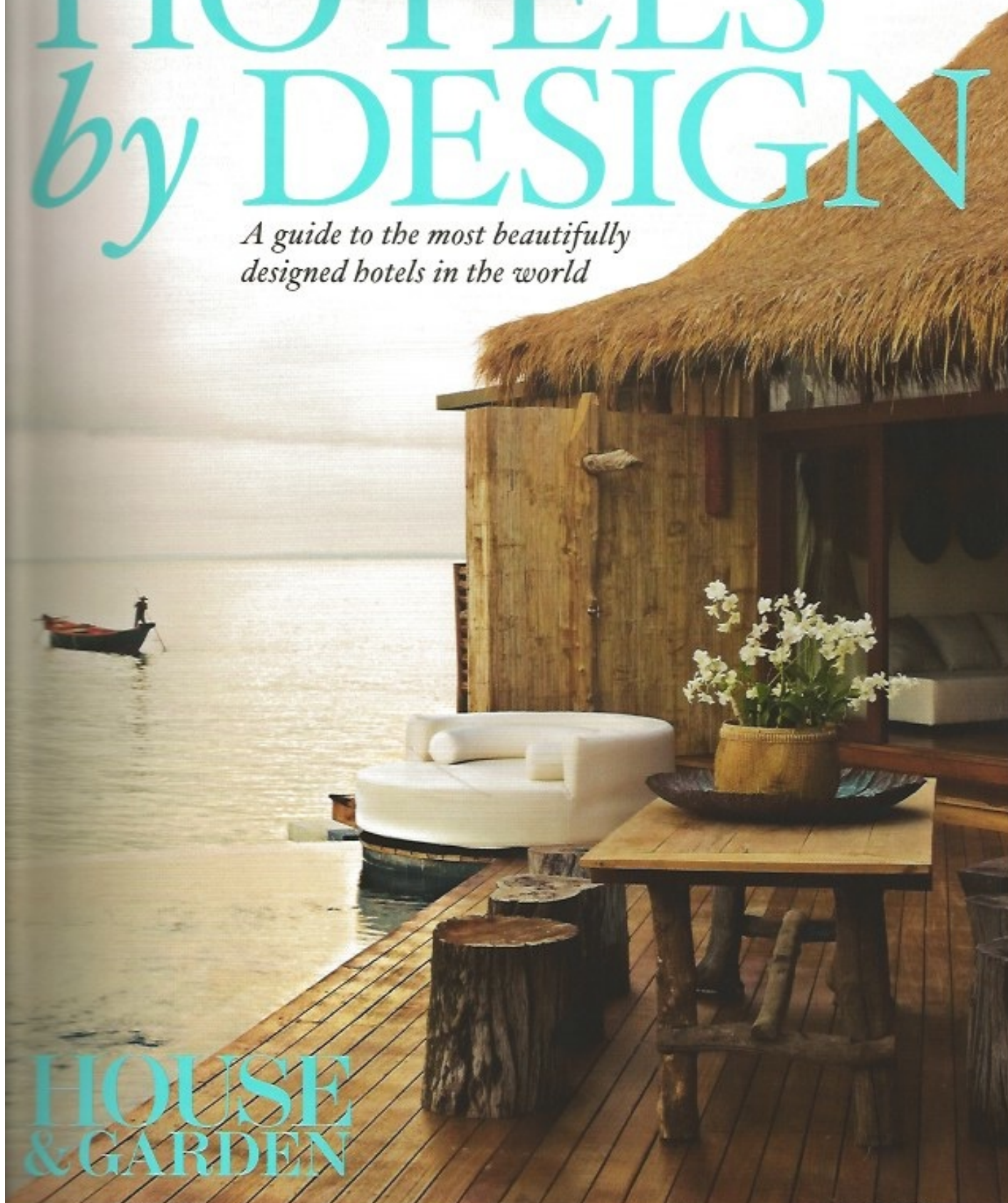


HOTELS *by* DESIGN

*A guide to the most beautifully
designed hotels in the world*



HOUSE
& GARDEN

At a glance

Pamela Goodman offers a bird's-eye view of some of the world's most exciting hotels – both old and new

EUROPE

England

With the Olympics fast approaching, the London hotel scene is gearing up with several openings racing for the finish. **Belgraves** (right), brought to SWI by the US Thompson group, has opened with interiors by Tara Bernard. Nearby, the **Bulgari Hotel & Residences** takes silver as its central theme, with interior design by Antonio Citterio. Later in 2012, watch out for the **Café Royal Hotel**, from the same group as the Conservatorium in Amsterdam (see 'A new tune'); Kit Kemp's new offering, the **Dorset Square Hotel** and **ME London**, created by Foster + Partners, which opens on the Strand in June. Out of town, New Forest favourite **Chewton Glen** launches six tree-house suites in the autumn. The Gurnard's Head and The Fein Fach Griffin have welcomed sister-hotel **The Old Coastguard Hotel** in Cornwall's Mousehole; and Bristol has the new **Number Thirty Eight** in Clifton.



France

The small, discreet and exquisitely elegant **Hospes Lancaster** (right) off the Champs Elysées in Paris has had a makeover – check out the Marlene Dietrich Suite. On the opposite end of the style scale, the flirty, frivolous and electrifyingly fashion-conscious **W Paris Opéra** has come to town. In the Alps, the small, pared-down **Le Chalet Zannier** in Megève comprises a 12-suite hotel, plus a stand-alone chalet for private rental; in Val Thorens, Sibuet Hotels has launched piste-side **Aitapura**. At the **Hotel Metropole** in Monte Carlo, the swimming-pool area has been redesigned by Karl Lagerfeld for the start of the new season. For a secret island hideaway, Corsica's **Hotel A Piattatella**, near Calvi, is a hillside retreat with just 13 rooms.



Spain/Portugal

Think islands – first, Majorca, where **Jumeirah** unveils a 120-room hotel in a dramatic cliff-top location above Port de Sóller; and second, Gran Canaria, where the **Bohemia Suites & Spa** (right) is an oceanfront, adults-only retreat. In Portugal, an hour's drive from Lisbon, is **Areias do Seixo**, a stylish eco-retreat set amid pine trees and sand dunes.



Italy

Some 4,200 acres of Tuscany forms the **Castello di Casole** estate, at the centre of which is a restored castle, now a luxurious 41-suite hotel. There are villas and farmhouses for rental too. Giorgio Armani has launched a second **Armani Hotel**, this time in his home town of Milan, while in Verona, the new **Palazzo Victoria** – sister hotel to **Il Salviatino** in Florence – has a museum-like quality to its interiors. Keep watch, too, for the opening of **Monastero Santa Rosa** on the Amalfi Coast.

Netherlands

Another designer, Marcel Wanders, and another hotel chain, Hyatt, have teamed up for the creation of **Andaz Amsterdam**, a converted public library on the Prinsengracht, the interior of which promises to be exciting, quirky and fun. More adventurous still is **Hotel The Exchange** on Amsterdam's Damrak Street, where students from the city's Fashion Institute have dressed the rooms like models on a catwalk.

Russia

The big opening this year will be the **Four Seasons Lion Palace** in St Petersburg. Built in 1820 by the architect who designed nearby St Isaac's Cathedral, this hotel – a stone's throw from the Hermitage – promises to combine the grandeur of Imperial Russia with modern comforts and facilities.

Turkey

Ian Schrager (see 'Public service') and Marriott Hotels caused quite a stir in joining forces for the **Istanbul Edition** – crisp and modern in style, but with an Ottoman Empire opulence. Amanresorts has arrived on the scene too, at Bodrum, where **Amanruya** (above) has simple pavilions with private pools and views of the Aegean, arranged to create a village-like ambience.



Croatia/Greece

Modern and edgy in design, **Villa Dubrovnik** is perched dramatically on a cliff, with stunning views across the water to the Old City and Lokrum Island. Recently renovated, each room has a balcony or terrace overlooking the sea. **Hotel Lone**, meanwhile, near the beautiful Adriatic town of Rovinj, is cutting-edge, love-it-or-loathe-it cool, somewhere between a giant cruise liner and a multistorey car park. **Kinsterna** (left) at Monemvasia in the Peloponnese is quite the opposite – a restored thirteenth-century castle set amid vineyards and olive groves. Think remote, romantic and deeply indulgent.



Switzerland

Don't hold your breath but at the end of the year **The Alpina Gstaad** will open just a five-minute walk from the centre of the village, with spectacular views of the Bernese Oberland. Aside from its 57 rooms and suites, there's a 2,000-square-metre spa.