

100 PAGES

of design



Thoughtful design, one page at a time.

“Details are not details. They make the design.”
— Charles Eames

Cover image: The Capston, Ballymore, Pages 71-76

From the Editor

I am incredibly excited to finally share a project that I have wanted to bring to life for many years. 100 Pages of Design marks the launch of a magazine that offers a carefully curated snapshot of the Martyn White brand, bringing together the very best of our three platforms covering the UK, the UAE, the USA and beyond.

From the outset, my aim was to create something that sits between a traditional print magazine and the way we now consume digital content online, but with clear, considered parameters. This publication looks back at the past quarter across each of the Martyn White websites, following the same editorial categories you know, but with a deliberate and disciplined approach: selecting just one standout article per category, per region.

At its core, 100 Pages of Design is about intention. Every page has been considered, every story chosen with purpose, and every image included to enhance the narrative. In an age of endless content and constant updates, this magazine is an invitation to slow down, to engage with design in a more thoughtful, tactile way, and to appreciate the depth, craft and ideas behind each project featured.

Each piece featured here represents the project, brand or story that generated the strongest response, sparked meaningful conversation, or had a significant impact over the last three months. Narrowing it down was no easy task. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with such inspiring designers, studios and brands, and distilling that volume of exceptional work into such a focused edit was challenging, but ultimately rewarding.

I truly believe this approach offers something special: a high-quality, thoughtfully curated snapshot of the quarter, showcasing the most compelling design stories from each location, without distraction. It is an opportunity to pause, reflect and revisit projects that deserve a lasting place beyond the fast pace of digital publishing.

I hope you enjoy reading this inaugural issue as much as I have enjoyed creating it. 100 Pages of Design gives us the chance to step back, celebrate these incredible projects, and experience them together in a new, considered format.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Martyn White



N'arrow Project, Mykonos Architects

A contemporary reinterpretation of Crete's iconic cave houses, where design, landscape, and sustainability converge.

Located within the rugged terrain of Crete, the N'arrow Project by Mykonos Architects is redefining the concept of cave houses and subterranean architecture. Currently under construction, this residence takes inspiration from the island's rich cultural heritage and dramatic natural landscapes, presenting a striking vision of how contemporary design can harmonise with tradition, topography, and climate.

With its elongated, arrow-like structure carved into the earth, the N'arrow Project is more than a home, it is a profound architectural statement. At once bold and understated, industrial and organic, the design illustrates how architecture can be visually commanding while remaining environmentally sensitive.

Embedded into the landscape, the house appears as if it has been sculpted from the earth itself. Its slender, elongated form culminates in a precise, arrow-shaped tip that guides the eye toward the horizon. By embracing subterranean construction, the project benefits from natural insulation, keeping interiors cool during Crete's hot summers while reducing reliance on mechanical systems; a testament to how luxury and sustainability can coexist.

Exposed concrete dominates the architectural palette, its stark grey surfaces contrasting with the surrounding stone and soil. Steel accents reinforce a sense of precision, while expansive glass frames sweeping views of the Cretan landscape. Minimalist lines and geometric cohesion guide movement through the elongated structure, making the house a journey rather than a static space.

At its apex, an infinity pool extends outward from the arrow's tip, merging with the horizon. This feature embodies the project's directional theme, creating uninterrupted views of land, sea, and sky and highlighting how architecture can expand perception while connecting occupants to the environment.

Sustainability is central to the design. Passive temperature regulation, locally sourced materials, and integration with the terrain reduce energy consumption, while generous glazing maximises natural light and strengthens the connection between interiors and the outdoors. By rooting the project in both tradition and innovation, Mykonos Architects demonstrate that environmental responsibility can drive creative expression.





The N'arrow Project bridges the ancient and contemporary. Drawing on Crete's cave-dwelling traditions and the island's layered history, from Minoan palaces and Byzantine monasteries to Venetian fortresses; the residence creates a 21st-century cave house that feels timeless yet modern. Its luxury is defined not by opulence but by experience: the geometry directs the gaze outward, encouraging reflection; the interiors offer sanctuary and comfort; and the infinity pool at the arrow's tip provides a serene, meditative connection to the horizon, merging architecture with the natural landscape.

Design Team: Aude Mazelin | Nikolas Alysandratos | Xara Karatzali
Images courtesy of Mykonos Architects
<https://mykonos-architects.gr>

Though still under construction, the project has already captured attention for its visionary approach. By blending minimalist modernism with the elemental beauty of Crete, the N'arrow Project promises to become a landmark residence that not only respects tradition but also responds intelligently to the environment and redefines what contemporary living can be. Far more than a striking house, it is a bold architectural icon, demonstrating how thoughtful design can transform place, perception, and the very definition of luxury in the Mediterranean context.



Riyadh Tower, Spectrum

Blending Saudi heritage with sustainable design, Spectrum's mixed-use tower defines a new era for Riyadh's skyline

As Saudi Arabia continues its transformation into a global hub for innovation, commerce, and design excellence, architecture is playing a pivotal role in shaping the identity of its cities. At the heart of this evolution stands Riyadh Tower, a visionary mixed-use development in the Kingdom's capital. The project is not only a statement of architectural ambition but also a reflection of the country's broader cultural and urban aspirations. Designed by the Riyadh-based firm Spectrum, the tower exemplifies a seamless balance of cultural heritage, modern functionality, and sustainable innovation.

Riyadh Tower spans a built-up area of 46,150 square meters, heralding a new era of urban development in the Gulf region, one that respects tradition while embracing the future. Spectrum's architectural concept responds thoughtfully to Riyadh's evolving skyline, adopting an integrated approach to design and urban planning that is both contextually sensitive and technologically advanced. Unlike many towers in the region, which often lean toward ultramodern or internationalist design languages, Riyadh Tower draws inspiration from Saudi Arabia's rich architectural heritage. Desert geometries, indigenous motifs, and local craftsmanship inform the façade, interior layout, and materials palette, creating a sense of familiarity while asserting the tower's unique presence in a rapidly transforming city.

Riyadh itself is experiencing profound urban regeneration, aligned with Vision 2030, the national blueprint for economic diversification and cultural advancement. Contemporary architecture here is expected not only to meet commercial demands but also to enhance quality of life, respect environmental principles, and foster civic pride. Riyadh Tower was conceived as more than a high-rise; it is a catalyst for urban renewal and community engagement. Positioned within a vibrant district, the tower interacts seamlessly with its surroundings, respecting scale, sightlines, and context while asserting a bold new identity for the city. Careful modulation of height, mass, and rhythm ensures the building harmonises with its environment while standing out as a signature addition to Riyadh's skyline.

A defining feature of the tower is its mixed-use program, reflecting the needs of a modern metropolis. Rather than isolating functions across separate buildings, Riyadh Tower integrates residential, hospitality, office, retail, and entertainment spaces within a single vertical structure. Each sector is designed to promote flow, accessibility, and connectivity, creating a vibrant, 24-hour community that adapts to the rhythms of city life, from morning business meetings and afternoon leisure to evening cultural experiences.





Visually, Riyadh Tower draws inspiration from nature. Its sculpted form echoes the curves of a desert bloom, a poetic symbol of life and renewal emerging from arid terrain, while its warm exterior palette of sandy beiges, sunbaked ochres, and earthy tones anchors the building in its environment. As sunlight shifts throughout the day, textured façades cast dynamic patterns of shadow and light, reflecting the desert's ever-changing climate. This biophilic approach fosters a connection between the building, its inhabitants, and the wider urban landscape, promoting wellbeing and a sense of place.

Sustainability is central to Riyadh Tower's vision. From passive design strategies that reduce heat gain to energy-efficient technologies and environmentally responsible materials, the tower exemplifies eco-conscious architecture. Social and cultural sustainability is equally important, with public-facing areas at street level designed to encourage community engagement. In this way, Riyadh Tower becomes more than a landmark, it becomes an integral part of the city's social fabric.

Riyadh Tower stands as a symbol of Saudi Arabia's architectural ambitions, merging tradition with global innovation. Its distinctive silhouette, innovative programming, and references to local culture signal the Kingdom's commitment to creating buildings that are both functional and culturally resonant. Even before completion, the tower has captured the attention of architects, urban planners, and design enthusiasts across the region, demonstrating what is possible when local heritage is expressed through contemporary design.

As Riyadh positions itself as a global city for commerce, culture, and lifestyle, projects like Riyadh Tower are central to this transformation. Spectrum's design combines mixed-use functionality, cultural sensitivity, and sustainability, creating a tower that reflects the city while shaping its future. Riyadh Tower will not merely punctuate the skyline; it will embody the Kingdom's architectural, cultural, and civic aspirations, standing as a beacon of innovation, tradition, and enduring design excellence.

Images courtesy of Spectrum Architecture
<https://spectrum.ge>



The Avenir, CetraRuddy Architecture and Steelman Partners

Blending Saudi heritage with sustainable design, Spectrum's mixed-use tower defines a new era for Riyadh's skyline



CetraRuddy Architecture and Steelman Partners have unveiled The Avenir, a sculptural mixed-use tower that seamlessly fuses luxury, culture, and connectivity into a singular vision for Manhattan's Far West Side. Rising to 785 feet, the tower's sleek silhouette and flowing, sculpted forms aim not only to redefine the city's edge but also to breathe new life into a neighborhood long underserved by public and cultural spaces. Conceived as a "neighborhood campus," The Avenir will accommodate a 1,000-room luxury hotel, a state-of-the-art gaming facility, fine-dining restaurants, a curated food hall, and a community-focused art gallery, all thoughtfully integrated within a biophilic, pedestrian-friendly podium designed to enliven the street-level experience and encourage interaction throughout the day.

"We designed The Avenir as though the neighborhood is a campus," says Lisa Silverstein, CEO of Silverstein Properties. "It will bring more security, enterprise, and entertainment on a level that doesn't exist in one establishment, while creating a sophisticated addition to the New York skyline that honors the city's legacy and looks toward its future."

The architectural concept draws from New York's legacy of iconic high-rises while softening its impact through fluid geometries, natural materials, and a nine-story podium that engages the urban fabric. Rising above this base, a 45-story tower with sculpted curves opens view corridors and reduces perceived mass. Rather than a monolithic form, the design creates rhythmic harmony with its surroundings, from façade articulation to landscape integration, with art-filled installations, transparent edges, and a green rooftop.

Central to The Avenir's vision is its commitment to community and culture. Developed as a joint venture between Silverstein Properties, Rush Street Gaming, and Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment, the project seeks to deliver economic opportunity alongside architectural excellence. If approved, it is projected to generate 4,000 construction jobs, over 5,000 permanent positions, and pathways for local business and artistic engagement. "The site is at the crossroads of diverse neighborhoods that currently aren't connected," notes Nancy Ruddy, Founding Principal of CetraRuddy. "Our design knits together these urban layers, creating a cultural hub that reinforces New York's character as a walkable city."



Along 11th Avenue, a soaring community gallery will span an entire city block. This double-height, glass-enclosed space will provide free exhibition opportunities for local artists and flexible use for cultural and educational programming, continuing Silverstein Properties' legacy of accessible civic spaces. From elevated gaming floors to multi-level dining, a boutique entertainment venue, and a rooftop pool, the interior programming prioritizes daylight, accessibility, and fluid spatial flow. Unlike traditional casinos, The Avenir's gaming area is designed with abundant natural light, city views, and integrated entertainment that complements the building's hospitality ethos. Entrances on 41st Street and 11th Avenue encourage seamless circulation while maintaining separation between gaming and non-gaming elements.

The luxury hotel, conceived as a high-rise retreat, will feature floor-to-ceiling glazing, premium finishes, and expansive views over Manhattan, positioning it as a destination for both international travelers and convention attendees from the nearby Jacob K. Javits Center. Beyond luxury amenities, The Avenir demonstrates a commitment to housing equity, with Silverstein Properties pledging over 100 permanently affordable off-site apartments, contributing to ongoing efforts to increase accessible living options in Hell's Kitchen and Hudson Yards.

With full site control and no land-use hurdles, the project is shovel-ready, poised to deliver substantial economic, architectural, and social value to one of the city's last underutilized corners. "We are delighted that The Avenir blends harmoniously into the Far West Side," adds Tim Drehkoff, CEO of Rush Street Gaming. "Our goal is always to fit in, support, and benefit the communities in which we operate."

At once an urban destination, a local resource, and a design-forward architectural beacon, The Avenir aspires to more than a vertical program of amenities. It seeks to anchor a once-fragmented neighborhood through architecture that uplifts socially, economically, and aesthetically. If realized, it will not only reshape the skyline but also reinvigorate the ground plane, creating a new cultural axis for New York City's West Side where public art, green space, hospitality, and community converge.

*Images courtesy of Silverstein Properties
/ Binyan Studios
<https://www.binyanstudios.com>*



Es Devlin, Library of Light

A monumental, kinetic installation transformed Milan's Pinacoteca di Brera into a luminous meditation on knowledge, memory, and shared experience during Salone del Mobile.Milano 2025

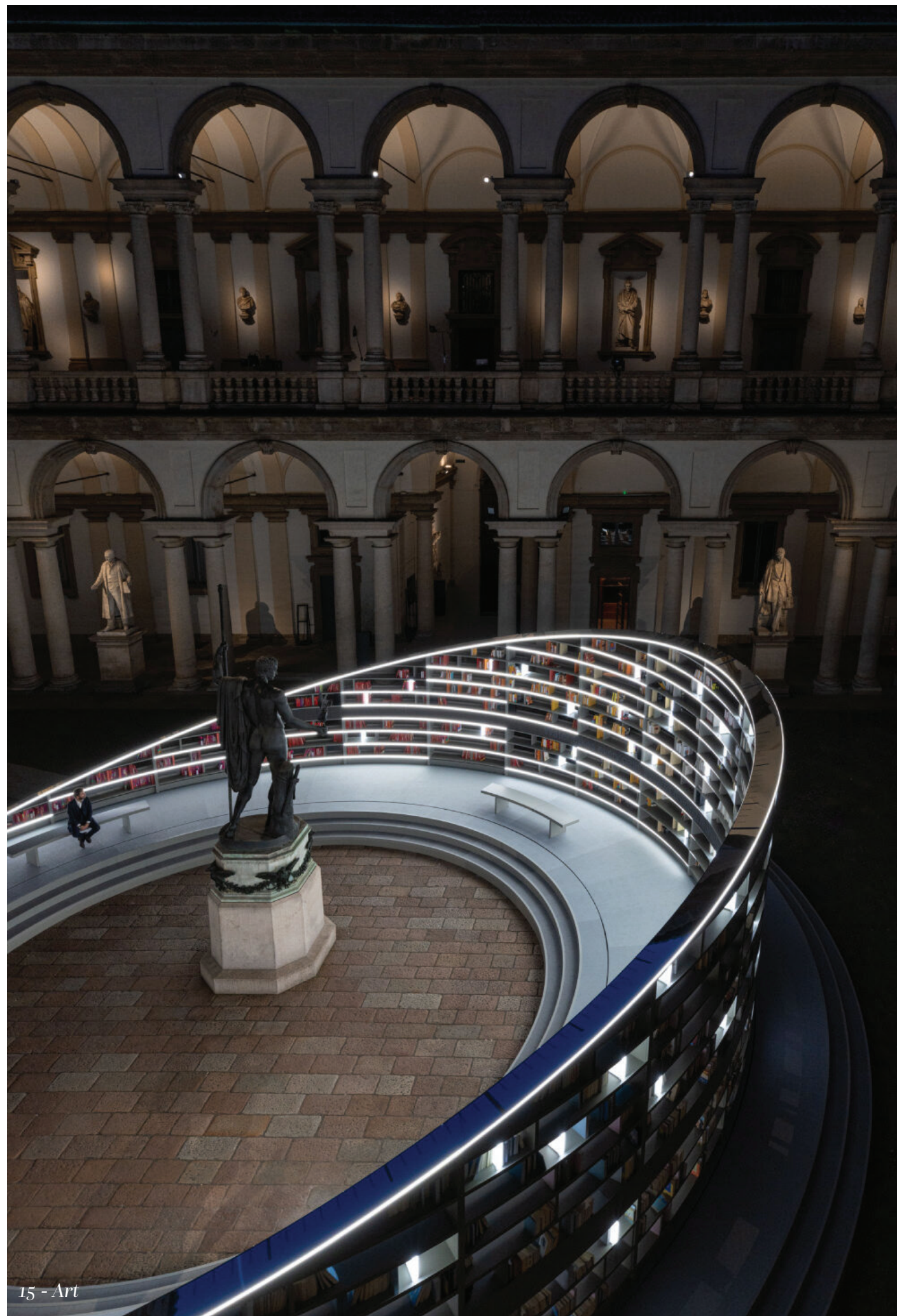
In a city defined by design firsts and cultural landmarks, one installation at Salone del Mobile. Milano 2025 emerged as one of Milan Design Week's most resonant and poetic experiences. Commissioned for the 2025 edition of the fair and created in collaboration with Pinacoteca di Brera, Grande Brera, and with the contribution of Feltrinelli, British artist and designer Es Devlin unveiled Library of Light: a monumental, kinetic sculpture that invited visitors to step into a revolving narrative of knowledge, memory, and illumination.

Often described as a "poet of light," Devlin brought her visionary approach to one of Milan's historic settings: the Cortile d'Onore at the Pinacoteca di Brera. The installation responded directly to the architectural gravity and cultural legacy of the site, home to the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, the Braidense National Library, and the renowned art gallery, through a luminous cylindrical form that balanced physical presence with symbolic depth.

Spanning 18 metres in diameter, Library of Light featured mirrored surfaces and illuminated bookshelves holding more than 3,000 volumes, curated and donated by Feltrinelli around Thought for Humans, the guiding theme of Salone del Mobile 2025. By day, the mirrored upper surface redirected sunlight into shadowed corners of the courtyard, casting beams across columns, porticoes, and statues. By night, the structure became a glowing orb, projecting light and shadow onto the surrounding architecture and the historic site as a symbolic beacon of knowledge.

The installation was inspired by a quote from Umberto Eco, recalled by Devlin while climbing the shelves of the Braidense Library: "Books are the compass of the mind; they point to countless worlds yet to be explored." This idea anchored Library of Light, where movement, literature, and illumination converged in a kinetic library that resonated both emotionally and visually.





A deeply personal and reflective layer emerged through Devlin's engagement with the site's history. While exploring the Cortile, she encountered the statue of Maria Gaetana Agnesi, the 18th-century mathematician and philosopher renowned for her work on natural resonant frequencies, including the behaviour of light. Until that moment, Agnesi's life and legacy had been unfamiliar to Devlin, prompting a powerful shift in the installation's narrative. Agnesi's voice and story were placed at the heart of Library of Light, reframing the space as one of recognition and rebalancing. "This work sought to bring her presence from the periphery to the centre," Devlin explained.

Sound added another immersive dimension. Passages from Carlo Rovelli's *The Order of Time* were read by actor Benedict Cumberbatch, while Devlin herself voiced excerpts from Agnesi's writings. These readings were accompanied by an original composition by British duo Polyphonia, featuring a solo violin arrangement inspired by Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61, weaving music, voice, and movement into a singular experience.

Each evening at 8:00pm, visitors gathered as the installation "read aloud", the voice of the library itself reciting selected passages, their words flowing across integrated LED displays. Throughout the day, the public was invited to browse the books, contribute volumes of their own, and participate in a living archive. In a lasting gesture, the collection was destined to become part of the Milan Library System, ensuring the installation's cultural impact would extend far beyond Design Week.

More than an installation, Library of Light stood as a testament to the enduring power of books, light, and collective experience. It illuminated the synaptic sparks between minds, between past and future, and between the reader and the world; a moment of stillness and reflection within the intensity of Milan Design Week.

Es Devlin, Library of Light, Pinacoteca di Brera – Cortile d'Onore – Salone del Mobile.Milano 2025 (Images 1-3 ©Monica Spezia) <https://www.salonemilano.it/en>



Deliberate Pauses, Shaikha Al Mazrou

Transforming Hatta's dramatic landscape into a site of reflection, stillness, and dialogue through monumental public art

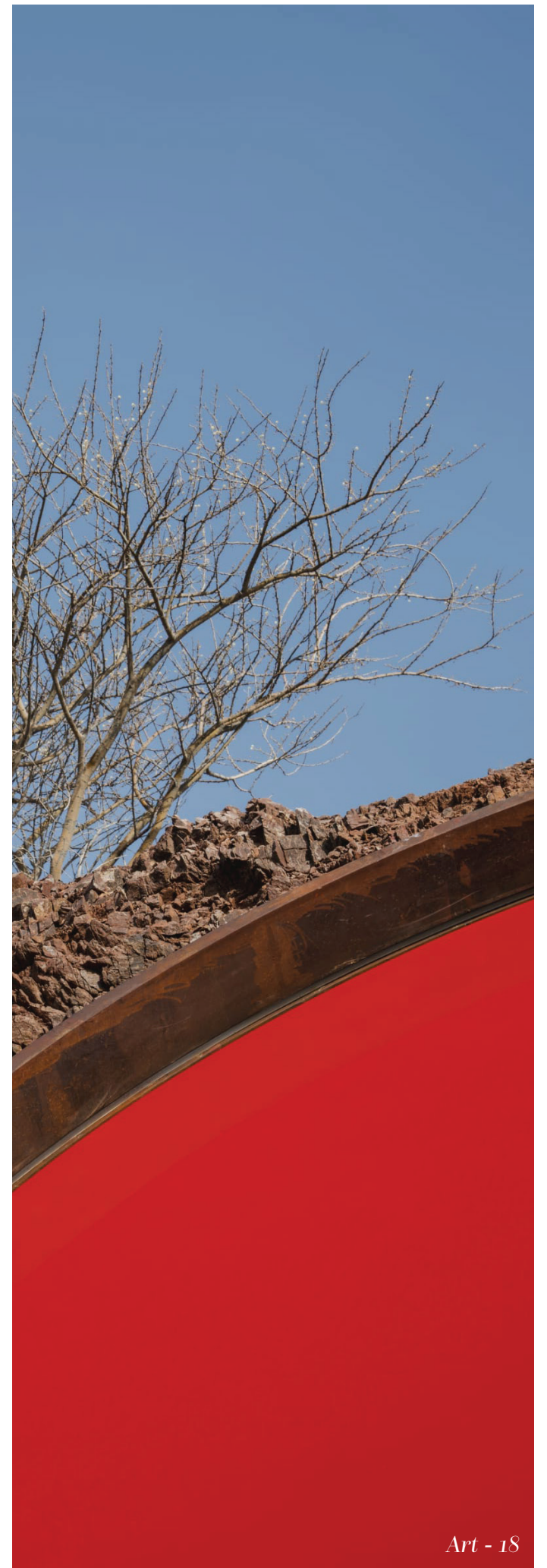


Conceived by acclaimed Emirati artist Shaikha Al Mazrou, *Deliberate Pauses* unfolded as the largest site-specific art intervention in Dubai to date, transforming the dramatic terrain of Leem Lake in Hatta into a powerful space for reflection and connection. Commissioned by Alserkal Arts Foundation in partnership with Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, the installation positioned the UAE's natural landscape not merely as a backdrop, but as an active collaborator in the artistic experience.

Renowned for her sculptural investigations into materiality and form, Al Mazrou introduced five monumental red metallic sculptures, cylindrical in shape and striking in scale, that appeared embedded within the rugged contours of the Hajar Mountains. Distributed thoughtfully along Hatta's hiking trails, the works encouraged moments of pause within the rhythm of movement, inviting visitors to slow down, observe, and experience the landscape with renewed awareness. Their vivid red surfaces reflected the shifting light, sky, and terrain, allowing the sculptures to oscillate between bold visual markers and contemplative portals.

Curated in collaboration with architect and academic Faysal Tabbarah, *Deliberate Pauses* balanced visual intensity with environmental sensitivity. Rather than imposing itself upon the land, the installation engaged in a dialogue with it, foregrounding Hatta's geological formations, cultural histories, and the often-overlooked narratives embedded within its rocky terrain. The work unfolded quietly, rewarding attentiveness and underscoring the relationship between human presence and natural environment.

As the second commission in a trilogy of major public art projects by Alserkal Arts Foundation in collaboration with Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, *Deliberate Pauses* reflected a growing commitment to cultural accessibility and artistic engagement across the UAE. Spanning significant locations including the Shindagha Historic District, the Al Quoz Creative Zone, and now Hatta, the series championed the power of public art to connect people, places, and perspectives beyond conventional gallery settings.



Whether encountered unexpectedly during a hike or intentionally sought out as a destination, Deliberate Pauses served as a quiet yet powerful reminder of art's ability to reshape perception. Through scale, restraint, and thoughtful placement, the installation invited viewers to reconsider not only the landscape around them, but also their own pace within it.

*Images courtesy of Alserkal Arts Foundation and Dubai Culture & Arts Authority.
<https://alserkal.online/foundation/>*



ICA Miami, Marguerite Humeau: *sk*/ey-

Speculative forms and airborne futures unfold in the artist's first major U.S. institutional exhibition at ICA Miami



With *sk*/ey-, Marguerite Humeau presents her first significant institutional exhibition in the United States, unveiling a deeply immersive body of work at ICA Miami that probes the abstract narratives of alternative realities. Comprising newly commissioned sculptures and video installations, the exhibition extends Humeau's long-standing investigation into form, materiality, and speculative futures, positioning design, science, and mythology within a shared, evolving ecosystem.

At the heart of the exhibition is an urgent response to the looming realities of climate change. Humeau a future in which traditional modes of inhabiting the Earth are no longer viable, proposing instead a nomadic existence where beings pollinate, bloom, and protect while remaining in constant motion. Her sculptures function as speculative organisms: hybrid forms that suggest a world in flux, where survival depends on adaptability and transformation.

Humeau's practice is rooted in intensive research and experimentation. Employing laboratory-like processes, she rigorously tests materials and timelines, exploring human existence across ancient histories and imagined futures. Collaborating with anthropologists, paleontologists, foragers, and clairvoyants, Humeau blends scientific inquiry with intuitive knowledge, constructing new mythologies that sit between fact and fiction. "I extract essences of real events and extend into 'what if?' scenarios," she explains. "I prototype worlds that are unseen, extinct, or parallel to our own."

The exhibition's title is drawn from the ancient proto-Indo-European word sk-ey, meaning to shed or split, evoking a moment of profound planetary transformation. This notion frames Humeau's vision of an Earth in perpetual mutation, where soil disintegrates and terrestrial matter evolves into airborne entities.





The exhibition opens with a newly commissioned video that narrates a cosmic mythology: a human-made eternal sun, mass migration, and the metamorphosis of grounded life into drifting, sky-bound beings. An accompanying soundtrack amplifies this atmosphere, moving between ethereal soundscapes and visceral rhythmic ruptures that echo a destabilised world.

A major new installation conjures a desert-like environment within the gallery. Drawing on art historian Petra Lange-Berndt's observation that "the soil is full of decomposed bodies," Humeau presents three sculptures that appear to rise directly from the ground. Crafted from materials including 150-year-old carved walnut, cast rubber, hand-blown glass, and semi-translucent embellished silk, their surfaces oscillate between organic decay and corporeal presence. Mold-like textures and flesh-toned finishes blur distinctions between body and landscape, life and afterlife.

Elsewhere, a series of sculptural forms appears to have torn free from the earth entirely. With silhouettes that recall matriarchal figures, these works suggest a further stage of evolution, transforming from plant-like origins into winged, feathered entities. Created through intricate processes of dyeing, dipping, casting, and rusting, materials such as blown glass, waxed felt, raw wool, and translucent silk bear traces of dried mud, melting bark, scorched surfaces, and filtered sunlight. Installed high along the gallery walls, these closed, self-sustaining systems appear poised for flight, inhabiting the space as nomadic presences rather than static objects.

Through **sk*/ey-*, Humeau invites viewers into a speculative realm where design becomes a tool for imagining survival beyond the present. Balancing scientific rigor with poetic intuition, the exhibition unfolds as a meditation on transformation: of bodies, materials, and worlds, asking how life might adapt when the ground beneath it can no longer be trusted.

All photography from Martyn White
<https://icamiami.org>



Ingrid Donat x Ginori 1735

When sculptural language meets centuries of Italian porcelain, the table becomes a canvas for art and ritual

Ginori 1735 unveiled a remarkable new chapter in its ongoing Ginori Arte project through a collaboration with French sculptor Ingrid Donat, merging the artist's distinctive sculptural language with the Maison's centuries-old expertise in porcelain to create Maya. This tactile, sensorial tableware collection blurs the boundaries between functional design and collectible art, transforming everyday dining into a poetic, ritualistic experience.

This partnership marked the first time Donat's work had been translated into porcelain, opening a dialogue between artist and material that is both intimate and expressive. Each piece emerged from a conversation between Donat's sculptural sensibility and the Florentine Manifattura's savoir-faire, reflecting a shared pursuit of artistry and craftsmanship that defines both creative worlds.

For over three centuries, Ginori 1735 has epitomised Italian porcelain artistry, a brand synonymous with elegance, creativity, and technical mastery. Through Ginori Arte, the Maison has collaborated with contemporary artists to expand what porcelain can represent. Donat's creative universe, rooted in texture, tactility, and ritual, found a new dimension in this collaboration. Known for her bronze sculptures and engraved motifs, her practice is a study of form and surface.

Translating Donat's language into porcelain demanded exceptional technical expertise. Artisans at the Manifattura di Doccia, Ginori 1735's historic production site near Florence, worked closely with Donat to interpret her patterns, resulting in a collection that preserves her work while demonstrating porcelain's expressive potential.



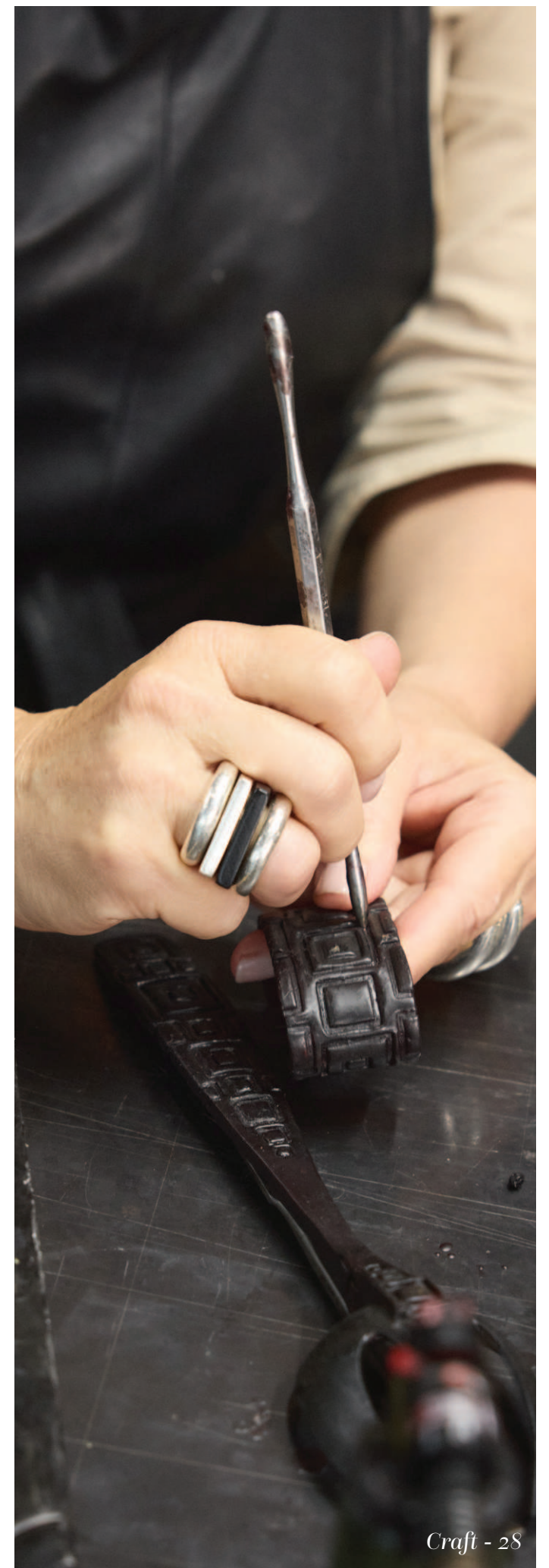


The Maya collection embodies Donat's belief that art should be lived with and experienced daily. Comprising five sculpted plate designs: flat, soup, dessert, and bread plate, each piece is handcrafted in ivory-white porcelain, its surface etched with delicate, rhythmic markings that echo Donat's signature bronze motifs. Complementary elements, including crystal wine glasses, polished silver cutlery, and bronze accessories such as napkin rings, candle holders, place cards, and leather underplates, create a harmonious, sculptural dining tableau that merges function with ritual.

Every surface invites touch. The engraved textures catch and reflect light subtly, transforming daily routines into tactile and emotional encounters. Natural tones, particularly soft ivory, enhance the collection's sensory depth, producing an atmosphere that feels both modern and timeless, elegant yet intensely human. "My art stems from the desire to live through what I create," Donat explains. "This collaboration with Ginori 1735 has inspired me to translate my language into a new, more intimate, more ritualistic form. The porcelain surprised me; it is a pure but extremely expressive material, and the Manifattura treated it with poetic care."

The collaboration exemplifies more than a meeting of aesthetics; it is a dialogue between two worlds defined by craftsmanship, tradition, and innovation. Donat, represented exclusively by Carpenters Workshop Gallery, has long been associated with the functional art movement, where sculpture meets design and objects become both expressive and utilitarian. Her pieces often explore memory, heritage, and the human form, and this project extended her creative vocabulary into porcelain with exceptional precision. Each object in the Maya collection reflects a devotion to material excellence and creative experimentation; a synthesis of artistic vision and Italian savoir-faire.

Photography: ©Hype_Studio courtesy of
Carpenters Workshop Gallery
<https://www.ginori1735.com/uk/en/>



‘Design Is Served’, Isola Space

Exploring contemporary tableware, rituals, and the art of gathering in Dubai’s creative scene

Dubai’s design scene continued to flourish in 2025, with Isola Space cementing its role as a hub for creativity and collaboration through its second exhibition, “Design Is Served.” Open from 9 December 2025 to 10 January 2026, the exhibition was hosted at Isola Space, a newly opened venue combining a gallery, design store, café, workspace, and event area under one roof. Following the brand’s successful 2024 debut in Dubai, this showcase demonstrated how Isola was expanding its creative footprint in the UAE, offering a platform where design, culture, and hospitality intersect.

The exhibition presented a curated exploration of tableware, holiday entertaining, and the rituals that bring people together. A refined selection of work from local and international designers within the Isola community, including Aïcha’s Table, ALINE JULIE, Boi.World, druschdesign, EDETRI, Estudio Material, and Heyfer Objects; offered both functional and expressive pieces that encouraged reflection on craftsmanship, cultural traditions, and the role of design in shaping how we gather, celebrate, and share meals. Each object told a story, merging aesthetic excellence with practical functionality, and inviting visitors to engage with design not only visually but also emotionally and socially.

The exhibition opened with a live-painting performance by Milan-based artist Stefano Rosetti, who created a contemporary interpretation of the Christmas tree in real time, transforming Isola Space into a living canvas. Visitors witnessed creativity unfolding, capturing the energy and spontaneity at the heart of Isola’s ethos. Rosetti’s work embodied the exhibition’s theme: that design is about experiences and emotions, reimagining holiday motifs through a contemporary lens and inspiring connection through shared celebration.

Interactive programming further enriched the exhibition. A curated breakfast tablescape by Oana-Maria Sofronia offered a sensory introduction, followed by an interactive roundtable moderated by Elif Resitoglu, Creative Director of Isola Design. Experts including floral designer Jessica Locke, Amad Mian, and John Gillespie shared demonstrations on tablescaping and event curation, highlighting multisensory hosting; from visual setups and food presentation to sound, scent, and lighting. Additional talks, workshops, and pop-ups offered opportunities to meet designers, learn from makers, and engage directly with creative processes, reinforcing Isola’s commitment to fostering dialogue within the UAE’s design community.





Complementing the indoor exhibition, the outdoor installation Pots and Pines presented a series of distinctive handmade planters. These sculptural pieces, formed from soil, clay, and glaze, created a distilled landscape of form and texture, extending the exhibition's narrative beyond the gallery walls and inviting visitors to engage with design in a natural, open-air environment. This integration of indoor and outdoor experiences demonstrated Isola's holistic approach, encouraging visitors to consider design as part of a larger ecosystem: how we interact with objects, arrange spaces, and engage with the natural world.

At its core, Design Is Served explored how design shapes connection and elevates everyday rituals. From holiday celebrations to intimate dinners, the exhibition showed how thoughtful design can transform ordinary gatherings into memorable experiences, prompting reflection on the cultural meanings embedded in objects and how contemporary design can reinterpret traditional rituals in modern life.

For Dubai's vibrant creative scene, the exhibition offered an international perspective on hospitality, tableware, and collaborative design practices, reinforcing Isola Space's reputation as a platform for experimentation, learning, and inspiration.

Based in Milan and Dubai, Isola Space is dedicated to supporting independent designers, forward-thinking studios, and innovative brands worldwide. Through exhibitions like "Design Is Served," the space provides designers the opportunity to showcase their work to a global audience, engage in meaningful dialogue, and explore collaborations that extend beyond the UAE. By combining exhibition spaces, curated events, workshops, and community engagement, Isola Space ensures that creatives have a platform to explore new ideas, present work in context, and connect with peers and audiences alike.

All photography courtesy of Isola - Above: HyferObjects - Kakta table lamp ©Hyfer Objects
<https://isola.space>

Reinaldo Sanguino, The Future Perfect

Where traditional craftsmanship meets the pulse of contemporary city life

In the ever-evolving world of contemporary design, few artists merge traditional craftsmanship with the rhythm of modern urban life as seamlessly as Reinaldo Sanguino. Venezuelan-born and New York City-based, Sanguino has established a reputation for creating ceramics that are both functional and expressive. His work, exhibited at The Future Perfect, exemplifies a new wave of design where art, utility, and storytelling converge. Rooted in classical ceramic techniques yet driven by contemporary energy, each piece captures movement and individuality that reflects the pulse of the city.

The Future Perfect, a design gallery and curatorial platform, has become a destination for collectors, designers, and enthusiasts seeking pieces that defy categorisation. Showcasing avant-garde furniture, lighting, and decorative objects, the gallery highlights artists and makers who push boundaries through material innovation, conceptual depth, and interpretations of familiar forms. It provides an opportunity to experience design as both art and immersive narrative, positioning collectible design firmly within a cultural and experiential context.

Sanguino's work captures the vibrancy and rhythm of city life, translating it into porcelain forms that are bold and delicate. From intricately sculpted vases to highly sought-after stools, each piece is more than an object; it is a collectible statement, reflecting New York City's energy while carrying a unique, personal narrative. Drawing on classical ceramic techniques, Sanguino creates works that feel alive, dynamic, and contemporary. The subtle undulations of a vase or the bold geometry of a stool embody a careful balance between tradition and modern sensibility, producing objects that invite both admiration and interaction.

Among his most iconic creations are porcelain stools, which have become coveted in both design and art circles. These pieces merge sculptural elegance with practical function, acting as conversation starters, focal points, and transformative elements within any space. His broader portfolio, including vases, vessels, and sculptural objects, features vivid colors, rhythmic forms, and textures, demonstrating a profound understanding of how objects interact with light, space, and human movement. Each piece is both aesthetic and experiential.





Central to Sanguino's vision is the intersection of urban energy and craft. His works capture the immediacy and unpredictability of metropolitan life, from the geometry of skyscrapers to the pulse of human interaction, while maintaining deep ties to ceramic tradition. By blending classical porcelain techniques with a contemporary visual language, Sanguino creates objects that feel timeless yet strikingly of-the-moment; a hallmark of his artistry.

For collectors and interior designers, Sanguino's work elevates any space instantly. Whether placed in a minimalist living room, a sculptural gallery hallway, or a dynamic office, his pieces command attention while maintaining elegance. Their versatility suits both residential and commercial projects, reflecting a rare balance of form, function, and artistic expression. Exhibiting at The Future Perfect allows these works to be experienced not only as design objects but also as part of a larger dialogue on contemporary craft, urban influence, and collectible art.

Reinaldo Sanguino's ceramics exemplify the evolution of the medium from utilitarian craft to collectible art. His pieces challenge conventional ideas of function, merging the energy of modern city life with meticulous craftsmanship. Each work adds to a growing body of work that redefines the relationship between ceramics, art, and interior design, offering collectors, designers, and enthusiasts a unique opportunity to experience pieces that are both visually striking and rich in narrative.

In a world where design objects often blur into anonymity, Sanguino's creations stand out as vivid, expressive, and transformative. From statement pieces for homes to collectible gallery works, his porcelain designs are a testament to the enduring power of creativity and urban inspiration.

All photography courtesy of The Future Perfect
<https://www.thefutureperfect.com>



M2atelier, Azimut's Grande Trideck

Barefoot luxury and architectural refinement define Azimut Grande Trideck



Award-winning Milan-based studio m2atelier has unveiled its latest achievement in yacht interior design: the Azimut Grande Trideck, a 38.22-meter flagship that marks a new chapter in Azimut's celebrated Grande Series. Guided by co-founders Marijana Radovic and Marco Bonelli, the studio has infused the vessel with its signature philosophy of barefoot luxury, creating interiors that prioritise emotional resonance, architectural clarity, and a sense of effortless sophistication.

The Grande Trideck introduces a fresh design vocabulary that balances restraint with richness, intimacy with expansiveness. Layered materials, sculpted forms, and integrated technologies converge to produce interiors that feel contemporary yet timeless. Every detail has been considered to enhance atmosphere without overwhelming it.

A defining feature is the Unveiling Wall, composed of vertical slats and a bespoke sliding mechanism that conceals a television, merging functionality with architectural storytelling. This concept continues through the main saloon, where natural light and pleated curtains create shifting drama, and expansive glass windows reinforce the fluidity between openness and discretion.

Transformative spaces abound. The Sky Lounge adapts to formal dining or casual lounging, with light fabric ceiling panels evoking a veranda-like connection to the outdoors. The Owner's Suite combines invisible doors and sculpted furniture to maintain uninterrupted flow while linking directly to the sea. Even the recessed foredeck pool contributes to a balance between sociability and private retreat, complementing the yacht's understated elegance.

Outdoor areas extend the barefoot luxury ethos. Flexible glazing and custom-designed tables allow spaces to shift seamlessly from day to evening use, while materials are selected for both durability and sensory appeal. Across all interiors and exteriors, integrated technologies enhance experience discreetly, keeping focus on comfort and atmosphere.

Light serves as a foundational principle. Soft shadows across textured surfaces, expansive windows framing shifting seascapes, and carefully choreographed illumination enrich the sensory experience, reinforcing the relationship between material, form, and emotion. As Marco Bonelli explains, "Light is not an accessory. It's the silent force that gives form to space, reveals textures, and brings emotional depth to the onboard experience."





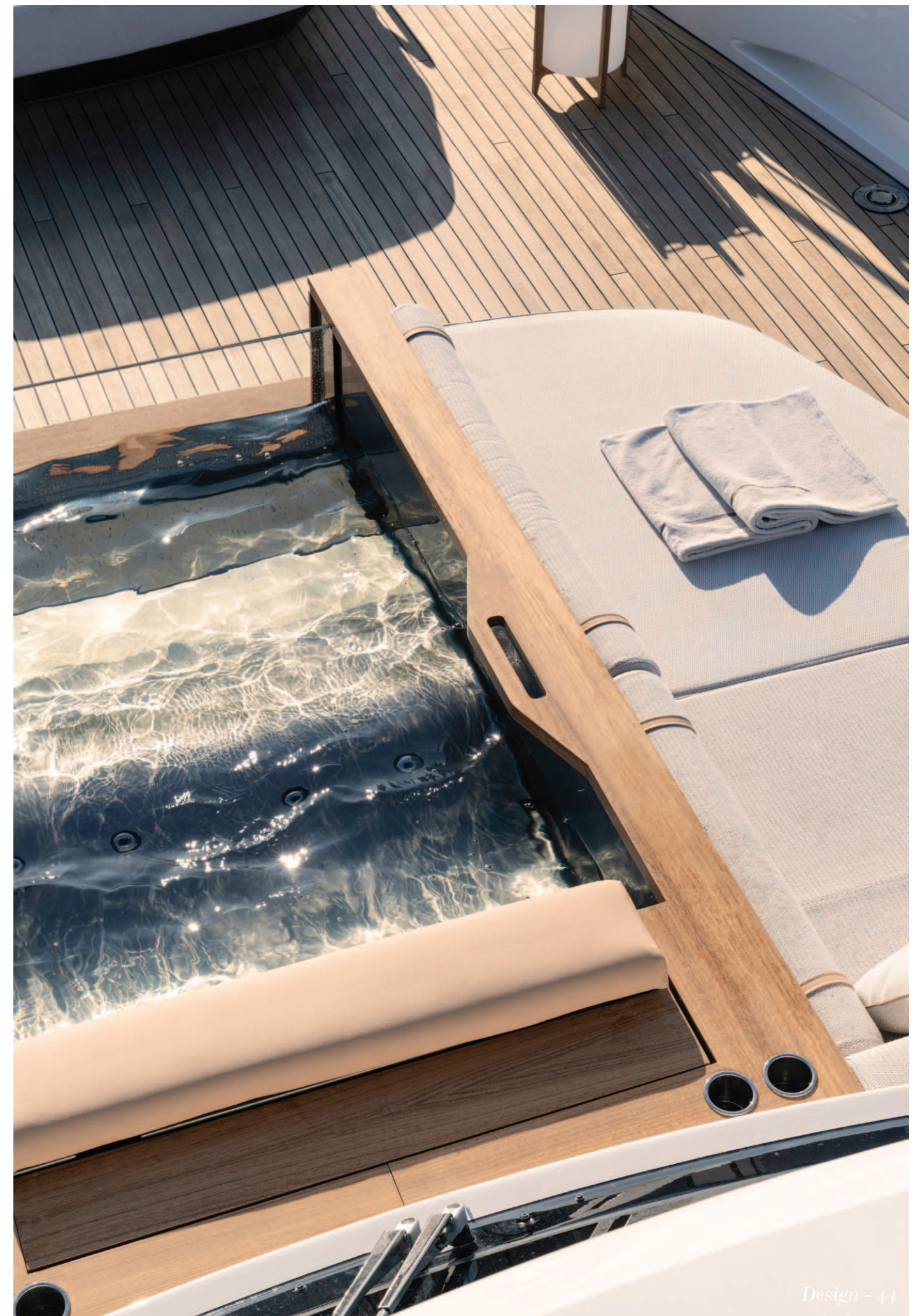
m2atelier's barefoot luxury philosophy emphasises environments that are elegant yet approachable, sophisticated yet free from unnecessary formality. "Designing for the sea has always been part of m2atelier's DNA," notes Marijana Radovic. "The Grande Trideck reimagines onboard living through our lens of barefoot luxury, prioritising human experience above all."

Every space is designed to enhance comfort and emotional resonance. Natural materials, fluid light, and thoughtful spatial flow invite relaxation and social connection, creating interiors where luxury is defined by the quality of the moments spent within them.

This project is the first in a growing collaboration with Azimut, with additional models, including the Grande 36M, Grande 30M, and the flagship Grande 44M, slated for delivery in 2026. Each continues to explore proportion, materiality, and spatial storytelling at sea.

With the Grande Trideck, m2atelier and Azimut have created more than a luxury yacht; they have defined a new vision for yacht interior design; one that is architecturally rigorous, emotionally intelligent, and inherently human.

All photography courtesy m2atelier
<https://www.m2atelier.com>



The Nordic Cabin, nordic homeworx

A Swedish-inspired retreat brings warmth, calm, and craftsmanship to the heart of Downtown Design Dubai.

At this year's Downtown Design, one installation quietly transformed the energy of the fair: the Nordic Cabin. More than a stand or a design showcase, it became a space where visitors instinctively slowed down, breathed a little deeper, and felt an immediate sense of warmth and welcome. Created by Nordic Homeworx in collaboration with Styled Habitat, the cabin captured the spirit of Swedish living, rooted in nature, simplicity, and an honest connection to materials, bringing it into the centre of Dubai's leading design fair.

Drawing inspiration from Sweden's countryside, the Nordic Cabin reflects the calm, grounded spaces where families retreat to rest and reconnect. Modest yet meticulously crafted from natural materials, these cabins harmonise with their surroundings. In Dubai, this ethos was translated into a lived-in space designed for intimacy and reflection. Exposed structures, natural light, and the scent of timber created a sensory experience that resonated with visitors throughout the week.

Every aspect of the cabin was conceived with purpose, combining authenticity with sustainability. Many of the exterior planks were repurposed from previous Nordic Homeworx installations, each bearing subtle marks of use that add character and depth. The structure is fully modular, allowing it to be disassembled, transported, and reassembled for future exhibitions, including its next destination at Downtown Design Riyadh, or potentially as a permanent installation elsewhere.

Earlier this year, the team journeyed to Sweden to explore the origins of the materials that shape the cabin. Among the serene forests of Nybro, home to the Kährs factory, the connection between craft and nature is evident. The care taken in harvesting and producing the timber informs the design in Dubai, lending the installation a calm, textural quality that evokes a sense of place and continuity with the natural environment.







Stepping inside the cabin, visitors are greeted by a sense of home. Interiors clad in Urban Brown from the Beyond Retro collection create warmth and depth, while soft textures and tactile surfaces reinforce a connection to nature. Every detail, from flooring to lighting, reflects the values of Swedish design: honest materials, quiet refinement, and an intimate, lived experience. The cabin is not only an installation but a fully realised expression of Nordic Homeworx's philosophy, making it one of the most personal and evocative presentations at the fair.

Its design encourages visitors to engage all their senses, from the subtle scent of timber to the interplay of natural light across textured surfaces. Every element is crafted to evoke quiet contemplation and connection, reminding us that thoughtful design can shape not just spaces, but experiences. The cabin becomes more than a structure; it is a moment of pause, a sanctuary within the bustle of the fair.

In Dubai, thousands experienced this sense of calm, and as the cabin travels to Riyadh and beyond, it will continue to invite visitors to slow down, look closely, and reconnect with what truly matters.

All photography: Oculis courtesy of Nordic Homeworx
<https://nordichomeworx.com>



The ReefLine, Miami Beach

Miami Beach Launches a Groundbreaking Underwater Sculpture Park
and Snorkel Trail



In October, Miami Beach unveiled one of the most ambitious public art and environmental projects of recent years. The ReefLine, a seven-mile underwater sculpture park, snorkel trail, and hybrid artificial reef, launched just offshore, redefining the relationship between contemporary art, climate resilience, and marine conservation. Conceived as both a cultural landmark and a living ecological system, the project positioned Miami at the forefront of a growing global movement in which art was not only experienced visually but also performed a vital environmental role.

Stretching parallel to Miami Beach's iconic shoreline, The ReefLine became accessible to swimmers, snorkelers, divers, and boaters, offering a submerged cultural experience unlike anything previously seen in the United States. Designed to protect vulnerable coastlines while restoring marine habitats, the project addressed urgent challenges facing coastal cities worldwide, from rising sea levels and coral reef degradation to the accelerating impacts of climate change, through creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

Rather than occupying plazas, parks, or gallery walls, The ReefLine challenged traditional definitions of public art by existing entirely beneath the ocean's surface. The seascape itself became an immersive open-air museum, with sculptures installed in shallow waters for safe snorkel access, while deeper sections offered expansive encounters for experienced divers. This submerged setting transformed the act of viewing art into a fully embodied experience, shaped by movement, breath, light, and water.

Each sculptural intervention was conceived with dual intent. Functioning simultaneously as artwork and habitat-building structure, the installations encouraged coral growth and marine biodiversity while presenting powerful artistic narratives. Over time, the sculptures began to evolve, shaped by ocean currents, coral colonisation, and aquatic life, ensuring that no visit to The ReefLine was ever the same. This living, changing quality placed the project at the intersection of art, architecture, and ecology, marking a decisive shift away from static monuments toward responsive, regenerative design.



Miami's geographic beauty has long been inseparable from its environmental vulnerability, and The ReefLine responded directly to this reality. As one of the world's most climate-exposed cities, Miami Beach faces increasing threats from coastal erosion, storm surges, and coral loss. The ReefLine functioned as a hybrid reef system engineered to dissipate wave energy and reduce shoreline erosion while supporting marine ecosystems. By merging sculptural form with marine science, the project demonstrated how creative disciplines could contribute tangible solutions to climate adaptation.

An international roster of artists, architects, and designers shaped the project, each contributing site-specific works that responded to both the marine environment and Miami's cultural identity. Their practices spanned sculpture, architecture, and environmental design, exploring themes of fragility, permanence, migration, and coexistence. All artworks were fabricated using environmentally responsible materials developed specifically for marine deployment, encouraging coral attachment and growth while ensuring long-term ecological benefit.

Accessibility was central to the project's vision. A significant portion of The ReefLine was installed within snorkel-friendly depths, forming a clearly defined underwater trail that allowed visitors to move between sculptural sites at their own pace. This snorkel trail transformed the ocean into a cultural corridor, inviting participants to engage with art in a fully immersive way: floating, breathing, and moving through space while surrounded by marine life. The experience collapsed the boundary between observer and environment, fostering a deeper appreciation for the fragile ecosystems beneath the surface.

Beyond its visual and experiential impact, The ReefLine played an important role in education and research. Working closely with marine biologists, climate scientists, and academic institutions, the project monitored coral growth, biodiversity levels, and coastal protection outcomes. The data collected contributed to broader research on coral restoration and climate resilience, positioning The ReefLine as both a cultural asset and a valuable scientific resource. Educational programmes, guided snorkel tours, and partnerships with local schools further reinforced its commitment to community engagement and environmental stewardship.



For Miami Beach, The ReefLine extended the city’s cultural identity beyond seasonal events such as Art Basel and Miami Art Week, embedding art permanently into the natural landscape. As a year-round attraction, it strengthened Miami’s position as a global cultural destination while offering a quieter, more contemplative alternative to the commercial art world. Visitors were invited to slow down, look closely, and reflect on the interconnectedness of art, environment, and community.

While firmly rooted in Miami, The ReefLine’s influence extended far beyond the city. As coastal regions worldwide grapple with the realities of climate change, the project offered a compelling blueprint for how art and design could be integrated into climate infrastructure. By demonstrating that sustainability and creativity can reinforce one another, The ReefLine showed how beauty, function, and responsibility can coexist.

Following its launch, The ReefLine stood as a powerful statement of intent: that the future of public art lies not only in what we see, but in what we protect, restore, and sustain. In an era of increasing environmental urgency, it offered a timely reminder that the most meaningful design solutions are those that serve both people and the planet.

This page - Photography : Photography: Brittany Weber/ All other photography: Nola Schoder, Courtesy of ReefLine

Ochre at The National Gallery, Red Deer

An immersive dining space at the National Gallery where colour, materiality, and architecture converge through the language of painting.

Architecture and design studio Red Deer conceived the National Gallery's restaurant, Ochre, as a spatial extension of the artworks that surround it, drawing direct inspiration from the structure, palette, and gestures of painting itself. Rather than competing with the historic institution it inhabits, the restaurant was designed as a considered response to the gallery's vast collection, translating pigment, texture, and composition into a richly layered interior experience.

Central to the design was ochre itself: a pigment derived from rocks and soil and one that has been used by artists for millennia. This material lineage informed the restaurant's warm, earthy palette, expressed through nuanced tones of burnt orange, muted yellows, and deep browns. These colours were applied consistently across the interior, shaping everything from wall finishes to textiles and furniture. Deep velvets, bouclés, embroidered fabrics, raw cottons, and linens worked together to create a tactile environment that felt both refined and grounded. Repeated details in hand-patinated brass added depth and luminosity, reinforcing the painterly quality of the space. Handmade ceramic tables by ceramicist Emma Lloyd-Pane further strengthened this narrative, their surfaces recalling expressive splashes of ochre paint frozen in form.

Situated on the ground floor of the National Gallery, Ochre retained many of the building's original classical features, including its generous ceiling heights and expansive windows. Red Deer carefully balanced these historic elements with contemporary interventions. A series of zig-zagging banquette seats ran through the centre of the main dining space, subtly dividing drinking and dining zones while acting as a visual centrepiece. Purpose-built by the studio, the banquettes were designed to echo the fluid motion of a paint stroke, paying homage both to the act of painting and to the gallery's cultural legacy. This artistic language continued in the wooden bar stools, whose bases were shaped to resemble painters' palettes.

Lighting was treated as a critical design element, used to evoke the atmosphere of a still life painting and to soften the grandeur of the listed building. The restrictions imposed by the gallery's protected status required inventive solutions, leading the studio to develop bespoke, free-standing lighting that created intimacy without interfering with the original architecture. These interventions allowed the space to feel enveloping and calm, encouraging guests to linger, as the restaurant becomes a quiet continuation of the gallery experience rather than a departure from it.





Red Deer co-founder and lead architect Lucas Che Tizard oversaw the project, drawing inspiration from the National Gallery's collection of more than 2,300 paintings spanning the mid-13th century to 1900. The result was a restaurant that felt indulgent yet restrained, playful yet understated. Conceived as an artist's home ; warm, relaxed, and welcoming, Ochre succeeded in aligning interior design and culinary experience, with the space and menu developed in close collaboration with founders Sam and Charlotte Miller. Together, they created a dining environment where art, architecture, and everyday ritual were seamlessly intertwined.

Photography by Gro Studio London Ltd courtesy of Red Deer
<https://reddeer.co.uk>



House of Courtyards, Studio VDGA Architects

A contemporary Dubai residence by Studio VDGA that reinterprets traditional courtyard architecture through a lens of climate, culture, and calm modern living.



In a city celebrated for spectacle and scale, where gleaming towers and futuristic forms dominate the skyline, House of Courtyards by Studio VDGA Architects offers a quieter, more considered architectural response. Located in Dubai, the residence looks not to excess but to heritage, drawing from the region's vernacular architecture to create a home that feels grounded, timeless, and deeply connected to place. Here, contemporary living is shaped not by trend, but by climate, culture, and an enduring respect for tradition.

Designed by Pune-based Studio VDGA, whose practice is defined by the creation of “timeless, meaningful spaces,” the villa is a modern interpretation of the 19th-century Emirati merchant home. Privacy, introspection, and environmental responsiveness form the foundation of the design, resulting in a residence that balances luxury with restraint. The architecture is both inward-looking and open, offering moments of sanctuary while remaining visually and spatially connected to the outdoors.

This architectural narrative flows seamlessly into the interiors, where materiality plays a central role. The palette is deliberately pared back, allowing texture, light, and form to take precedence. Rough Indian

stone anchors both the exterior and interior spaces, echoing the tactility of historic desert dwellings while lending the home a sense of permanence. Across the expansive 30,500-square-foot plot, spaces unfold gradually, revealing a carefully orchestrated sequence of public, semi-private, and private zones.

Movement through the house is defined by courtyards, water features, and shaded breathing spaces that blur the boundaries between inside and out. These transitional zones are not ornamental but integral, ensuring every room maintains a relationship with nature; an essential consideration in Dubai's climate. Together, they create a gentle rhythm of light, shadow, and pause that shapes daily life within the home.

Entry into the home is marked by two towering walls that open onto the Fountain Court, where an olive tree and tranquil water feature establish an immediate sense of serenity. This space connects directly to the family room and guest lounge, setting the tone for the interiors beyond. At the heart of the residence, the gourmet kitchen sits between two prominent courtyards, merging functionality with cultural memory. Behind it, a traditional Indian kitchen with a rustic chulha reflects the client's heritage while accommodating modern living.



Formal living and dining spaces extend outward, framed by smaller courtyards planted with aloe, yucca, and cacti; subtle references to the UAE's arid landscape. Materials such as corten steel, raw white marble, and off-white crushed stone reinforce the earthy palette, while also enhancing the dialogue between architecture and environment. Throughout, the interiors remain understated, allowing light, shadow, and texture to animate the spaces.

Courtyards form the environmental backbone of the home. Each one introduces natural ventilation, dappled sunlight, and moments of visual pause. Wooden lattice screens, mature trees, and carefully designed shading devices ensure these spaces remain comfortable year-round. On the upper level, the home becomes more intimate, with the master suite and children's bedrooms opening onto lush lawn views or secluded succulent courtyards. Bathrooms extend into private green spaces, reinforcing the connection to nature even in the most personal rooms.

Climatic responsiveness is embedded into every architectural decision. Openings are minimized on the sun-exposed southern façade, while windows on the north, east, and west optimise light and airflow. Turret-like structures inspired by traditional Iranian barjeels punctuate the roofline, drawing in diffused daylight while protecting interiors from harsh glare. Even the basement level adheres to this holistic approach, housing a home theatre, lounge, and concealed swimming pool framed by arches, offering respite while preserving privacy.

House of Courtyards stands as a powerful reminder that meaningful design does not need to shout. In a city often defined by visual drama, this residence celebrates cultural continuity, craftsmanship, and climate-conscious architecture. It is a home with soul, rooted in the past, thoughtfully designed for the present, and quietly confident in its enduring relevance.

Photography by Ema Peter, courtesy of Studio VDGA
<https://www.vdga.in>



Grá, Red Deer

A raw, time-worn restaurant in Echo Park where material honesty, craft, and atmosphere shape an experience rooted in love and imperfection.

Nestled on Pizarro Street near the lake in Los Angeles' Echo Park, Grá is an artisan sourdough pizza and natural wine restaurant that celebrates the beauty of raw materials, imperfection, and time-worn textures. Designed by London-based architecture and interior practice Red Deer, the space occupies a disused old barn, rich with history and rustic character, and embraces the natural patina of its setting rather than attempting to erase it. Visitors are immediately made aware of the layers of time, lending a narrative depth to the dining experience. The space feels alive, intimate, and quietly atmospheric, inviting guests to slow down and take in the details.

At the heart of the project is a design philosophy that reveals rather than imposes. Working closely with founder Michael McSharry, Red Deer approached the building with restraint, allowing its existing bones to guide the transformation. Original wooden trusses, a weathered concrete core, and the layered markings of previous occupants were retained and elevated, forming a textured backdrop for a restaurant deeply rooted in authenticity.

The name Grá, meaning “love” in Irish, captures the spirit of the project. It reflects McSharry's devotion to sourdough and Red Deer's sensitivity to material and mood, a shared ethos that resonates throughout the 3,500-square-foot space. The restaurant unfolds across a series of interconnected zones, including a bar, a main dining area with communal tables, an open-plan kitchen, an off-street patio, and a recessed courtyard. Anchoring it all is an Italian-domed, wood-fired oven, its sculptural presence reinforcing the hands-on, elemental approach to both cooking and design.

Material reuse and local sourcing played a central role in shaping the interiors. Reclaimed marble shards were repurposed into a striking bar top, their fractured edges narrating stories of past lives, while planter edgings were transformed into the bar front, blurring the line between found object and functional sculpture. Perhaps the most ambitious gesture lies underfoot: a floor composed of 40,000 individually laid granite setts, envisioned by lead architect Ciarán O'Brien as a slow, tactile expression of craftsmanship, patience, and time.





Throughout the space, texture replaces decoration. Unhemmed branch drapes move gently with the air, breeze-block banquettes encourage informal, communal dining, and reclaimed lighting sits alongside mid-century furniture, creating a dialogue between eras. The result is an environment that feels layered and lived-in, where nothing appears forced and every element has been allowed to age gracefully.

As Red Deer's first restaurant project in the United States, Grá stands as a confident introduction; one that feels entirely at home in Los Angeles while carrying a distinctly European sensibility. By allowing the building's history to remain visible and influential, the studio has created a space that feels deeply personal and effortlessly resolved.

Photography by Hannah Wilson courtesy of Red Deer
<https://reddeer.co.uk>

The Capston, Ballymore

A bold finale to Embassy Gardens, where architecture, art, and lifestyle converge along the River Thames



Ballymore has unveiled The Capston, the final and most ambitious phase of its celebrated Embassy Gardens development in London's Nine Elms. Described as the “crowning glory” of the masterplan, The Capston delivers 247 exquisitely designed residences, offering a lifestyle defined by art, architecture, and world-class service on the banks of the River Thames.

This moment marked not only the completion of Embassy Gardens but also a new chapter for Nine Elms itself. Since its conception, Ballymore has played a leading role in transforming the area, reshaping it into one of London's most dynamic riverside destinations. With The Capston, the developer reaffirmed its reputation for delivering design-led living environments that strike a balance between innovation, craftsmanship, and culture.

The regeneration of Nine Elms has become one of the most significant urban renewal projects in modern London. Ballymore pioneered the masterplan that anchored the relocation of the United States Embassy from Grosvenor Square to the South Bank, catalysing investment and development. The Embassy Gardens

estate is now home to a curated neighbourhood of apartments, gardens, independent restaurants, and cultural spaces. Its most famous addition, the Sky Pool, suspended 115 feet above the ground between two buildings, has become an architectural icon. Against this backdrop, The Capston emerges as a fitting finale: a statement building designed to elevate Ballymore's visionary design and overall vision to new heights. Its combination of bold architecture, thoughtful interiors, and integrated art ensures it will leave a lasting impression on the riverside skyline.

For Ballymore's Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Sean Mulryan, The Capston represents more than just a residential scheme; it is a personal legacy. Mulryan sought to create a building that not only complements the wider Embassy Gardens masterplan but also contributes a distinctive architectural and cultural identity to London's Zone 1. Inspired by the pioneers of the Art Deco movement, he guided the interiors to combine geometric motifs, luxurious materials, and eclectic colour palettes, reflecting London's rich architectural history while offering a modern, bold aesthetic.



The Capston's architectural language takes inspiration from New York's Meatpacking District, reflecting warehouse-style brick façades and industrial proportions softened by refined detailing and generous glazing. Residences range from studios to expansive three-bedroom penthouses, spread across two interlinked buildings connected by a pavilion and Japanese-inspired gardens.

Art is a defining feature throughout The Capston. Reflecting Mulryan's lifelong passion for collecting, works from sculpture and figurative painting to photography and portraiture are integrated into the development. The artists' parlour, library, and drawing room serve as immersive galleries, while the private residents' lounge and dining space incorporate bespoke furniture designed by specialist makers.

Beyond design, The Capston offers an unparalleled lifestyle. A 24-hour concierge team provides bespoke services, while a state-of-the-art wellness centre and landscaped gardens offer tranquillity and seasonal beauty. As part of Embassy Gardens, residents also enjoy access to the Sky Pool, private members' club, and shared gardens. The surrounding neighbourhood has matured into a thriving community, with restaurants, cafés, and bars alongside excellent connectivity to the West End, the City, and Canary Wharf.

The Capston is more than the final phase of Embassy Gardens; it is a symbol of how far Nine Elms has come. Once an industrial riverside stretch, the area is now a hub for design, culture, and contemporary living. With its bold architecture, Art Deco interiors, and commitment to art and service, The Capston sets a new standard for London's residential market, offering a home designed not only to be lived in but to be experienced.

With its distinctive architectural language, integration of art, and exceptional lifestyle offerings, The Capston completes Embassy Gardens in style, standing as the crowning achievement of a visionary regeneration project that has reshaped Nine Elms for generations.

Photography courtesy of Ballymore
<https://thecapston.com>



Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), Jebel Ali Racecourse District

A visionary blueprint for sustainable, human-centric urban living in Dubai's
Jebel Ali district

Dubai has long been a global leader in architectural innovation, urban planning, and sustainable development. Now, the city takes another significant step forward with the New Dubai Masterplan, designed by the renowned Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG). Envisioned as part of the wider Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, this ambitious development will reshape the historic Jebel Ali Racecourse district into a sustainable, and interconnected mixed-use urban community.

Spanning over five square kilometres, the masterplan introduces eight walkable neighbourhoods, a lush central park, cutting-edge equestrian venues, mixed-use developments, residential housing, and cultural institutions. Construction is set to begin in early 2026, with phased rollouts across housing, education, hospitality, and public infrastructure, ensuring that the district evolves organically while offering immediate access to key services.

At the heart of the New Dubai Masterplan lies a bold vision: to create a sustainable, human-centric urban environment that prioritises wellbeing, innovation, and community living. Designed by BIG, the project seamlessly integrates nature, architecture, and mobility to create a destination where people can live, work, and thrive. Seventeen measurable KPIs guide the development, ensuring that every stage aligns with Dubai's long-term goals for sustainability, culture, identity, and innovation. By combining cutting-edge design with ecological responsibility, the plan sets a new benchmark for urban living in the region.

A defining feature of the plan is a continuous central park that acts as the green spine of the masterplan, connecting all eight neighbourhoods. This expansive space forms the social and cultural heart of the development, encouraging outdoor activities, leisure, and community gatherings. As Bjarke Ingels explains, the site is conceived as “an archipelago of urban islands in a sea of green, reimagining the site not as a collection of objects in isolation, but as a living landscape of interconnected communities.” The central park not only provides a recreational hub but also serves as an ecological asset, weaving nature through the urban fabric and extending its benefits to surrounding communities. Tree-lined pathways and cycling tracks encourage healthy lifestyles, while play areas and quiet reflection zones cater to all ages. The design also integrates native plant species and water-sensitive landscaping to support biodiversity and enhance microclimates. Together, these elements foster a sense of belonging and community, making the park the emotional and environmental anchor of the masterplan.

The eight walkable neighbourhoods are designed as interconnected micro-communities, each with its own identity, amenities, and public spaces. Streets are planned with low-speed traffic to encourage walking and cycling, shaded communal plazas promote social interaction, and automated shuttles provide seamless access to public transport. Equestrian facilities honour the history of the Jebel Ali Racecourse, embedding cultural heritage within a modern, vibrant urban context.



Sustainability lies at the core of BIG's approach. Smart energy systems, extensive green infrastructure, pedestrian-friendly networks, and eco-friendly building materials ensure that environmental responsibility is integrated into every aspect of the development. Educational institutions, cultural venues, and mixed-use developments foster a live-work-play lifestyle while reinforcing the district's commitment to innovation, community, and resilience.

The preservation of the historic Jebel Ali Racecourse is central to the masterplan. Rather than being replaced, the landmark is integrated into the design, with equestrian venues and public spaces forming a focal point for leisure and community engagement. This approach balances cultural preservation with the demands of contemporary urban living, creating a district that respects the past while embracing the future.

In line with Dubai's ambitions as a global leader in smart city technology, AI-driven urban planning tools support sustainable infrastructure, optimised traffic flows, and personalised public services. By combining ecological responsibility, advanced technology, and visionary design, the New Dubai Masterplan sets a new benchmark for people-first urban living in the UAE.

More than an architectural feat, the masterplan represents a shift in how cities are conceived, built, and experienced. BIG's vision demonstrates that sustainability, community, and innovation can coexist at scale, shaping not only the skyline but also the very way communities thrive in one of the world's most forward-thinking cities.

The New Dubai Masterplan by Bjarke Ingels Group is poised to define the future of urban living in Dubai, blending ecological responsibility, cultural identity, and human-centric design to create a connected, vibrant, and resilient district.

All imagery courtesy of Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)
<https://big.dk>



The Delmore, Zaha Hadid Architects

Where sculptural form meets coastal luxury, Zaha Hadid Architects reimagine beachfront living in Surfside, Florida



81 - Property



The Delmore, an extraordinary new residential development in Surfside, Florida, is set to become a defining architectural icon along Miami's celebrated coastline. Designed by globally renowned Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA), the development embodies a seamless fusion of cutting-edge technology, sculptural form, and a deep response to the coastal environment, setting new benchmarks for oceanfront living. Recently granted its foundation permit by the town of Surfside, piling works are scheduled to commence immediately following the completion of deep-soil mixing works later this autumn, bringing the visionary design rapidly closer to reality. Once complete, The Delmore promises to transform Miami's beachfront skyline with its iconic presence and sculptural elegance.

Situated directly on the pristine shores of Surfside, The Delmore's location demanded an innovative engineering strategy to ensure the building's long-term structural integrity. Keller North America, the world's largest geotechnical contractor, has completed a significant portion of the deep-soil mixing process, stabilising the soil beneath the site while protecting the fragile coastal water table. This approach creates a watertight, reinforced perimeter, ensuring the structural resilience of the building for generations to come.

Zaha Hadid Architects approached The Delmore with their signature data-driven design philosophy, blending advanced digital modelling with extensive environmental analysis. Insights gathered on solar radiation, temperature fluctuations, humidity, prevailing winds, rainfall, air quality, and variable ground and sea conditions informed complex parametric models, refining every element of the building to maximise comfort, views, and energy performance. Miami's tropical climate and abundant sunshine were pivotal in shaping the building's form, façade shading, and interior orientation, allowing The Delmore to integrate harmoniously into its environment while elevating the coastal living experience.

The building's expressive architecture draws inspiration from Miami's celebrated Subtropical Modernism, an evolution of the city's iconic Art Deco heritage. Characterised by curvilinear balconies, geometric external shading, and sheltered galleries, the design references the region's architectural past while introducing contemporary sculptural elegance. A dramatic central "canyon" separates the building's two symmetrical wings, allowing sunlight to penetrate deep into each residence, while sculpted fins guide sightlines towards the Atlantic Ocean and Miami skyline, balancing openness with privacy.



Expansive terraces and undulating balconies extend each residence into the open air, facing both the ocean and Biscayne Bay. Inspired by Surfside's sand and dunes, the façade materials and textures echo natural ripples and patterns, creating a subtle connection to the surrounding landscape. Interiors continue Zaha Hadid Architects' signature fluidity, with generous floorplates, wrap-around views, and bespoke materials including precision-crafted marquetry, carved stone, and custom metalwork. Each residence is designed as a private sanctuary, blending artistry with modern innovation.

Upper-floor layouts provide exclusive single-residence arrangements, while lower levels include flexible guest suites and generously proportioned homes. The rooftop sundeck features a glass-enclosed pool suspended between the wings, offering 360-degree panoramic views of sunrise over the ocean and sunset across Biscayne Bay. Residents also enjoy an extensive wellness and lifestyle offering, including a state-of-the-art fitness centre, yoga studios, spa, indoor lap pool, landscaped tropical gardens, and multiple sun terraces, seamlessly combining health, leisure, and luxury living.



The Delmore represents DAMAC International's first U.S. development, bringing the Dubai-based developer's global expertise in transformative luxury residential design to Surfside. With a portfolio spanning London, Toronto, and the Maldives, DAMAC has established a new benchmark for oceanfront architecture in Florida, combining sculptural form, bespoke interiors, and climate-responsive engineering. Every element of the project has been meticulously considered to harmonise with the coastal environment while offering residents an unparalleled standard of luxury living.

Standing as a bold new chapter in Miami's architectural narrative, The Delmore fuses avant-garde design philosophy, environmental intelligence, and subtropical luxury. Its sculptural presence, innovative façades, and curated interiors position the project as one of the most significant residential developments in Florida today. As construction progresses, The Delmore promises not just homes, but immersive architectural experiences that redefine oceanfront living.

All images: Zaha Hadid Architects courtesy of DAMAC
<https://www.zaha-hadid.com>

Sir Prague

Where Historic Grandeur Meets Contemporary Elegance in the Heart of Prague



In the heart of Prague's New Town, Sir Prague is more than a hotel; it is an immersive design experience celebrating the city's cultural and architectural heritage. Housed in the former Ministry of Coal, a neo-Renaissance building dating to 1884, the property has been meticulously restored by Linda Boronkay Design Studio, blending historical grandeur with contemporary elegance.

The building's Gothic and neo-Renaissance features are preserved throughout, from the striking façade to ornate ceilings. Boronkay has layered these historical elements with modern touches inspired by Czech Cubism and Art Nouveau, creating a dynamic dialogue between eras. Geometric shapes, graphic patterns, and eclectic materials imbue the interiors with energy and sophistication.

Visitors are immediately struck by the spatial flow, designed to encourage exploration. The lobby is grand yet welcoming, with antique metals, cubist motifs, and deep colour palettes reflecting Prague's iconic rooftops, the Vltava River, and verdant parks. The covered courtyard glows with trelliswork, greenery, and soft lighting, providing an intimate urban oasis.

Sir Prague's 76 rooms and suites celebrate craftsmanship and storytelling, with locally sourced Czech furnishings, bespoke embroidered headboards, and whimsical artworks inspired by folklore. Bathrooms are flooded with natural light and offer serene river views, while luxurious tubs and elegant finishes elevate everyday routines into moments of indulgence. Sculptural lighting, rich textures, and carefully curated objects ensure the interiors feel layered yet comfortable.

The hotel also doubles as a cultural and culinary destination. The multifunctional library provides a sanctuary for reading or quiet reflection, while the courtyard invites morning coffee or late-night cocktails. The upcoming Seven North Restaurant, led by acclaimed chef Eyal Shani, offers a playful Mediterranean menu that mirrors the hotel's blend of heritage and contemporary flair.

Art is integrated throughout, with a curated selection of contemporary Czech works enlivening the library, bar, and restaurant. Locally crafted furnishings, hand-embroidered textiles, and bespoke lighting reinforce the hotel's cultural identity and connection to Prague's artistic traditions.







Situated near the Dancing House and the Vltava River, Sir Prague is the ideal base for travellers seeking culture and design inspiration. Guests can explore the city's historic streets and vibrant arts scene, then return to a space that mirrors Prague's eclectic character. Every room, corridor, and public space invites discovery, reflection, and connection to the city's heritage.

Sir Prague transcends the traditional hotel experience, offering a living canvas where architecture, design, art, and hospitality intersect. For design lovers and culture seekers, it is a soulful, visually spectacular journey through Prague, where every element tells a story, every corner invites exploration, and every stay leaves a lasting impression.

Photography courtesy of SIR Prague
<https://www.sirhotels.com/en/prague/>

Delano Dubai

Where Historic Grandeur Meets Contemporary Elegance in the Heart of Dubai



Located on the serene shores of Bluewaters Dubai, Delano Dubai is a sanctuary where contemporary elegance meets the tranquil beauty of the Arabian Gulf. The hotel seamlessly fuses the vibrant energy of the city skyline with a sense of calm, offering a refined retreat that celebrates design, comfort, and understated luxury. Its architecture and interiors, crafted by Elastic Architects, SA Consultants, La Bottega Interiors, and YDesign in collaboration with Ennismore's in-house team, reinterpret the brand's Miami-inspired aesthetic for a Middle Eastern context, creating a space that is at once familiar and entirely new.

Guests are welcomed through a discreet entrance framed by manicured greenery, reminiscent of South Beach's signature style. Flowing white curtains guide visitors into a luminous, open-plan lobby where light and dark elements create balance. Pristine 'Delano White' walls contrast with dark timber flooring, while architectural lighting highlights layered textures throughout the space. At the heart of the lobby, a reflective art installation by Hussain Jamil captures themes of movement and fluidity, anchoring the hotel's artistic sensibility.





The 251 guest rooms, including 84 suites, exemplify understated luxury. Monochrome palettes are softened with warm accents and plush materials, creating spaces that are both tranquil and inviting. Rooms are flooded with natural light, while private balconies and terraces offer sweeping views of the Arabian Gulf and verdant gardens. The ground-floor Breaking Waves Suites provide exclusive access to pools just steps from the beach, enhancing the sense of intimacy with the coastal surroundings. Thoughtful design details: white oak floors, fluted headboards, textured boucle furnishings, and luxury Byredo amenities, underscore the hotel's commitment to craftsmanship and comfort.

For those seeking the pinnacle of luxury, the five-bedroom Delano Penthouse spans the entire seventh floor, offering privacy, space, and unparalleled vistas of Dubai's skyline and the Arabian Gulf. With a private elevator entrance, formal dining areas, a Bulthaup kitchen, shaded terrace with a stocked bar, and freestanding Zebrano marble soaking tubs, the penthouse exemplifies design excellence and meticulous attention to detail. The layout separates family quarters from entertainment areas, allowing an effortless flow between living, social, and private spaces.

Delano Dubai is more than a hotel; it is a design-led retreat that celebrates the art of hospitality. From the immersive social spaces to the carefully curated interiors, every element invites guests to slow down and engage with their surroundings. Thoughtful transitions between indoor and outdoor spaces reinforce a sense of ease, encouraging moments of pause and quiet indulgence. The rhythm of the architecture, softened by natural materials and gentle light, creates an atmosphere that feels both calming and quietly luxurious. Whether enjoying morning light streaming through floor-to-ceiling windows, lounging on the terraces, or exploring Bluewaters Island, visitors experience a seamless balance of luxury, comfort, and artistry.

With its distinctive aesthetic, considered use of light and texture, and emphasis on both relaxation and style, Delano Dubai sets a new benchmark for contemporary luxury in the UAE. It offers an immersive journey where design, culture, and coastal beauty converge, making every stay a memorable exploration of Dubai's sophisticated leisure landscape.

Photography: Natelee Cocks, courtesy of Delano Dubai
<https://delanohotels.com/dubai>

The Shelborne By Proper

Where Miami Modernism meets contemporary coastal luxury



Miami Beach has always danced to its own vibrant rhythm. From the pastel hues of Ocean Drive to the Art Deco landmarks lining Collins Avenue, the city seamlessly blends nostalgia with reinvention. With the reopening of The Shelborne By Proper, this storied legacy enters a new era; one that speaks to discerning travellers, design lovers, and those drawn to hotels where culture, creativity, and craftsmanship take centre stage.

Originally opened in 1940, The Shelborne has long been woven into Miami Beach's glamorous history. Designed by Igor Polevitzky and Thomas Triplett Russell and later enhanced by Morris Lapidus, the hotel became synonymous with the city's golden age, welcoming legendary icons from Frank Sinatra to Marilyn Monroe. Today, following an extensive renovation led by ADC Atelier, the oceanfront landmark has been thoughtfully and masterfully reimagined, honouring its architectural heritage while introducing a refined, design-forward sensibility suited to the modern traveller.

From the moment guests first arrive, the hotel's beautifully restored 18th Street façade signals its reverence for the past. Inside, the atmosphere is both calm and considered.

Honed Perlino marble, travertine, and warm wood accents set a sophisticated tone, while a palette inspired by Miami's tropical landscape: moss greens, terracotta, and soft powder blues, offers a fresh alternative to the city's more playful aesthetics. The lobby unfolds as a curated design experience, where bespoke furnishings sit alongside contemporary artworks by emerging Latin American artists. Silk installations by Kenny Nguyen drift gently in the light, complemented by tactile works from Regina Jestrow and Lauren Shapiro, creating spaces that feel layered, artistic, and quietly luxurious, yet welcoming and inviting.

The hotel's 251 guestrooms, including suites and private villas, continue this narrative of understated elegance. Clean lines, vintage-inspired details, and artisanal ceramics by Carly Graceffa and Clara Arbuniés lend each room a sense of place. Handwoven artworks by Miami-based artist Jessy Nite and palm-inspired paintings by Hayley Moree subtly reference the city's Art Deco roots, while vintage-style glazing frames views across the Atlantic or the Miami Beach skyline. Bathrooms are serene and tactile, finished in travertine with custom vanities and Aesop amenities, transforming everyday rituals into moments of indulgence.





Culinary experiences are integral to the Shelborne lifestyle. In collaboration with Lowder-Tascarella, the hotel's dining venues celebrate the multicultural flavours of Miami. At Pauline, seafood-driven menus reflect Latin American and Caribbean influences, while Little Torch offers an intimate, atmospheric setting for expertly crafted cocktails. The Café and The Bar provide relaxed spaces that transition seamlessly from day to night, reinforcing the hotel's role as both a social hub and a retreat.

Inside, every detail has been carefully considered to enhance the guest experience. From bespoke furnishings and handcrafted finishes to curated artworks that reflect Miami's vibrant artistic scene, the interiors invite exploration and quiet reflection. Soft textures, layered materials, and thoughtful lighting create an atmosphere that feels both intimate and expansive, allowing visitors to fully immerse themselves in the hotel's design narrative.

Outdoors, the historic pool deck, complete with its original diving board, anchors the experience, inviting guests to slow down beneath the Florida sun. Steps away, the Beach Club delivers a quintessential Miami moment, with private daybeds, full-service dining, and uninterrupted ocean views.

Perfectly positioned on Collins Avenue, The Shelborne By Proper places guests at the heart of Miami's cultural landscape. The Bass Museum, local galleries, and iconic neighbourhood bars are all within walking distance, while Wynwood and the Design District offer further layers of art, fashion, and creative energy just beyond the shoreline.

More than a hotel, The Shelborne By Proper is a living celebration of Miami Beach design. It is a place where Art Deco heritage, Miami Modernism, and contemporary luxury converge, crafted for travellers who value authenticity, creativity, and a true sense of place.

Photography courtesy of Shelborne By Proper
<https://shelborne.com>



100 PAGES *of design*

100 Pages of Design is a carefully curated celebration of architecture, interiors, art, and design, brought to life by the team behind the Martyn White brand. Each issue showcases the most compelling projects and features from Martyn White's network of websites: Martyn White UK, Martyn White UAE, and Martyn White USA, bringing together the very best in creative innovation from around the world. From immersive hotel interiors and residential masterpieces to exhibitions, design festivals, and groundbreaking furniture and product launches, the magazine distills our editorial vision into a tangible, beautifully crafted experience for readers who value design at every scale.

The magazine acts as an extension of the Martyn White brand, offering a curated lens on the stories, trends, and talent that shape contemporary design. Every feature reflects the same attention to detail, aesthetic insight, and editorial rigor found across our websites, providing readers with a unique perspective that bridges digital storytelling and print.

Content Submissions

We welcome proposals for content ideas, collaborations, and project features. If you are a designer, architect, artist, or brand wishing to be considered for future coverage on our websites, please get in touch via the contact page on any of the Martyn White websites.

Advertising

Advertising opportunities for 100 Pages of Design will also be launched for future issues. For brands, agencies, or creative collaborators interested in showcasing their work to our design-focused readership, we invite you to reach out to discuss bespoke advertising solutions and partnerships.

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