our Blue Architecture hallmark ensures we are very demanding throughout the whole process.

What relationship have you established between a sport like football and architecture?

J. I.

We won the contest for the RCD Espanyol stadium and it was a huge success that won the International Prize for football stadiums in 2009. We didn't expect it: it travelled round the world and positioned us. Later, came the Valencia stadium. We apply the same way of working to stadiums as we do to other projects: we are very aware of the visibility and enthusiasm generated by works of this kind and size.

M. F.

We are consultants for UEFA in the field of football-stadium architecture, we travel around the world, and we understand the influence that this sport has on our society. With regard to 2022, we are starting our work with three of the eight stadiums that Qatar will have for the World Cup; the big challenge was the 100-per-cent sustainable stadium that will be made with removable industrial

"We create Blue Architecture, which is an evolution of Green Architecture but with additional special attention to the humanist side of buildings."

Javier Iribarren
LEAVING A MARK ON THE SKYLINE. The Caleido complex, whose construction has just begun and appears in these images, will modify the skyline of Madrid. It will be the fifth tower in the north of Spain’s capital city. Its shape will be an inverted T, with its base housing a medical centre, while the tall section will be the Instituto de Empresa’s headquarters – one of the best business schools in the world.

‘We avoid scenic architecture as we are more interested in functional content than in aesthetic form, in how people interact with each of the spaces that we create, and in the building’s living experience.’
Mark Fenwick

modules, containers... It has been like an enjoyable game for us, and we know that it is – and will be – an international benchmark.

These past months, the first stone of the fifth tower on the Castellana has been laid. How have you faced the challenge of influencing a new skyline for Madrid?
J. I.

With regard to Madrid, we can talk about a very intense return to work: after years, we have returned to the city with solid projects such as the building at Gran Via 68, the office building on Calle O’Donnell 12, a hotel for students in the old printing house of the daily sports paper AS, and finally, in 2020, the Caleido complex, which includes commercial premises, a hospital and a tower devoted to education will be completed.
M. F.

The building is an inverted T, housing the Instituto de Empresa in the vertical section, and in the base, the Quirón Clinic. Our aim is to return to the origins of modern architecture and tall buildings like Chicago’s Hancock Tower and those built by Mies van der Rohe. Caleido is a liveable sculpture which sums up our entire work philosophy: on the one hand, our concern for the sustainability of the environment, and on the other hand, the sustainability of the experiences that will be lived in the building by focusing on the functionality of the spaces designed for people.

From their studio in Madrid, Mark Fenwick and Javier Iribarren launch their powerful message of commitment into the world: Blue Architecture, a way of integrating sustainability and human experience into avant-garde architecture as a whole.

“We avoid scenic architecture as we are more interested in functional content than in aesthetic form, in how people interact with each of the spaces that we create, and in the building’s living experience.’
Mark Fenwick
The masterful interpretation by the Openbox studio – combining design, architecture and landscape – won this project the German Design Award, an internationally prestigious recognition.

Sublime architecture

With a big stone cube as its starting point, the Openbox studio – pioneers in combining architecture and landscape – designed this magnificent house in Bangkok. The external cladding was done in White Nature IVY XLIGHT, 100 x 300 cm, by Urbatek.
The Marble House residential project, carried out in Thailand by Openbox Architects, is a success thanks to its integration of the home’s indoor and outside spaces as an indivisible whole that combines architecture with landscape. A large cube that has the timeless essence of marble was the starting point for their design.

Openbox Architects was founded in 2004 by architect Nu Ratiwat Suwannatrai and landscape architect Prang Wannaporn Suwannatrai – the pair are a team also in their personal lives. For the past decade, Openbox has participated in many projects whose architectural importance, plus the development of unique ideas and a bold harmonization of architecture and natural environments have earned them a number of prizes: the latest was the prestigious German Design Award, granted last February 2018 to the Marble House project with its outstanding XLIGHT façade by Urbatek. This international award recognized the
innovative work done by the team, their spectacular design, and the innovation of the materials used. For Marble House – and following a concept of great respect for functional and aesthetic needs – the Openbox team used geometric shapes starting from the fragmentation of a large cube in order to build different connections.

Laid out on two levels, this imposing building stands on a solid stone base on which this enormous volume expands as if it were a very beautiful gravity-defying sculpture. This big monolith is interwoven with the materials used in the different interior spaces to enhance the expressivity of the stone, wood, black metal beams and edgings. Overlooking the garden area, the house is protected from climate and temperature changes thanks to the weather-proof materials which cover it, by the position of its large windows which allow in daylight, and skylights that offer good ventilation. The double-height living area on
The ground floor is connected to the outdoor garden through a huge window. On the upper floor, the private spaces have balconies and large windows that ensure total privacy and take advantage of the daylight.

One of the most interesting points of the project is the use of XLIGHT porcelain stoneware with minimal thickness by Urbatek, by Porcelanosa Group, as the material for the whole façade. XLIGHT allowed for a continuity of the angular volumes of the exterior façade with the interior of the house, creating a project that stands out for its beauty and singularity.

Today, Openbox has even greater expectations of enhancing architecture and landscape, masterfully emphasizing the concept of a unified design.

For this studio, innovation in materials, beauty linked to functionality, and the harmony that must exist between architecture, landscape and the environment are the soul of their professional and personal project.
Simple lines

When you enter The Apartment, the new Uterqüe shop on Madrid’s Calle Claudio Coello 52, you relish in the feeling of enjoyment as you look at the clothes, shoes, leather goods and accessories that are displayed with a singular elegance in an ambience designed to capture the customer’s entire attention; to feel its enveloping warmth that invites you to stay for a while to unwind and soak in its atmosphere, filled with fashion and design.

Text: BETTINA DUBCOVSKY  Photos: ALEX DEL RÍO

Above, left, the ventilated façade was done in Vancouver Classico natural stone tiles, 3 cm, by L’Antic Colonial; decoration elements in the shop window in Mocha Travertine Sand natural stone. Below, the wall cladding was done in Beige Amsterdam Classico natural stone. The furniture behind the cashier and the walls were clad with Grey Amsterdam Classico. Above, a general view of the shop, with Grey Amsterdam Sand natural stone tiles, 150 x 150 x 2 cm, by L’Antic Colonial.

This is what Uterqüe fans also feel in the shops the brand now has in other cities in Spain and Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Romania, Poland, Holland and Portugal – among many other countries. This Inditex subsidiary has its own interior designers who understand the essence and spirit of the brand, and provide their establishments with a superb look that matches the shops’ products. At 170 square metres, the new shop in Madrid is a minimalist box-shaped space with a large Scandinavian-style sofa to welcome you. Surrounding it are other protagonists such as Nordic furniture created expressly for Uterqüe; stone, metal and wood shelves hold art books; there are tables from Parisian antiques shops, bamboo flooring, Persian-inspired carpets, original German ceramic objects in colours such as iron and bronze, bold looks and wild plants. The staging is perfect, and a touch of glamour from the past perfectly...
sets the scene as if it were an apartment. Eames, Calder, Gropius and Le Corbusier are embodied in the place via the stone and wood, and the curved and straight lines. The space has a Mid-Century feel with no superfluous detail: the subtle sophistication of the suspended walls and ceiling lightens it, making it cosily warm, and evocative, allowing the different collections to exist in harmony with the elements in travertine marble and wood. And it is here where the L’Antic Colonial tiles stand out for their ability to enhance the rooms they grace. Examples are the Vancouver Classico stone on the façade, the Grey Amsterdam Sand floor tiles, and Travertine Mocha Sand for the indoor columns.

The lighting deserves a separate mention: a subtle play of hidden light and shadows recreates the light of the Mediterranean thanks to a false window in the ceiling which uses a cutting-edge energy-saving system. This new shop concept by Uterqüe looks to the past and uses its sober lines, geometric shapes, simpler finishes with few details – but with good functionality – and has adapted it to the present day, fusing the dignity and the organic spirit of the mid-20th century into a feminine style. In a nutshell, the new Uterqüe shop is a design experience in itself.
“The place to be”

On golden Marbella’s ‘golden mile’, a star has been born on the haute cuisine and hotel scene. We are referring to Nobu, the latest success story from the Shamooin brothers, great businessmen in the sector of international luxury and leisure.

Photos: Charly Simon

HOTEL NOBU MARBELLA

“The place to be”

On golden Marbella’s ‘golden mile’, a star has been born on the haute cuisine and hotel scene. We are referring to Nobu, the latest success story from the Shamooin brothers, great businessmen in the sector of international luxury and leisure.

Photos: Charly Simon

A general view of the swimming pool at the Nobu Hotel. The architecture reflects its Andalusian identity, endowing the space with top comfort in each detail.
In order to explain the Nobu concept, we can start by saying that, in Marbella’s world of luxury, the pioneers were the Marbella Club and Puente Romano – the latter, a magnificent resort close to the first both geographically and in business terms – that marked the new splendour of this special place on the Costa del Sol. The Puente Romano and Marbella Club have been – and still are – benchmarks of Marbella’s style, service, food, sports and nightlife. Puente Romano offers a superb variety of restaurants at its very busy Plaza Village, starting with Dani García’s BIBO with its two Michelin stars, and now with the recent arrival of the Nobu restaurant and its magnificent menu by Nobu Matsuhisa – Nobu’s chef and creator. In this delightful oasis where everything seemed complete and operating at full swing, the Shamoon brothers, owners in Spain of the Marbella Club, Puente Romano, and El Lodge in Sierra Nevada, decided to take things one step further and so they opened Nobu, an international icon with the added value of gastronomy, and which has just opened in Spain in Marbella at the Puente Romano but is separate from it yet follows their philosophy, design, architecture, and spaces.

JEAN PIERRE MARTEL and his daughter and partner CHLOE MARTEL give us a master class in modernity and culture. He has, since 1987 – the year when this interior designer, art collector, gallery owner and, above all, exceptional citizen of the world arrived in Marbella – taken on local projects that marked a watershed when it comes to good taste applied to design. Throughout his career, he has carried out projects around the world, and from all these experiences on his travels, he has gathered objects that are exhibited and sold at his art gallery Andrew Martin, at the Marbella Club.
The owners again entrusted Jean Pierre Martel with the interior design as they love his personal style and wanted him to create something different from the Puente Romano, clearly targeting high-end customer profiles for their next success story.

Jean Pierre and his daughter Chloe, with all the regular contributors of the Martel studio, accepted a challenge that perfectly dovetails with their elegant yet avant-garde personality. Jean Pierre has lived in Marbella since 1987, and from his studio and successful gallery, prestigious national and international projects have been carried out. At the Andrew Martin gallery, which he owns, one can find period furniture, vintage cars (for instance, a wonderful convertible Jaguar from the 50s), 18th-century Chinese fabrics, original Nordic-design chairs, posters and original works by great international photographers, precious miniatures, objects with a touch of kitsch... A oneness where there is room for everything and objects convey culture and cosmopolitism.
The design of Marbella’s Nobu Hotel looks casual, but nothing has been left to chance. With a clear 60s look in the décor of the common areas and restrained, well-defined luxury in the rooms and leisure areas, Jean Pierre Martel has successfully differentiated the philosophies of the Puente Romano Resort and Nobu which, together, are the epicentres of Marbella’s nightlife and fun. In this project, as in many others, he put his trust in the Porcelanosa Group and its different brands. The materials from Porcelanosa Group feature widely in the Nobu restaurant that has flooring by Venis. The spectacular bar at The Suite disco, in the Plaza Village, was done in Elite Lava Stone Mix Gold mosaic by L’Antic Colonial. In the hotel’s lobby, the floor was done in Linkfloor Contract Clay tiles, and in the lounge bathroom the black marble basin by L’Antic Colonial is striking. In the hotel’s rooms, whose design allows the almost eternal daylight to be captured and retained, the materials by Urbatek and K-Life by Systempool,
FRANCESCO ROCCATO, Nobu Hotel’s General Manager in Marbella, stresses the importance of this new commitment to very high-quality tourism by the Shamoon family, one that targets adult customers who enjoy different culinary and evening leisure choices. Nobu Hotel’s policy is clear: highly sophisticated adults-only luxury suites, and the possibility of sharing some common areas with the Puente Romano while preserving privacy in other areas that are exclusively for the hotel’s guests.

Since its recent opening, Nobu’s international prestige endowed Spain with a more defined and glamorous luxury leisure offer. Thanks to the right combination of materials, the individually of all the spaces, understanding the demands of guests who want to enjoy Marbella, this hotel has become a benchmark for a trendy, cosmopolitan public who knows how to make the most of their days... and of course, their nights.

With a business approach focused on excellence, Nobu embraces a bold and distinctive style of interior design, and architecture that encompasses luxury while preserving the essence of Andalusia’s style: the culture, climate, and love for the good life.

Right, an en-suite bathroom at the hotel. White Kala flooring and cladding, 120 x 120 and 250 x 120 cm, by Urbatek. K-Life countertop, basin, and tub by Systempool. Nk Concept taps, Neptune Slim shower sprayer head. Nk Pack Duchy, all by Noken.

Below, corridor inside the suites, in Linkfloor Roll Contract Sand from 120 by L'Antic Colonial. White Kala floor tiles, 120 x 120 cm, by Urbatek. Below, right, one of the magnificent Nobu suites. White Kala floor tiles, 120 x 120 cm, by Urbatek. For all the suites, the Jean Pierre Martel studio relied on the quality, adaptability, and excellence of materials from Porcelanosa Group.
When it first opened its doors, at the International Ceramic and Bathroom Products Exhibition – as it was called back then – only three firms were present: Porcelanosa, Venis, and Gamadecor. All the other companies in the Group had not yet been created. That Fair was the first step along a path that has led this event, organized by Porcelanosa Group, to now be among the most relevant in the sector worldwide. Throughout the past 25 years, Systempool, L’Antic Colonial, Butech, Noken and Urbatek were created – brands that contribute to Porcelanosa Group’s presence on all five continents, and with over 1,000 shops. The internationalization of both the Group and the Fair can be seen by the more than 14,000 visits recorded at the 2018 edition – out of which, 72% were foreign visitors from 80 different countries.

A quarter of a century on, innovation and technology again signal the way forward with innovative products and facilities that allow for a smoother production process. Porcelanosa’s newest, fully digitalized display stands out; it has an ISA – Intelligent Surface Assistant – a virtual assistant that welcomes the visitor right at the door of the showroom and helps them combine and choose products, presenting the latest creations to them. The other great new addition is the new cladding and floor-tile production plant. A 90,000-square-metre construction, it will become the most cutting-edge and efficient ceramic production plant in the world. Porcelanosa Group will thus achieve a 25%-increase in its production and make 8 million square metres of cladding and floor tiles a year.

One of the stars at the 2018 Fair was the innovative display concept, IA. A virtual assistant it saves customers’ preferences and helps them choose their products and possible combinations. In addition, ISA further helps customers to select their ceramic tiles by sending them a customized electronic catalogue.
Thanks to its resilience, **Forest** (in the photo, in the colour **Maple**) can be used on both floors and walls, and indoors as well as outdoors as it also comes in a non-slip version that offers great durability against adverse weather conditions. Along the same lines, the new **Porcelanosa** collection has low porosity – hence it protects damp areas such as bathrooms and kitchens.

**Forest** is available in two sizes (22 × 90 cm, and 14.3 × 90 cm) and four colours: **Natural**, **Maple**, **Ash Tree**, and **Steel** (in the photo). Designs that defy time and have a light finish that perfectly simulates the grain and patterns of real wood.

**Sydney** tile cladding, an attractive and elegant product with a mini-herringbone pattern that radiates a well-defined luminosity. In addition, it is always the focus of attention of any space. It is as if light becomes matter, combining perfectly with plain and monochrome wall cladding and floor tiles.

**Forest** is the new **PAR-KER** ceramic parquet series – the only Porcelanosa Group product made with 95% recycled materials. The goal is to minimize the impact of emissions, reduce waste and spread good practices in the use of natural resources. By using recycled materials, savings of up to 40% in CO₂ emissions are achieved during the production process.

**Venis**

The brand presents its new **Sydney** wall cladding, an attractive and elegant product with a mini-herringbone pattern that radiates a well-defined luminosity. In addition, it is always the focus of attention of any space. It is as if light becomes matter, combining perfectly with plain and monochrome wall cladding and floor tiles.
Gamadecor

Latest-generation Carnival kitchen is Gamadecor’s star product. It is a kitchen made with the best materials, designed to impress everyone; a kitchen created to satisfy all your daily needs in a comfortable and elegant space. In addition, there are new bathroom furniture suggestions, such as Mertens and Magma.

1. Carnival kitchen. Fronts in oak with tooled leather finish. The wood is treated so that the softest fibres are removed, resulting in a very natural feel.
2. Mertens bathroom collection. The star here is a suspended glass countertop with scratch- and fingerprint-resistant treatments, enhanced by a bevelled oak frame underneath to conceal the wall brackets. In addition, Mertens has a mirror with concealed storage space inside.
3. Magma bathroom collection. The washbasin, made entirely of natural granite, is stunning.

Krion® by Systempool

K-Life bursts onto the market. KGAST’s patented technology uses photo catalysis to turn the surface into a piece that actively improves air quality, and is antibacterial and stain proof. Systempool is committed to collections made in colours and textures of new-generation Krion® Solid Surface, and signature designs such as the Tono shower column, designed in collaboration with the Foster + Partners studio.

1. Krion® presents 16 new colours to complete the firm’s colour range. The Opale series is one of them; four colours that set a trend, and allow the material to be backlit.
2. Deca expands its shower-screen collection by Systempool with striking aluminium edging in frosted silver, and 10-mm thick tempered safety glass.
3. The Tono show is expanded thanks to a new shower column, designed in collaboration with the Foster + Partners studio and provides bathrooms with functionality and elegance.
L’Antic Colonial

*Range* is the new natural wood collection by L’Antic Colonial, made up of four different large-size versions. The collection has an aged, distressed finish, achieved by making marks on its upper layer. This oak wood has visible colour variations that are evident in each plank, and is enhanced by its knots.

As the façade is one of the most distinctive elements of any building, its design and execution are very important. For flawless installation, cutting-edge technology is used and should always be carried out by companies that are leaders in these kinds of projects. Butech has vast experience in system development and in undertaking façade projects, successfully installing such complex materials as Airslate and Krion®.

The *Range* collection is available in a large size: 220 × 22 cm. These planks in natural wood are striking for their different textures and have a markedly rugged-looking surface. Inspired by the work of cabinetmakers of the past, the texture offers a product with a handmade look. The different combinations of planks create exclusive and attractive ambiences.

In the photo: *Range 1L Alsacia.*

Butech

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1. The façade of this house in Mallorca, designed by the Jle studio in Palma de Mallorca, includes large-size eaves made of Krion®, affixed with Butech’s K-FIX construction system.
2 and 3. Inspired by the starkness of metal, this collection of decorative edgings adapts perfectly to interior design with vanishing lines and clean, industrial forms and colours. The Copper Cast Pro-part (photo 2) and Iron Cast Pro-part metallic lines (photo 3) made of brass, combine beautifully with a wide range of materials.
Noken

Black, the hottest trend for 2018, is perfect for new bathrooms that are both modern and classic, as well as versatile and elegant. Noken Porcelanosa Bathrooms offers a matt black finish for its tapware.

The reinvention of the wellness concept and the new Lounge and Nature bathroom furniture units are already a hallmark of this firm that is a pioneer when it comes to innovation and technology.

1. Lounge furniture unit. A new design and new night-blue finish for this furniture unit from the Simone Micheli collection: style and personality for sophisticated bathrooms.

2. Noken Porcelanosa Bathrooms reasserts its commitment to wellness by creating new electronic control systems for hydro-massage tubs: chromotherapy, aromatherapy, and music therapy.

3. Matt black finish. Style and modernity come to the bathroom with the new Round finishes for washbasin and shower tapware.


Urbatek

Extra-thin porcelain stoneware, the firm’s star, maximizes its possibilities at this new edition of the Exhibition by making more finishes and thickness available. For its innovative quality, large size and minimum thickness, XLight by Urbatek is a benchmark for highly demanding projects, achieving perfection in wall cladding, floor and façade tiles and allowing for a seamless finish.

1. Dark Arcan collection, 120 × 250 cm. Technological advances have allowed for a metallic finish with rich and varied textures.

2. Haven Bone Nature collection, 120 × 250 cm, and 120 × 120 cm. Elegant marble with shades of beige and cream intertwined with travertine’s characteristic veining.

3. Grey Polished Liem XLight cladding tiles, 120 × 250 cm.
Culdesac, a creative and strategic consultancy, undertook the design for the new exhibition concept by adapting structures and display units, and even creating new itineraries for visits; all with the aim of offering a unique user experience.

Three large screens welcome visitors as they enter the exhibition. The first is an ISA – Intelligent Surface Assistant – presentation showing interviews with people such as Julio Touza and Quique Dacosta from the world of architecture, the restaurant industry and design. They talk about their experiences with different Porcelanosa products and how they were used in their respective fields. On the other two screens, Ston-ker and Par-ker are featured in inspirational videos, as is another new 2018 product: the White & Colours combination.

With regard to the exhibition itself, it is divided into the three spaces of a Social Club where all the firm’s new products are showcased: Meeting Point, Business Club, and Private Lounge. In addition to them is the Par-ker area which shows the public all the firm’s ceramic parquet collections, as well as the new Delaware and Forest series. These are materials that can be seen with ISA, Porcelanosa’s revolutionary virtual assistant, taking users closer to the future. Part of the company’s strategy of combining cutting-edge technology and functional service, ISA will change the way that different materials and elements can be seen and chosen.
A customized bracelet saves customers’ preferences during their visit. It also involves an automated ceramic display unit, tactile screens, the possibility of combining customized materials, and even adding new options. ISA technology is now part of Porcelanosa so that users can enjoy a unique experience: an immersion into the world of high technology applied to the best products and ceramic materials in the world.

A 3D simulator while wearing a VR headset to interact inside an apartment – for instance, changing the flooring in all of the rooms and seeing them with different tiles from the Par-ker range.

The visit ends with the new automated ceramics display unit, with which ISA, based on the customers’ preferences and experiences recorded at the exhibition, will guide them as they choose their Porcelanosa materials.

AT THE HEART OF PORCELANOSA

ISA – Intelligent Surface Assistant – is Porcelanosa’s new virtual assistant, able to record preferences regarding the materials displayed at the firm’s showroom and then interact with the user. It works via a bracelet that each visitor receives at the start of their visit and that saves their preferences. Once the device has been activated, the customer simply has to place the bracelet close to the ‘totem’ of the material in question. ISA thus records and analyzes their selections and then presents its conclusions.

When the visit is over, the customer accesses the automated ceramic display unit via which ISA welcomes them. All the products they most liked have been saved there, and combinations of materials, or even alternative products, are suggested. The tile trays are lit so that customers can find them easily and are also displayed on tactile screens together with their technical specifications. All this has a single aim: to streamline the selection of materials and ensure a truly unique experience for every customer.

Lastly, ISA bids visitors farewell by sending them an email with a customized catalogue containing all their preferences – a veritable assistant that will help familiarize the public with the possibilities offered by the world of Porcelanosa.
Design with a view

This hotel, with an imposing and innovative presence where design extends to every corner, is a new way of understanding leisure time. Passion, good taste, and modernity are its hallmarks.

The Skybar (above), on the hotel’s 29th floor, offers the best views of the Bay of Calpe and the majestic Ifach Rock, 332 metres high. The mountain, located in the north of the province of Alicante, is the gem of the Nature Reserve of Ifach. The walls in the entrance hall (below) were clad with Concrete Grey Nature tiles by Urbatek, in their large format version – 100 x 30 cm – to offer uniformity and elegance.
The hotel’s excellent interior design and materials immediately catch the eye. This is a discreetly stark kind of luxury thanks to the metallic finishes that are the great protagonist.

It is evident that Xavier Pastor, the project designer, paid special attention to details, both in the rooms and in the common areas – of which there are many. This hotel in Calpe, Alicante, has three rooms for children’s entertainment that are fitted with cutting-edge technology such as a virtual reality mobile platform; four themed swimming pools, a restaurant, a pool bar, the Sky Lounge Bar on the 29th floor that has a fantastic view; a gym and an underground garage. Not to mention the spa area with a Thalasso Spa, sauna, hydrotherapy tub, treatment cabins…

All this goes to show how much work was involved for the interior designer who worked passionately on this project.

A good example is found in the Lobby Bar – the hotel has so many features, that not all of them can be mentioned here – where Xavier Pastor sought visual impact. He achieved it thanks to the Metallic Bronze 3D Cubes, the shiniest mosaics by L’Antic Colonial whose copper colour offers a very luminous effect as some of its tiles have a high shine. The interior designer combined that touch of bronze with a predominant finish in white marble on the walls, and resilient and durable vinyl floors – essential for the hall, one of the areas of the hotel with the greatest traffic flow, where Concrete Grey Nature…
floor tiles by Urbatek, highly resilient to countless number of steps walked all over it, were used.

The rooms – two hundred 75-m² suites and 32 rooms, all of them with spectacular views to the Mediterranean – are outstanding for the particular mood they each transmit. To achieve this, Pastor chose the sophisticated and versatile Linkfloor Wall Contract Zinc wall cladding by L’Antic Colonial for the central wall where the headboard is, combined with light shades of blue, beige or pink to create a unique atmosphere in each bedroom. In contrast with the elegant dynamism of Linkfloor – and in playful harmony – the Limestone Dover collection by Porcelanosa (in a square format for the floors and wall cladding in the rooms) provides the ambience with a distinguished and neutral look. State-of-the-art design and functionality take the lead in the bathrooms, both those of the bedrooms and in the common areas. To endow them with an intimate and delicate feel, the colour range of Gravity Aluminium Hexagon mosaic tiles by L’Antic Colonial play a leading role and are in three metallic colours.

Below, for the cladding in the central wall – where the headboard is in each room – sophisticated Linkfloor Wall Contract Zinc tiles by L’Antic Colonial were chosen in different combinations of light shades of blue, brown or pink. Both the flooring and the wall cladding in the rooms and in the Limestone Dover collection by Porcelanosa, in a square format. Opposite, bathroom wall cladding from the Limestone Belize collection, also by Porcelanosa, with bathroom fittings from the Hotels series by Noken. The bathrooms in the common areas were clad with Gravity Aluminium Hexagon by L’Antic Colonial, in Gold for men (left) and Rose Gold for women (right). For the bathroom floors in the common areas, tiles from the Jersey Mix collection by Porcelanosa were used in a 31.6 × 90 cm rectangular format.

Calpe's Suitopia Sol y Mar Suites Hotel, in addition to its architectural charm, is in a superb location in the town centre, and only 50 metres from the Arenal beach – ideal for forgetting about your car; and if you like walking, the Ifach Rock Nature Reserve is only 2.2 km away. Opened in May 2017, this four-star hotel caters both to couples as well as guests on a family holiday. Its spaces and facilities are ample enough for every guest to read, play, have a swim, relax or be pampered. This is innovative, streamlined, and dynamic accommodation. Three undisputable qualities that characterize the materials used and offer comfort and quality to guests.
Three architecture and interior design firms that, based in Paris, develop their creative ideas around the world. They export French savoir-faire – particularly the savoir-faire of a city that preserves the essence of the exquisite with a contemporary approach. Pierre-Yves Rochon, Marc Hertrich and Nicolas Adnet (Studio MHNA), and Oscar Ono (Maison Numéro 20) achieve an intricate balance of technology, new materials, sustainability, with a taste for luxury and quality.

"The prizes we have received over the years are a stimulus for us to continue along the same lines: a style and work based on experience – ours, and that of the people who then enjoy our spaces."

"We consider ourselves to be artists who tell stories that revolve around the world of spas, hotels, residences, shops... either designing or creating them from scratch. Each work is a setting we design to convey the emotions and other narratives that life generates in them."

"Our combinations of simple and elegant materials are perhaps another of our in-house secrets. Mixing wood and mother-of-pearl, gold, silver and bronze, gold lacquer or varnish, and gold leaf for details that add grandeur and a strong personality."
Pierre-Yves Rochon

Pierre-Yves Rochon is synonymous with authenticity, quality, and artisanal work. This is what the firm openly declares in all their communications and statements, and is backed up by their many years of passionate work in the worlds of architecture and interior design.

Since 1979, the work they have done all over the world has sought solutions focused on refined, comfortable and warm ambiances that convey prestige through elegance and classic style. Timeless, sophisticated work.

Hotels are one of their top specialities: ‘The prizes we have received over the years are a stimulus for us to continue along the same lines: a style and work based on experience – ours, and that of the people who then enjoy our spaces.’ Outstanding among their most famous works are those they created for the Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton, Waldorf Astoria, Fairmont, St. Regis, Peninsula, Shangri-La, Sofitel, InterContinental hotels, and for many boutique hotels, such as the Kappler in Paris and the Furnas in the Azores Islands.

Awards are a constant in their careers – the latest ones range from the Hospitality Design’s Platinum Circle and the Most Influential Hotel Designer, granted by the Asia Pacific Hotel Design Association in 2015, as well as Designer of the Year from the Boutique Design institution in 2012. The studio also received the coveted Outstanding Contribution Award at the European Hotel Design Awards.

Another field they work in is that of restaurant design; they have created ambiances for the best chefs in the world, including Joël Robuchon, Alain Ducasse, and Paul Bocuse. ‘Each detail matters as it adds to the feelings involved in any gastronomic experience, particularly for these great chefs. It’s a big challenge that we always face individually and with pleasure along with all the people who take part in the projects.’

Pierre-Yves Rochon has offices in Paris and Chicago, but both come together and collaborate on the work for each client. Their teams are made up of specialists in diverse fields so as to tackle every aspect of the planning and design processes.

‘Each work project is different, we adapt to each goal, to each moment and place; what remains unchanged is our search for distinction and all things exquisite. The French culture of luxury is inebriated with a certain know-how plus an everlasting attempt to achieve the sublime.’
Twenty years of prolific work are the pillars of the successful Studio MHNA, with Nicolas Adnet and Marc Hertrich creating settings and developing spaces that respect the history and stories of each place, and each customer.

Marc comes from a five-generation family of artisans and designers; this endowed him with a very acute sensitivity for materials, colour, spatial harmony, and the different ways of combining all these elements. When he finished studying, he worked at Michel Boyer’s architecture studio where his curious and creative way of looking at things emerged. The interior design at the Richmond hotel in Geneva was his debut in the world of luxury.

Nicolas is a self-taught designer who feels a passion for elegance and prestige. He collaborated with Lanvin and, in terms of style, is very similar to Yves Saint Laurent who he considers to be a benchmark. Marc and Nicolas have defined themselves over the years as exclusive explorers who use idea labs to discover ambiances and create furniture, lighting, functionality, and their personal touch: poetry.

“We consider ourselves to be artists who tell stories that revolve around the world of spas, hotels, residences, shops... either designing or creating them from scratch. Each work is a setting we design to convey the emotions and other narratives that life generates in them,” they say.

Each and every one of their works exudes a French spirit, a feel for haute couture: a made-to-measure, well-defined approach.

In May, they presented their latest work, the Paris Élysées Club: a classic, traditional clubhouse done in an absolutely timeless style. Another of their most recent works is the Mövenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi in Marrakech. They refurbished 503 rooms and common areas, collaborating with well-known landscaper Madison Cox. Another major work in 2017 was the Swiss Night by Fassbind hotel, in which they experimented with colour, forms and a sense of humour.

An impressive number of works by them are underway on all five continents. The next openings will include the Astor Hotel in Paris, the Sofitel Frankfurt Opera Hotel, the Kempinski Hotel Fassbind Congo, a Club Med in Chengde, China.

In 2016, the Fonds de France publishing house published a book on their most important works. Marc Hertrich, Nicolas Adnet; des univers inspirés is a coffee-table book whose author, Brigitte Fitoussi, talks with the creators and successfully reveals their passions and their best spaces.
Maison Numéro 20 is the new Parisian décor and interior design studio headed by Oscar Ono – Oscar Lucien's artistic name – a young talent born in Toulon, whose works integrate the entire Baroque essence of French décor with a theatrical approach to classic style, using harmony of light and shade thanks to top quality and sophisticated materials.

He studied Economic Sciences, and later Art History in Lyon, until he joined the Louvre School in Paris in order to specialize in Ancient Art.

“It’s a theatrical, eclectic, and contemporary style, a personal taste for a balance of colours (black, charcoal and dark grey, red and copper) for which the top-quality materials and finishes chosen acquire great importance, and always done with fun and fantasy.”

Oscar Lucien began to become well known for his work with wood flooring, parquets made of natural woods. He used this top-quality and versatile material, creating surprising shapes for the Time Capsule bar.

“Some of my constant influences are reminiscent of chiaroscuros by Vermeer and La Tour and, even more, of a dramatic and mysterious universe that is closer to Caravaggio. Wood is one of the materials I use for experimenting with. I want to mould it, shape it so that it becomes part of a warm and sophisticated atmosphere.”

Les Jardins du Pont Neuf (Paris), the Le Marquis Eiffel hotel (Paris), Les Aiglons (Chamonix), and the Burdigala hotel (Bordeaux) are some of his most outstanding and acclaimed decorative works.

“Our combinations of simple and elegant materials are perhaps another of our in-house trade secrets. Mixing wood and mother-of-pearl, gold, silver and bronze, gold lacquer or varnish, and gold leaf for details that add grandeur and a strong personality.”

À l’école de Oscar Ono, published by Éditions du Chêne (2012), is the book in which he summarizes the path his career has taken and the evolution of his ideas, and ponders on the excellence of all things classic and timeless, the quality and atmosphere of the spaces that surround us and how they affect our future and the mood of our life experiences.
Refurbished by the Tousidoris Anisi studio, this palace-home in Seville dates back to the early 20th century. The ensemble has become an events venue thanks to the addition to the main building of a new open-plan, glassed-in space that can seat many people and has views to the garden. The project, development, and work successfully involved minimal environmental impact.

Respect and integration

The palm trees, which give their name to this space for events, preside over a French garden with a sand surface that is characteristic of these properties in the south of Spain. The estate – now designed to celebrate events – has 1,474 m² of constructed surface area and is located in the south of the city of Seville. The new building has a horizontal glassed-in structure that increases its seating capacity while still being integrated into the whole, but has a strong personality of its own.
The Seville-based Tousidonis Anisi architecture studio respected the look of the original house that dates back to the first half of the past century. Ever since it was built, this property was used as a family home. The work done by the team led by Anisi was not extensive as they only merged several small rooms to create larger spaces that would better adapt to their new function as an events venue. Other constructions that had been added over the years were removed.

One of the essential points of the current design was to create an extension to bring about new spaces that would fuse with the already existing ones. The new building complements and modernizes the original essence but does not vie with it. In order to achieve this, a single-storey space made with very neutral materials was designed to be placed on its own – separate and not attached – that would have clean and simple geometric lines and have three sides of glass so as to visually bring the garden inside. Concerning the pavilion’s structure, the Tousidonis Anisi studio explains: “By raising a horizontal plane higher than ground level, above the terrain itself, we wanted something to evoke the idea of when the first stone is laid – the definitive moment for a process of construction... We wanted to create a generic universal construction yet be sensitive to the specific conditions of the place. Part of the project is linked to the terrain as we created a concrete basement which houses the building’s facilities; this was raised to create a podium on which the main lounge sits, and for whose floor we chose materials by Venis.”

The new pavilion, together with the original buildings, preserves its own personality that is enhanced by aluminium window frames, glass, and the 1,200 m² of Beige Cascais tiles, 59.6 x 120 cm, flooring by Venis.
Rita Gasalla and her company, Galöw, undertook the revamping of Madrid’s Hotel Puerta América lobby using the revolutionary compact mineral Krion® K·Life from the Porcelanosa Group. It is a two-sided piece that makes up three sides of the reception area, standing 3.35 metres high and spanning 27 linear metres. The continuous countertop and the drawer fronts in the reception area were also done in Krion®. But in this case, 6008 Moai tiles from the Colours series.

The revolutionary material that purifies the air

Its properties improve our quality of life as it has antibacterial effect, eliminates chemicals, and is easy to clean. This is K-Life.

BETTINA DUBCOVSKY Photos: ALU6 DEL REY / HOYOYO VISUAL LAB / LOPE MATIAS
We present KRION® Eco-Active Solid Technology (KEAST), the latest innovation by Porcelanosa Group and called K-Life; a product of unprecedented technology in the world of Solid Surface materials.

Together with the excellent properties of KRION®, KEAST offers four new additional characteristics which make it a unique material that will revolutionize the quality of life both in public spaces and in our homes: it purifies air, is anti-bacterial, eliminates chemical products and is easy to clean. This material, made using cutting-edge technology, uses the photo-catalysis concept and, when it comes into contact with light, its properties are activated and can neutralize the toxic pollution we breathe. Particularly in cities. Independent technicians have estimated that 1 m$^2$ is able to neutralize up to 0.5 kg NOx a year – a vehicle emits 1 kg a year (emissions from a Diesel Euro-6 vehicle that does 12,000 km per year). Moreover, this product has an anti-bacterial effect, as it inhibits bacterial activity when they come into contact with the surface, thereby neutralizing a large number of compounds, such as pesticides, that are hazardous to our health.

One square metre of K-Life can neutralize up to 0.5 kg NOx a year.
The task of wiping away liquids and cleaning dirt is easier, with no need to use detergents. It should be stressed that these properties remain stable over time, as the activators present in the material are the photo catalysts of the process.

The commitment of KRION® to quality has been validated by an independent agency that has issued a Health Product Declaration (HPD) certifying that KRION® does not contain any substances that are hazardous for consumers. Aside from all these intrinsic properties, its design-related features must be mentioned: KRION® is a heat-curved, backlit, fireproof material with invisible joins.

KRION® has become a protagonist in hotels, shops, public and private spaces all over the world: clients, investors and architects benefit from the added value afforded by this material. The undisputable sustainability achieved by KRION® K·Life is certified by its Type-III label: quantified and demonstrable information contained in its Environmental Product Declaration – EPD. K·Life is firmly committed to improving the environment.

KRION® Eco-Active Solid Technology® is a leap forward taken by the Porcelanosa Group into the future.
This house in the United Kingdom combines respect for nature with the traditional Japanese feel of the owner’s delicate touch. The bathrooms convey elegance in harmony with the surroundings.

Text: BETTINA JUBORSKY

Japanese inspiration has an exceptional influence on the design of this single-family house which intends to challenge conventional ideas. Its peculiarity turned it into the protagonist of an episode of Grand Designs — a TV programme presented by Kevin McCloud, and popular in the United Kingdom for the original architecture and designs of the houses it features. This home in South Hertfordshire is a project with an Eastern personality located in a natural space in the United Kingdom.

The design of this house aims to reflect the personality of its owners, Chris and Kayo. Located in South Hertfordshire, it has remarkable bathrooms which embody balance, harmony, and an elegant and calm design that is also present in all the other spaces. Respecting nature was essential for this couple, and Kayo in particular contributed a delicate Japanese touch.

The beauty of the house is based on an integral, organic and innovative design that balances both the inside and outside spaces — one of the guidelines was that the interior and the exterior should coincide and
come together in a single essence. This beauty extends to the natural materials used which achieve a subtle sophistication that has an Eastern feel. Outstanding in the bathrooms are the range of Ascot Arce floor tiles by Porcelanosa whose timeless elegance conveys the light and simplicity of line desired by the owners. In addition to the tiles, the Noken and Irita (for the Novak tub) taps also stand out, as does the Arquitect wall-mounted toilet.

This house is for a large family, hence the Porcelanosa products were chosen not only for their quality, natural look and style, but also for their durability, resilience and easy maintenance.

The house opens onto the garden through big windows which allow daylight to enter, integrating the interior into the nature outside, creating a green universe mimicked by the quality materials chosen, such as wood and natural stone.

Thanks to the work done by Sophia Borkowska – interior designer for Porcelanosa in South East England – the materials used harmonize the whole project. The designer created the main bathroom, the family bathroom, and the three en-suite bathrooms for the children. Well acquainted with Japan and its culture, Borkowska travelled there to further expand and broaden her knowledge of the culture in order to design an architectural project with very well-defined characteristics. One of the concepts she encompassed in this project involved bringing in the essence of the outdoors to reinforce and balance the interior spaces. She returned from Japan with a perfect understanding of the style sought by the owner. ‘This project was not only a great adventure for me, but also a wonderful learning opportunity,’ she comments with satisfaction. ‘I had the pleasure of working with the owner, Kayo, who played an important role in the process that eventually led to this extraordinary result.’
A high-flying rest

Geneva’s airport is among those with the most passengers in Europe, and its forecast for growth is ambitious. To cater to still more passengers, the Marriott Hotel chain will build the Marriott Airport Geneva and has commissioned the project to the Living Design studio – with offices in Stockholm and Geneva. A five-star hotel, it will open in 2020 with 263 rooms, conference rooms, a 24-hr restaurant, business lounge, spa, ballroom, and surroundings where its guests can rest and indulge themselves in a permanent feeling of luxury. The studio, headed by Tarek Hegazy, created a design inspired by brothers Armand and Henri Dufaux, pioneers of Swiss aviation – who were also the creators of the iconic Motosacoche, a Swiss motorcycle.

The personality of the studio and its designs imbue the décor of the entire space. The Living Design studio selected Porcelanosa Group materials to convey a feel of exclusivity, sophistication, elegance, and quality for the enjoyment of the hotel’s guests. For Hegazy, searching for materials that successfully reflect the personality of the design is an essential part of the creative process of his projects.

1. Floors in White Persian Classico natural stone, and Polished by L’Antic Colonial in the lobby by the lifts.


4. The bedroom floor was done in Par-ker Manhattan Colonial tiles by Porcelanosa.
A cathedral to pilota

Right in the centre of Valencia is a place that combines a traditional sport – pilota – with the best food. Called Trinquet de Pelayo, it has just turned 150. To celebrate it, interior designer Carlos Serra, from the Mercader de Indias studio, renovated and updated the look of its restaurant. Serra undertook the total refurbishment of the Pelayo Gastro-Trinquet restaurant, revamping it while still preserving and enhancing its historic links with the Valencian sport of pilota. The project included two levels so as to separate the restaurant area from the bar and from the entrance to the sports area: the court [trinquet in Valencian] is still used for playing pilota, a sport that is gathering popularity and has been updated after a century and a half. The three colours of this sport are red, white and blue, and all of the interior design revolves around them. Red was used for the table legs and for other furniture; blue for the numbers, the fabrics of the banquettes and chairs, as well as in the kitchen and the suspended shelving in the bar; white was used around the mirrors, for some of the table tops made of Macael white marble, and for the herringbone pattern of the floor in White Persian marble tiles by L’Antic Colonial. The region of La Albufera can be felt in the interior design and is present in the fabrics of the stools whose pattern is of herons and plants.

The interior designer placed an old oak ticket booth – stained the colour of stone – in the restaurant. On the days when a match is held, it feels as if time has returned to the days of the 19th century.

The restaurant and its menu are inspired by Valencian culture: it is the ideal place for enjoying typical local cuisine, masterfully prepared by chef Pablo Margós.
The Tena Dental Clinic was founded in 1979 by Dr. Joaquín Alejandro González and, from the very start, has always sought to position itself on the cutting edge with regard to both its dental treatments and its equipment. Its last refurbishment was undertaken by the Ana Gorris Pich interior design studio. The facade was clad in White Nature Code XLight porcelain stoneware by Urbatek. Along the same lines, the flooring and wall cladding inside the clinic were done in light colours and shades of white. The Silver Chelsea Par-Ker ceramic parquet tiles, in particular, provide added warmth. The resilience of the original ceramic parquet -Par-Ker by Porcelanosa - and its similarity to natural wood made it the ideal choice for a project of this kind that was carried out with the materials and systems recommended by Butech given their durability.
1. Façade of Porcelanosa Chile, in Santiago de Chile.
2. A night view of the company’s premises in Houston, Texas (United States).
Since joining the OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture) in Rotterdam in 1998 and becoming a partner at Rem Koolhaas in 2002, she has never stopped leaving her own visual mark on the many projects she has led for the firm she represents. Well-known works by van Loon are the Casa da Música in Oporto, the Rothschild Bank headquarters in London, the G-Star headquarters in Amsterdam, and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Berlin. OMA has not established just one particular style: each building is a separate project, ‘each requires in-depth research on the context and on what innovation is feasible – sometimes breaking moulds: we have a cultural stance, our intention is to develop meaningful and important works,’ she explains.

The Danish Architecture Centre, a building consisting of a set of transparent cubes located on Copenhagen’s harbourfront and also known as BLOX, opened in May 2018 with the aim of becoming a great cultural and social engine for the city – from the harbour to the city centre, and vice versa. The links that enhance the relationship between buildings and the city are one of the key features of the projects directed by van Loon, as will become clear in the city of Lille – in a project scheduled to be completed in 2023 where the construction will be made up of a combination of multi-faceted structures whose aim is to symbolically link elements from the city’s past and its present.

‘Architecture is culture, the root of each new building must be integrated into the foundations of the society and the environment where it stands,’ says Ellen van Loon to Lifestyle Magazine.