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The best new hotels in Thailand

Exciting new places to stay from elephant sanctuaries to an elegant Bangkok address



Tatvani Thailand



The villas are furnished in an old-world European style

For nearly 20 years, the [private estate of Tatvani](#), tucked away in a neighbourhood close to the city of Chiang Rai, has been the domain of its owner, a European royal. This year he opened it up beyond his inner circle for exclusive-use hire. Guests arrive at the spectacular main villa of teak and glass, with views from balconies over the pool and verdant rice fields, a lake of lilies and dragon fish, and wild swimming ponds with koi carp.

Across the nearly 30 acres of gardens lie six villas, accommodating up to 18 guests, furnished in a distinctive old-world European style featuring a private collection of art, ceramics and carpets. Connecting the main contemporary villa, with views of Elephant Mountain in the distance, and five traditional Thai cottages, shaded paths wind between waterside decks and pavilions, and groves of green, black and golden bamboo.

The transformation of Thailand's elephant tourism

Michelle Jana Chan visits two new nature-based luxury camps where the elephant is king — and not averse to being fed figs



The Jungle Bubbles in Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort

Michelle Jana Chan

Tuesday September 09 2025, 4.10am, The Times

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It was just after dawn when I walked along the banks of the Ruak, alongside a column of four elephants, seemingly unconcerned by my presence — occasionally bumping me with a swinging trunk or flap of an ear. They paused from time to time, uprooting vegetation, thwacking off the soil, before chewing on a mouthful. Then they huddled beneath the shade of a fig tree, where they feasted on their favourite fruit. I myself plucked some ripe figs to offer them, which they snaffled up.

Puzzles

Challenge yourself with today's puzzles.



Crossword



Sudoku

HOSPITALITY & CATERIN

Tatvani Private Estate Joins the Mandarin Oriental Exceptional Homes Collection

March 28, 2026

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Tatvani, the exclusive retreat in Chiang Rai, Northern Thailand, has been selected to join the prestigious Mandarin Oriental Exceptional Homes collection, a portfolio of the world's most remarkable private villas and estates.



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Home » Hotels And Resorts In Thailand » Tatvani Estate in Chiang Rai: The Perfect Getaway for Luxury Travelers Seeking Privacy and Culture in Thailand

Tatvani Estate in Chiang Rai: The Perfect Getaway for Luxury Travelers Seeking Privacy and Culture in Thailand

Published on March 28, 2026

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The Gower's hidden gem? We stayed at Oxwich Bay Hotel to find out

Rhys Gregory | May 19, 2025 | Topics: Gower



Credit: Wales 247

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If you're anything like us, you love the idea of a weekend escape that doesn't involve airports, passports, or hours stuck in traffic. So when we were invited by the lovely team at [Oxwich Bay Hotel](#) to try out their new stays, we jumped at the chance. Tucked away on the stunning Gower Peninsula, just a short drive from Cardiff, and it genuinely felt like we'd struck gold.

A Holiday Home by the Sea



Swansea Bay
News

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Gower In Your Area Lifestyle And Travel Swansea

A love story by the sea: dream weddings in Gower

Occupying a serene location along the Gower Peninsula in Wales, Oxwich Bay Hotel combines outstanding natural beauty, historic charm and world-class hospitality to provide couples with an unparalleled coastal setting for weddings by the beach.



By [Editor](#) — No Comments — 3 Min Read

Last updated: 30th May 2025 9:54 am





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Oxwich Bay Hotel ★★★ ⓘ



8/10

A good hotel you will enjoy and revisit.

- ★★★★★ Location
- ★★★★★ Accommodation
- ★★★★★ Service & Facilities
- ★★★★★ Style
- ★★★★★ Restaurant & Bars

Oxwich Bay
SA3 9LE
United Kingdom

Review of Oxwich Bay Hotel



BusinessClass.com review by [BusinessClass.com](#)
Updated 19. Sep 2025

There are few places in Britain where history, nature, and seaside charm blend quite as effortlessly as at the Oxwich Bay Hotel. Perched directly on the golden sands of the Gower Peninsula, the United Kingdom's first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this coastal retreat feels at once timeless and utterly escapist.

Here, the sea unfurls in shimmering shades of turquoise, woodlands whisper just beyond the dunes, and the rhythm of the tides sets the pace for your stay.

The hotel itself is a masterclass in contrasts: an 18th-century rectory brimming with character, complete with oak beams and stone walls, weathered by centuries, yet softened with plush bedding, whirlpool tubs, and sweeping bay views.

Surrounding it, four distinct styles of accommodation tell their own story, from the romance of Ivy Cottage with its vintage roll-top baths, to the secluded Secret Garden Pods where guests can stargaze in quiet luxury, to

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Location

10/10

Oxwich Bay Hotel is a secluded beachfront retreat on the south side of the Gower Peninsula, overlooking the sweeping sands and turquoise waters of Oxwich Bay.

Nestled within the Oxwich National Nature Reserve, Wales's (and indeed, the UK's) first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the hotel is surrounded by golden dunes, ancient woodlands, and dramatic coastal scenery, making it one of the country's most picturesque seaside escapes.

The hotel is just a short car journey from Swansea, with the nearest train station located around 13 miles away, taking approximately 30 minutes by car. For those arriving by air, Cardiff International Airport is the closest, sitting around 55 miles from the hotel, just over an hour's drive through the scenic southern Welsh countryside.

Guests traveling from further afield will find Oxwich Bay Hotel easily accessible. London is approximately 200 miles away, with a 4.5 to 5-hour drive by car. Alternatively, travellers can take a direct train from London to Swansea in around three hours, followed by a short transfer to the hotel, making it an ideal coastal escape without the need for a long-haul journey.



The stunning Welsh seaside pubs where the views are as good as the pints

WalesOnline

Bookmark



Oxwich Bay Hotel, Gower



 The Oxwich Bay Hotel is right next to the beach (Image: WalesOnline/Rob Browne)

Enjoy the stunning views of Oxwich Bay as you sip your drink in the hotel's beer garden, just a stone's throw from the beach – we're talking 10 metres, tops! It's the perfect spot to unwind for a refreshing pint or a crisp glass of wine, all while soaking up the beautiful beachside scenery.

EXPRESS

Tiny UK seaside village where people 'queue nose to tail' to reach it

Oxwich, an area of outstanding natural beauty, has a huge car park, a Michelin Star restaurant and a hotel - all of which are chock-a-block in the summer

 yahoo!news

25. Oxwich Bay Hotel, Gower



The beer garden at the Oxwich Bay Hotel

Enjoy sweeping views of Oxwich Bay as you take a tipple at the hotel's beer garden, which is within 10 metres of the beach. The hotel itself is set in eight acres of private grounds at the western end of the shoreline, and there's a good choice of beers and wines and food on offer.

Visit oxwichbayhotel.co.uk.

WalesOnline

28 beer gardens in Wales that are well worth a visit on a sunny day

Oxwich Bay Hotel to host wedding open day this November

Couples dreaming of saying "I do" by the sea are invited to experience Oxwich Bay Hotel first-hand at its Wedding Open Day on Saturday, 15th November 2025.

f X @



By **Editor** Published: 6th November 2025 — No Comments — 3 Min Read



Credit: Martin Elard Photography

The award-winning coastal venue will be holding the one-day event from 12 pm–5 pm.

Guests can explore the hotel's ceremony and reception spaces overlooking Oxwich Bay, meet the experienced wedding team, and connect with some of South Wales's leading wedding suppliers, including photographers, florists, and cake designers.



Oxwich Bay Hotel to Host Wedding Open Day This November

The award-winning coastal venue has also been shortlisted for the Welsh National Wedding Awards 2025.



Credit: Martin Elard Photography

October, Oxwich, Wales: Couples dreaming of saying "I do" by the sea are invited to experience Oxwich Bay Hotel first-hand at its Wedding Open Day on Saturday 15th November 2025 from 12pm–5pm.

Guests can explore the hotel's ceremony and reception spaces overlooking Oxwich Bay, meet the experienced wedding team, and connect with some of South Wales's leading wedding suppliers, including photographers, florists, and cake designers.

Adding to the excitement, the destination has been shortlisted for the Welsh National Wedding Awards 2025, a recognition of its outstanding service, stunning coastal backdrop, and long-standing reputation as one of Wales's most sought-after wedding destinations.

Set within the UK's first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, along the stunning Gower Peninsula, Oxwich Bay Hotel combines historic charm, coastal beauty, and warm Welsh hospitality to create a truly unforgettable experience.



From golden hour vows to receptions beneath the stars, couples can choose from a variety of picture-perfect venues — from the 17th-century Chestnut Room, with its exposed stone walls and a fireplace carved from the trunk of a 300-year-old chestnut tree, to the Wedding Marquee, surrounded by unspoilt woodlands and offering uninterrupted views across the bay.

The hotel's dedicated team of wedding planners provide expert, personalised support from the first enquiry through to the final farewell, tailoring each celebration to reflect the couple's unique story. Menus are crafted using the best of seasonal Welsh produce, and guests can choose from a range of accommodation options including the Old Rectory, Ivy Cottage, Secret Garden Pods, and Beach Walk Parc caravans—all just steps from the beach.

Packages start from £5,000 for twilight weddings, with weekend-long and exclusive-use options also available. A small number of 2025 dates remain open, with bookings now being taken for 2026 and 2027.

To register for the Wedding Open Day email wedding@oxwichbayhotel.co.uk

For more information about weddings visit: www.oxwichbayhotel.co.uk/weddings



For more information, visit: oxwichbayhotel.co.uk

Click here for images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1c17615615e6a4f81c74w4k4dml/AHGSTYQumtV3U9dHh1sc7f8wzaww0g0t5fgrmbh0x84211sm&tt=2trru6278.dtc0>



Cars queue nose to tail to reach this village in the summer, you should see it in the winter

Web Push by the tourists who flock to it from across the UK during the summer, but it looks comp

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UK's Oxwich Village Emerges as a Premier Summer Destination with Stunning Natural Beauty, Michelin-Star Dining, and Unforgettable Hotel Experiences

Monday, March 17, 2025

THE  TIMES

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PROPERTY

Going underground opens up a whole new world for hospitality

Caroline Bullock

Wednesday August 16 2023, 10.00am, The Times

London Property



Zedwell hotel in central London was built in a former underground car park
TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

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"Obviously, you're not going to stay here if you're claustrophobic," concedes Criterion Hospitality's Darija Aziz, the developer behind London's first underground hotel, Zedwell.

"But there's a new generation, open-minded to new concepts — and for developers wanting prime city-centre location, going below ground will be unavoidable in the future. I'm just surprised this hasn't happened sooner."

ES

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Part of Criterion Capital's £4 billion property estate based around central London, the project has been a slow burner, with over a decade passing between submitting the first planning application and getting the green light to build.

"Initial feedback was that underground hotels were simply not suitable for human habitation and it took several years to change this mindset," says Aziz, who is Criterion's head of interior design and whose husband Asif Aziz, the founder and CEO of the business, acquired the site in 2007.



Darija Aziz is head of interior design at Criterion Hospitality

"But we've paved the way with a successful proof of the concept, which is more energy-efficient and not subject to the normal environmental factors that negatively affect the thermal comfort within conventional hotels."

Indeed, less heat escape and gain through windowless, underground walls and avoiding the higher carbon footprint generated from new builds has, she says, resulted in a 45 per cent carbon saving.

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Which perhaps explains why commentators are increasingly touting underground development and all year-round ambient temperatures as an environmental silver bullet, particularly for energy-intensive commercial buildings.



Photograph: Courtesy of Zedwell Hotels

There's a new underground hotel in London

Apparently it's designed to help us get the perfect night's kip

Written by [Molly Dubens](#) Friday 9 June 2023



The Zedwell hotel chain has opened a new location. But this time, it's going underground.

Located on Great Russell Street, in Bloomsbury, the hotel is supplying Londoners with a welcome break from the chaos of the city. Ensnared in windowless cocoons, guests will experience a place that feels a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Tottenham Court Road.

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Underground hotel Zedwell Tottenham Court Road opens

Eloise Hanson

July 14, 2023

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UK: Wellbeing lifestyle brand Zedwell Hotels has opened its second site in London, submerged below Great Russell Street near Tottenham Court Road.

Zedwell Tottenham Court Road has been repurposed from a former car park and is accessed via an elevator which takes guests below ground.

Facilities include a 24/7 front desk with self check-in kiosks, communal spaces, and 187 rooms or “cocoon” which come

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UK: Wellbeing lifestyle brand Zedwell Hotels has opened its second site in London, submerged below Great Russell Street near Tottenham Court Road.

Zedwell Tottenham Court Road has been repurposed from a former car park and is accessed via an elevator which takes guests below ground.

Facilities include a 24/7 front desk with self check-in kiosks, communal spaces, and 187 rooms or “cocoon” which come in a variety of sizes, sleeping from one person up to four people. Each cocoon features Hypnos beds, circadian rhythm lighting and rain showers.

Purified air circulates throughout the subterranean space and noise-reducing walls, floors and doors have been constructed to limit distractions.

Darija Zivni Aziz, head of interior design and concept architect at Zedwell, said: “This is a really exciting time for us, not just for our story, but for the city of London as a whole. Repurposing the former underground space into high quality accommodation is a game-changer and whilst not without its own challenges, has paved the way for a new kind of construction in the capital.”

Aziz continued: “Sleep is at the core of wellbeing study and it is a primary component to good health. Our new hotel takes the concept of sleep promotion to another level, applying all the Zedwell elements that made our first hotel so popular with such a large number of returning guests and well-being advocates. It enables one to focus inward and find harmony at their core, to explore their values and inhibitions that are rooted deep within – something synonymous with the physical motion of going deep under the ground, immersed in the foundation of nature.”

The Zedwell brand debuted in 2020 in London Piccadilly and is operated by Criterion Hospitality, part of asset management company Criterion Capital.

Hotel

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Zedwell Tottenham Court Road is officially open for business

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LIFESTYLE By **Alexandra Bullard** What's On, Showbiz and TV Writer
21:00, 2 AUG 2023

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2:59 PM - Jul 22, 2022

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But if you're desperate to use your phone, you'll be pleased to hear that there is free WiFi. You'll also get your own private bathroom and air conditioned room plus white walls, mood lighting and oak wood furnishings.

The hotel has been specifically designed by sleep experts so that you're guaranteed a perfect slumber after a long day. This is reflected in the bed sheets, which are made with luxury Egyptian cotton, and the mood lighting is based on the circadian rhythm.

In terms of location, you could not ask for a better hotel - depending on your tastes. The underground rooms are conventionally close to popular attractions such as Leicester Square, Covent Garden and all the **West End** theatres. It's also a stone's throw away from **Soho**, Trafalgar Square and The British Museum.

You can book your stay through [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com). Prices at Zedwell Tottenham Court Road range from £160 per night during off-peak times, to £210-250 during peak summer dates.

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SPECIAL FEATURES

Going beneath the surface with Zedwell hotels



By **Rebekah Killigrew** October 17, 2023

693 0



Decoding the design of Zedwell Tottenham Court Road, a first-of-its-kind interior space designed for subterranean sleep and positive wellbeing.

Zedwell Tottenham Court Road has made history as London's first underground hotel. Submerged below Great Russell Street and just a few minutes' walk from Tottenham Court Road tube station, the former underground car park has been transformed into a hotel, innovating the way for underground architecture.



fact.

Zedwell Underground: Inside London's first underground hotel



Kohinoor Sahota - Deputy Editor · June 16, 2023

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Located in Bloomsbury, the hotel includes sound-proofing doors, floors and walls.

London is famous for its London Underground, which reaches up to 58 metres below the ground's surface. Now, it's not just the Tube that you will find beneath the streets, but a new hotel in Bloomsbury. Located on Great Russell Street, Zedwell Underground Tottenham Court Road prides itself on being the city's first underground hotel.

Created by the Zedwell Hotel chain, Zedwell Underground Tottenham Court Road is a one-of-a-kind hotel in London. Whether you're looking for a break from the sounds, sun or more often rain, the hotel aims to be a serene spot. Guests won't see or hear the crowds on Oxford Street, as there are windowless

f

Zedwell Underground: Inside London's first underground hotel

It's not just the Tube that you will find beneath the streets, but a new hotel in Bloomsbury, Zedwell Underground...

f Fact Magazines / Jun 16, 2023

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Zedwell Underground: Inside London's first underground hotel



Kohinoor Sahota - Deputy Editor · June 16, 2023



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News

AN UNDERGROUND HOTEL HAS OPENED BELOW GREAT RUSSELL STREET

05.06.23

There's quite a lot going on underneath London at any given time, whether on a tube line, in a bar or on a Victorian street buried by new developments, and now the subterranean scene has got a new addition: Zedwell Tottenham Court Road. Following the spirit of the hotel's Piccadilly site, the new Zedwell is centred around well-being and prioritising a good night's sleep.

Guests of the hotel will arrive via the Great Russell Street entrance before taking a lift down to their 'cocoons', windowless rooms that provide an escape from the bustling central London streets. Each room has a clean, minimalist look with white walls, mood lighting and oak wood furnishings. The hotel has been designed with the help of leading psychologists and sleep experts, whose influence shines through in the little details. For example, there are no gadgets or TVs in the rooms that could disturb sleep, the sheets are made with luxury Egyptian cotton, and the ambient lighting is based on the circadian rhythm.



Prices at Zedwell Tottenham Court Road range from £160 during off-peak

TRAVEL

14 of the best hotels in central London, from period stays to budget boutiques

Several landmark hotels have opened in central London recently, shining a spotlight on an already vibrant accommodation scene, with options ranging from characterful Edwardian townhouses to slick luxury pads.

By National Geographic Traveller (UK)

December 18, 2023 • 15 min read



13. Zedwell Piccadilly Circus

Best for: peace and quiet

It's just 50 yards from Piccadilly Circus, but there's no way of knowing that while snoozing in the depths of Zedwell's flagship hotel. The complex has 723 rooms it likes to call 'cocoons', all but one with no windows, all sharing the pared-back, oak-panelled aesthetic of the lobby and guest areas.

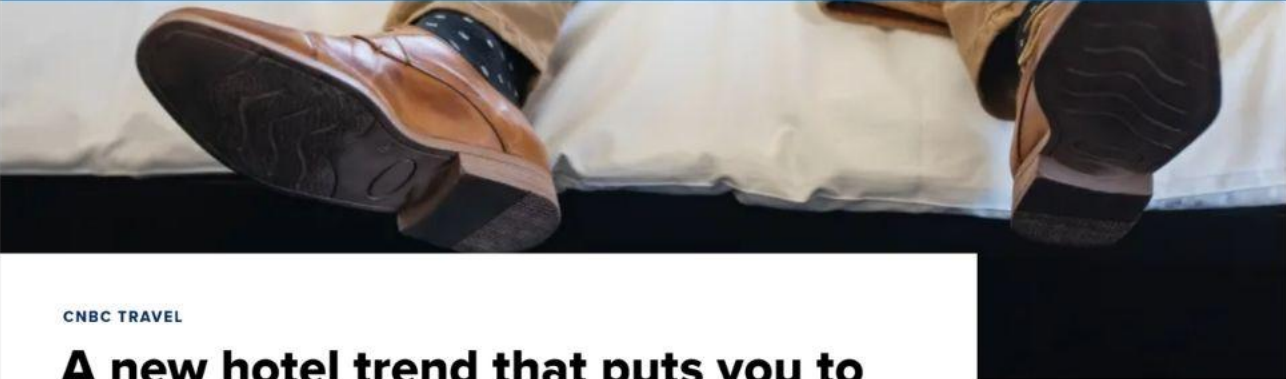
Sleeping here can feel like an experience outside of time, without the lights and sounds of Theatreland to disturb you. Hypnos beds, optimised room temperature and adjustable lighting colours all add to the soporific effect.

Rooms: From £120.



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A new hotel trend that puts you to sleep — literally

PUBLISHED SUN, SEP 3 2023 7:07 PM EDT | UPDATED SUN, SEP 3 2023 8:28 PM EDT

Lisa Lucas, contributor

Will sleep sell? Hotels going all in on "sleep tourism" hope so.

Alvarez | E+ | Getty Images

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A new hotel trend that puts you to sleep — literally

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Zedwell Hotel, London

For those who need to switch off completely, London's [two Zedwell hotels](#) have minimalist rooms that are free of "distractions" — such as televisions, telephones and even windows — according to its website.



See how grit and vision put you on the path to your full potential.

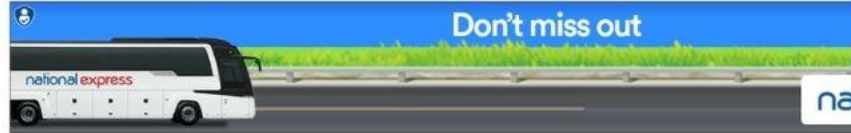


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TRENDSPOTTING

A hotel that tucks you in at night? Yes, the hospitality industry really wants to put you to sleep.

By **Jon Marcus** Globe Correspondent, Updated June 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



The Boston Globe

LONDON — There are few neighborhoods in the world as cacophonous as Piccadilly Circus, at the heart of the shopping and entertainment district in this city of 9 million.

Traffic growls, sirens wail, tour guides babble, buskers with microphones perform for tips, souvenir shops hawk their wares and passengers pour in and out of the Underground. At night, revelers swarm the statue of Eros, god of love and sex.

Steps away, however, is a silence so profound it's almost palpable. It's just inside the hidden-away, soundproofed front doors of the Zedwell Hotel, whose entire sales pitch is the promise of a perfect night's sleep.

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Best hotel gyms in London: hi, on-the-road workouts and free yoga

Whether you're after a spin bike in your room, a slick gym or something a little more spiritual – these health conscious hotels in London get two thumbs up from us

BY JENNIFER SAVIN AND EMILIE LAVINIA

UPDATED: 07 AUGUST 2023




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2

Zedwell, London's Piccadilly Circus

• [Best hotel for Pilates](#)

Tucked away behind a colonnade on Soho's Windmill street, a step back from the frenetic energy of Leicester Square, is Zedwell – an unassuming pocket of calm. The hotel is a pared-down ode to slow living, with minimalist sound-proofed rooms and glowing pod beds that stack together like Tetris blocks. The vibe is quiet and soothing and the sparse rooms bring to mind the life of an ascetic, with the cool addition of rainfall showers, crisp white bed linen and Shaman Coffee, of course.

Just next door you'll find Chalk W1, Zedwell's fitness studio partner, offering yoga and pilates minutes from



Zedwell // Instagram



THE BEDROOM

MAKING THE MOST OF IT

With help from experts, we look at how you can maximise your potential in the bedroom...

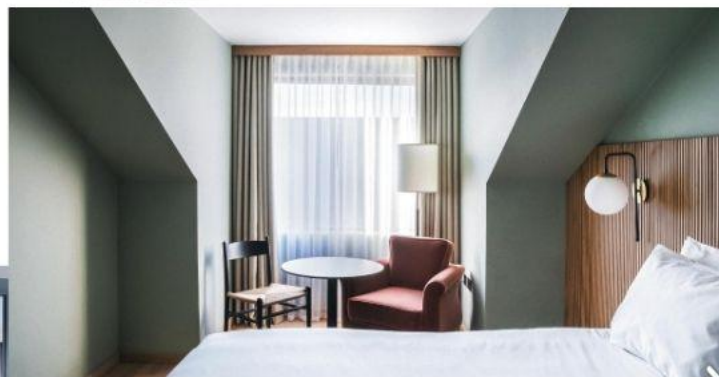


The importance of the bedroom in a hotel cannot be overstated, as it is one of the primary factors that influence a guest's overall experience and satisfaction during their stay at your venue. With this being said, it is absolutely essential that you are maximising your potential based around this all-important room. By focusing on providing exceptional guest experiences and creating a comfortable, welcoming, and memorable environment for visitors, you will no-doubt improve the feel of the bedroom, helping to create loyal, satisfied customers who are more likely to return and recommend the establishment to others. In terms of shaping hotel experiences, sustainability

is playing a huge role in contributing to this. Driven by both consumer demands for eco-friendly options and the industry's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint, the bedroom is an area of utmost importance to recognise this trend and work in line with it. Sustainability is a vital part of the approach at the Zedwell Hotels in terms of their unique interior design. Head of Interior Design at Criterion Hospitality, Darija Zivni Aziz, recognises that it not only benefits the environment but also contributes to the wellbeing and comfort of staying guests. In their cocoons, the materials used are either natural or recycled - contributing to the overall ambience of calm and serenity and also reflecting our values and commitment to sustainability.

THE BEDROOM

Pg 16 - Hyatt Regency London
Pg 17 - Mollie's Motel & Diner



"It's not about adding things to the room, but rather ensuring that all the senses are considered."

In terms of which amenities offer guests the best experience possible in a bedroom, at Zedwell they believe that for the optimum night's sleep, a room should only contain the bare essentials - cultivating a sense of simplicity that's free of distractions: "So, we've taken everything away that's not necessary and in place we have the highest quality sleep essentials," said Darija.

The essentials at Zedwell include a clutter-free environment, superior comfort beds with high-quality bedding, air-purifying filters, a well-designed lighting scheme that follows the circadian rhythm and noise-reducing walls.

Darija explained how the absence of TVs and gadgets contribute to a restful experience: "this is what we focus on."

"It's not about adding things to the room, but rather ensuring that all the senses are considered for the best night of rest and that the amenities provided are of the most premium quality."

In the opinion of Darija, the number one essential for the perfect night's sleep is the quality of the mattress and the material of the sheets: "You could create the best bedframe in the world, however if the mattress or sheets are uncomfortable, it results in a reduced quality night's sleep." At Zedwell, they use leading quality mattresses and top them with 100% Egyptian cotton sheets, known for conducting heat away from the body.

Marketing Lead at Silentsnight Group, Martin Snelson, of course knows that comfort is paramount for guests when staying at a hotel and in his opinion, a comfortable mattress with appropriate firmness is key to offering a wide variety of guests with a restful night's sleep.

"Mattresses with a zoned spring system that are highly breathable should be a key consideration for hoteliers."

"Durability is another vital factor. Hotel beds undergo consistent use, so selecting beds that can withstand the test of time is essential. Our hospitality mattresses have reinforced perimeters, as we know many guests use the

June 7th, 2023

Located at the point where tourist hotspots Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus meet, [Zedwell](#) is nestled amongst the vibrant buildings and lively streets of London.

Once the renowned Trocadero building, [Zedwell](#) brings a modern, well-being hotel allowing you to experience a whole new level of relaxation.



From the entrance onwards, you are greeted with an oasis of calmness. Imagine a dark setting with soft, ambient lights, almost as if you're about to hit the pillow for a relaxing night's sleep.

The rooms represent a cocoon-like space and mirror the signature calm ambiance. Designed to give your body and mind complete rest and zen from the hustle of everyday life, not a drop of noise is heard as soon as you step foot into the world of [Zedwell](#). The rooms have no windows to block out the rest of the world, and the doors, walls, and floors use sound-insulating design made from recycled materials.



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Sleep tourism: When great nightlife means a good night's sleep

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Kristina Beanland
Friday 17 Mar 2023 6:00 am

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Experts said this increase in mass sleeplessness was down to the fact that more of us were experiencing stress and anxiety due to the extremely challenging circumstances we suddenly found ourselves living in.

But as we approach the third anniversary of the **first lockdown**, we're still struggling. The recommended sleep for an adult is between seven and nine hours – but research by **BBC Panorama** found that in a **survey of 207,000 participants, the average length of sleep was just six hours and 48 minutes.**

Nearing half (44%) of people described themselves as 'poor sleepers', meaning they struggled to get to sleep or go back to sleep, felt unrefreshed or that poor sleep quality was affecting their day.

It's perhaps no surprise then that the hospitality industry has attempted to come up with a solution for so many sleep-deprived holidaymakers.

Travel expert, **Aurel Gross**, tells Metro.co.uk: 'Usually, travel is associated with indulgent meals, partying until late, alcohol consumption, being busy visiting tourist attractions, all at the cost of sleep. You've probably heard the phrase, "I need a holiday from the holiday" – you end up more tired after the trip than when you left.'

But Aurel says times are changing. 'I've seen a shift in my clients towards wellness and relaxation focused travel, away from party holidays in Ibiza, for example.

'There are now many hotels offering services to help guests seek a better night's sleep: pillow and mattress menus, options to choose the quality of the sheets, and bespoke scents that induce sleep.



Zedwell Piccadilly Circus



The Zedwell offers 'cocoon' rooms which are small yet perfectly formed, with modern touches such as light woods and crisp linens. Malin & Goetz toiletries and a spacious rainfall shower give a luxurious feel to the offering, which falls into a more affordable price bracket for such a central location in Piccadilly Circus.

It's worth noting that the rooms at Zedwell don't have windows – hence the 'cocoon' vibe – but they manage to feel airy and spacious despite this. If you're looking for a reasonable hotel within walking distance of Theatreland, you can't go wrong. The self check-in and check-out process is super easy, too.

To book, visit zedwellhotels.com/

It may be one of the world's most expensive cities — but it's still possible to bag a bargain hotel

by HUGO BROWN

CAPITAL IDEAS FOR LONDON ON A BUDGET

LONDON was recently ranked the fourth most expensive city in the world after Hong Kong, New York and Geneva in a cost of living survey conducted by data experts ECA International.

The bad news is that during the summer, the capital can be pricier than at any other time of year. So here's our guide to some of the best value hotels.

NOTTING HILL FOR LESS

WITH a carnival theme and bold colours, newly opened Ruby Zoe fits right into the atmosphere of Notting Hill. The hotel, part of a German budget chain that has a sister property in Southbank, is just a three-minute walk from the station and is perfect for roaming nearby streets lined with pastel-coloured houses, and for visiting Portobello market and Holland Park.

BOOK IT: Double rooms available from £124 (rubyhotels.com).

GOOD-VALUE KENSINGTON

HYDE Park, the Natural History Museum, Kensington Palace and the Royal Albert Hall are all within striking distance of The Rockwell hotel in Kensington. There's a bar and restaurant with an outdoor garden and rooms are comfortable with elegant designs in neutral colours.

BOOK IT: B&B double rooms from £132 (therockwell.com).

HYDE PARK HIDEAWAY

SET across five Victoria townhouses built in 1856, The Columbia is in the heart of West London overlooking Hyde Park. It has good links to the British Museum, Madame Tussauds and beyond to Soho. Rooms are somewhat poky and traditional in design with plenty of patterned wallpaper, bedding and dark wood, but the location more than makes up for this.

BOOK IT: B&B doubles from £140 (thecolumbia.co.uk).

THAMESIDE DELIGHT

WITH lovely views of Docklands Riverside, DoubleTree by Hilton has bright and spacious rooms with exposed brickwork. There's a hotel bar, a full restaurant and a bar.

where this theme continues. The location isn't the most convenient but Tower Bridge is two miles to the west, while Greenwich with its Cutty Sark museum, market and park, and the National Maritime Museum, is three miles to the east.

BOOK IT: B&B Doubles from £104 (hilton.com).

WHITECHAPEL WONDER

IN BETWEEN Whitechapel and Aldgate East, The Corner Hotel is close to the galleries, street food stalls and boutiques of East London. With quirkily designed rooms, bar and lounge restaurant.

it's a great base to explore this corner of the capital. It is also the self-proclaimed 'greenest' hotel in London with CO2 emissions 67 per cent less than the industry average.

BOOK IT: B&B doubles from £116 (thecornerlondoncity.co.uk).

SHOREDITCH WINNER

MAMA Shelter is a quirky French hotel chain that's opening properties at a rapid rate. The playful design suits its location on Hackney Road, close to Bethnal Green underground and the hipster hangouts in Shoreditch. It has a fun restaurant, a garden bar

and even Japanese karaoke rooms. The hotel also has regular offers such as 50 per cent off when booking a second room.

BOOK IT: Doubles from £150 (mamashelter.com).

CHEAP IN CLERKENWELL

THEY do things differently at the 212-room YOTEL London City in Clerkenwell, which is certainly not your average London hotel. Reception is called 'mission control', staff are known as 'crew' and the restaurant serves up a mish-mash of street food-style dishes. It's close to the 12th-century church of St. Bartholomew. The

Staycation: Queen's Walk promenade opposite the Houses of Parliament

Great, the Museum of London and St Paul's Cathedral.
BOOK IT: B&B doubles from £105 (yotel.com).

SOUTHBANK SURPRISE

THERE'S no restaurant at citizenM Bankside, but there's a self-service breakfast and all-day snacks. It also has a cocktail bar and lounge with books. The offbeat design may divide opinion but its 192 rooms are modern: TVs are controlled by iPads. The Tate Modern, Southbank and Borough Market are nearby.

BOOK IT: Doubles from £158 (citizenm.com).

SOHO SECRET

THE tiny rooms are called 'cocoons' at the Zedwell, a back-to-basics hotel by Piccadilly Circus. But rates are extraordinarily low given its location. Clean Scandi-inspired interiors feature wood panelling. There are deals including 10 per cent off when booking directly. Oxford Circus and the bars and restaurants of Soho and Chinatown are nearby.

BOOK IT: B&B doubles from £118 (zedwellhotels.com).

TOWER BRIDGE BARGAIN

PREMIER Inn might not sound the most exciting of choices but when it comes to value for money the budget chain cannot be beaten. There are plenty of locations you can pick — from Old Street and Kensington to Tower Bridge.

BOOK IT: Doubles at Tower Bridge from £127 (premierinn.com).



Picture: GETTY

GRAZIA

Can you buy your way to a dreamy eight hours? Rosamund Dean reports

THE DARK ART OF SUCCESSFUL SLEEP

I've checked into a hotel with none of the luxuries you might expect. No robe and slippers, no selection of teas, no TV or other electronics. They don't even do room service. Because the whole point of staying at Zedwell in London's Piccadilly is to sleep. Everything is designed with promoting sleep in mind, from the calming scent of lavender and specially curated playlist in the lobby, to the air-purifying filters, soft lighting, controlled temperature and lack of windows in the bedrooms. Rooms are also soundproofed to create a cocooning silence and the darkness is pitch black.

Switching off the soft light, I realise how comparatively bright and noisy it is in my own bedroom. At first, it makes me feel uneasy, almost claustrophobic. Then I shut my eyes and, when I open them again, I've slept for eight hours straight. It feels as self-indulgent as a trip to a spa, and it's actually better, for you. Science now shows us that sleep is one of the most important elements of physical and mental wellbeing. Sleep is not a third pillar of health alongside nutrition and exercise, says Matthew Walker, professor of neuroscience at UC Berkeley and founder of the Center for Human Sleep Science. 'It's the foundation on which those things are built. The benefits include: Learning, memory, emotional brain regulation, an overhaul of your cardiovascular system, a replenishing of your immune system, a re-regulation of all your hormonal systems,' he lists. 'Sleep is like hitting the reset button on your Wi-Fi. There's no other way to do it.'

Large recommendations 'eating to suit our internal clock and the rhythm of our organs'.

Circadian rhythm fasting is less drastic than it sounds – it means understanding that the human body wasn't designed to eat late at night, when it's 'rest and digest' mode. You don't have to fast for 16 hours if that feels excessive, simply have dinner earlier (no less than three hours before bed) and avoid evening snacking.

Getting back in touch with how our bodies are supposed to function is key. For hundreds of thousands of years, humans fell asleep when the sun went down and woke when it got light. It's hard to comprehend what a change it must have been for the human brain when electric lights started being widely used around 150 years ago. And it's only in the past two decades that we've started at a brightly lit screen right before bed. No wonder we're all so tired. On the plus side, there has been a huge proliferation of products, technology, supplements and advice to support your sleep. So, what works?

Theron recommends Philips Hue Lights: 'Smart lights that can be programmed to gradually dim, helping you wind down for sleep.' I wear an Ora ring, which monitors my body temperature, heart and breathing rate throughout the night. It has shown me that I get less REM sleep if I've been drinking alcohol or eating late. Dr Walker is particularly evangelical about REM sleep. 'It's overnight therapy,' he explains. 'It's during REM that we process emotional events, and it takes sharp edges off painful experiences, so you wake up feeling better.'

In terms of supplements, I've found that ashwagandha and magnesium help with calming me before bed. You can buy them as a night-time dose from Wild Nutrition, a brand that only uses food-grown nutrients. Sleepwave is an app that uses your phone to monitor your breath and movements to wake you at the optimum time, rather than jolting you awake from a deep sleep, and I always wear Ben Charge blue light-blocking glasses if I'm on my laptop in the evening.

But don't underestimate the power of a bath, a book and a cup of chamomile tea. Sometimes, the simple things are the most effective. 'We're investing more in sleep than ever before, but if we're not focusing on the basics and listening to our bodies, those hi-tech products and five-star stays won't work. That's why sleep is the ultimate luxury.'



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HOTELMAGAZINEUK

FUNCTIONALITY VS. APPEARANCE

We look into how to get the balance right along with the benefits it can bring.



Comfort and ergonomics go hand-in-hand. Furniture design doesn't exist in a vacuum. It's an art form that serves a purpose. The design team at Zedwell Hotels, who were tasked with creating a new hotel brand, understood this. They wanted to create a hotel that was not just a place to sleep, but a place to live. They wanted to create a hotel that was not just a place to sleep, but a place to live.

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28 ME London
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who brought the team's vision to life when kicking out the venue. "Zedwell Hotels took the creative lead on the lobby and lounge, defining features such as the flying carpet," says 1001 Nights' founder, and the golden dyes that represent The Golden Door of Eurasia, which is the at-hotel discovery in the last century. Black Design Group took over the hotel's canvas, creating the identity for our rooms, suites and Ginger House."

W Dubai - Mira Seyahi hosts white leather bed headboards with ribe and shapes inspired by Islamic and tribal motifs drawn from local calligraphy. The lights



INTERIORS

INTERIORS

28: ME London
29: Zedwell, Piccadilly Circus
30: ME London
31: Zedwell, Piccadilly Circus
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functionality and appearance is by prioritising the guest's experience, paying attention to details, creating a sense of place, and regularly reviewing and updating. "This ensures that the hotel's functional aspects such as comfort, luxury amenities, and service are tailored to meet guests' needs, while also providing a visually appealing and cohesive atmosphere that reflects the hotel's location and culture."

"Additionally, by incorporating sustainable elements, the hotel can reduce its environmental impact and ensure that the design remains fresh and relevant. Whilst natural design is of utmost importance, the impact on the guest is always considered and placed at the forefront, before any design-led decision is made."

When the sole purpose of design in a bedroom is to inspire sleep, peace and serenity, getting the design right is actually quite simple in the opinion of Darja Aziz, Head of Interior Design for Criterion Capital and Hospitality. "You cultivate a sense of simplicity - by removing clutter and mental noise and by creating peace in your own personal space."

Zedwell Piccadilly was designed with Neri & Hu and in consultation with psychologists, scientists and sleep experts and offers a new level of minimalism in hotel design. There's very little furniture in the rooms, and elements of the natural world (proven to relax the mind and body) have been the inspiration behind the entire concept.

32 www.thetotalmagazine.co.uk

Darja explained how the materials used at Zedwell are either natural or recycled and a calming palette of warm green and natural oak is used throughout to inspire serenity and the intuitive feeling of protection the bed is encased in an oak frame that extends overhead to create a sanctuary.

"It's easy to get caught up in the distractions of daily life and hard to find peace in a world that can be overstimulating. With this in mind, cocoons are free of TVs and gadgets - because even when turned off, they emit a buzzing energy that disturbs sleep." Added Darja.

The appearance of different areas should match the purpose of each space. For example, the design of the bedroom should enhance feelings of relaxation and rest. From the calming scent of lavender, rosemary and bergamot to the specially curated playlist to the air-purifying filters, comfortable beds, and carefully considered lighting and temperature, Zedwell is a nature-inspired hotel dedicated to sleep, positive health and wellbeing.

Taking inspiration from the roots of its location, The Fellows House Cambridge was uniquely designed by twenty2degrees, emulating the local feel of Cambridge whilst paying homage to fellows Charles Darwin, Henry Cavendish, John Flamsteed and Siegfried Sassoon. Giovanni Valentini, Vice President of Operations at The



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1 SEARCH RESULTS



ULTIMATE REST & RELAXATION WITH HYPNOS AT ZEDWELL HOTELS

Zedwell is a lifestyle hotel concept designed for a whole new level of relaxation. Their nature-inspired cocoons have been created with the sole purpose of promoting sleep, health and wellbeing.... [Read More >](#)
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Case Study: Hypnos contribute to the calm in Zedwell Hotels

WRITTEN BY PAULINA BRAYTELL

July 11, 2023



HOTEL DESIGNS.

Zedwell is a lifestyle hotel concept designed for a whole new level of relaxation. Its nature-inspired cocoons have been created, with the assistance of Hypnos mattresses, with the sole purpose of promoting sleep, health and wellbeing...

The Zedwell interiors have been designed to create the most optimum conditions for sleep. From its own unique calming scent of lavender, rosemary and bergamot and the specially curated playlist to the air-purifying filters, luxurious Hypnos mattresses, and carefully considered lighting and temperature, Zedwell provides an oasis of calm and ultimate rest and relaxation from the busy streets of London.



Image credit: Hypnos / Zedwell Hotels

Durija Zhrni Aziz, Head of Interior Design at Zedwell Hotels explained the brands ethos and design vision:

There's an alchemy of different components required to design the optimum sleep environment, and simplicity is key. At Zedwell we've removed all clutter and distraction from the sleeping space and ensured that what remains is of the highest possible quality. From the purified air, calming scents, and state-of-the-art circadian lighting to the showers, natural materials and high-quality linens.

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Care Markets Property

Alfred's to open within Wallacea Living community

By **Deven Pamban** - 24th March 2026



Alfred's

A brasserie and orangery will open this spring within Wallacea Living's integrated retirement community in Marylebone, London. Alfred's, which is led by head chef Giuseppe Caraccia, has been designed by Jestico + Whiles in partnership with Wallacea's creative director Sue Timney. The restaurant will offer all-day dining. 'With Giuseppe's leadership in the kitchen and Sue's...



Home » Alternative tourism » Alfred's Brasserie: New Italian-Inspired Dining Gem Opening In London, UK

Alfred's Brasserie: New Italian-Inspired Dining Gem Opening In London, UK

📅 Published on March 27, 2026



A tired tourist who desires to experience a hidden European destination can find their perfect spot in **Marylebone's green streets**. The upcoming **Alfred's Brasserie** will open its doors this spring in **London's Marylebone**, which will provide a sophisticated dining space that combines **Southern Italian** dining traditions with modern design elements, and will serve as a dining destination for international travelers who wish to experience genuine culinary dining that uses fresh ingredients.

Prime Location in Marylebone's Vibrant Neighbourhood

Nestled within **Wallacea Living's new residential community**, Alfred's occupies a prime spot in one of central London's most coveted areas. Marylebone, famed for its hidden courtyards, art galleries, and proximity...

HOSPITALITY & CATERING NEWS

Alfred's Brasserie to Open in London

March 26, 2025



Restaurant News is sponsored by The Kitchen Porters Club



This spring, Alfred's, a refined new brasserie and orangery, will open in the heart of London's Marylebone.



Shaped by thoughtful design, quality craftsmanship and a modern European culinary approach, it will be a place to gather for long lunches, intimate dinners and memorable occasions, in a space that balances warmth, refinement and contemporary style.

Nestled within a newly developed residential community by lifestyle developer Wallacea Living and led by Head Chef Giuseppe Caraccia, the restaurant will offer an ingredient-led menu that reflects his Southern Italian heritage, London-honed technique and a philosophy rooted in simplicity and seasonality.

An experienced chef with a career spanning Le Pont de la Tour and the launch of Caviar Kaspa Mayfair, Caraccia brings a focus on precision, honest cooking and exceptional produce to the Alfred's kitchen. The menu will showcase refined yet approachable dishes across all-day dining, including grilled tiger prawns with chilli salt, dry-aged beef tartare, halibut fillet, Dover sole meuniere, chicken ballotine and Alfred's signature dry-aged tuna ribeye steak – a highlight of Caraccia's modern approach to fish butchery.

A modern Sunday Roast will also feature weekly, offering or roast striploin, chicken or slow-roasted pork belly served with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal greens and veal jus, or a dry-aged tuna ribeye as an alternative.

Designed by international hospitality designers, Jestico + Whiles, in partnership with celebrated interior designer and Wallacea Living's Creative Director Sue Timney, Alfred's interiors draw inspiration from natural textures, soft tones and botanical forms, creating a bright, greenery-led space that transitions seamlessly from day to evening. The restaurant's orangery and garden terrace provide additional light-filled dining settings, offering a calm retreat within one of central London's most vibrant neighbourhoods.

"Alfred's has been imagined as a neighbourhood dining room defined by quality, comfort and understated sophistication," said Zoltan Zoltovics, General Manager at Wallacea Living. "With Giuseppe's leadership in the



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Snapping At The Heels Of The Flying Pizza!

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Phil Hopkins
Group Travel
Editor & Theatre
Correspondent



Nick Julian would never claim to be a 'competitor' of San Carlo's iconic Flying Pizza in Leeds but, considering that Ottimo Pizza is just a mile down the road and that some of their latest creations are certainly being talked about, THEY might well be advised to be a little wary of HIM!

No other pizza restaurant in Leeds like this

THERE are literally dozens of restaurants in Leeds where you can order a pizza, but I guarantee you none will deliver that pizza with as much passion and imagination as recently-opened Ottimo Pizza on Roundhay Road, Oakwood.

The restaurant, which opened in March, is making a name for itself in Oakwood and around the city.

On my recent visit, myself and three others were greeted by Nick Julian, co-owner with Paul Bolster, both of whom have a long pedigree in running successful restaurants.

The restaurant seats 26 people and also has a thriving trade in takeaways.

To start, I chose the wild mushroom arancini, which was off the scale delicious. The chef handmakes the rice and mushroom filling which was so smooth and light.

I was slightly miffed when my wife, having chosen the whole burrata, decided she wanted a taste of my arancini. At least it gave me justifica-



tion for trying some of her burrata which I would happily order on my next visit.

Our companions decided on the friarelli olives and slow roasted tomatoes and the focaccia with olive oil and balsamic. Given there was nothing left on their plate I have to assume everything was fine.

Then it was on to the main act – the pizzas.

Ottimo has a range of classic and Premio pizzas. However, even if you are not happy with some of the ingredients on the pizza, flexibility is the name of the game and the chef is only too happy to mix and match.

The Premio range is designed to give the chef

more leeway to create more imaginative pizzas and he has certainly achieved this.

Ingredients such as toasted almonds, pistachio pesto, smoked applewood vegan cheese to name but three.

All ingredients are sourced locally to ensure maximum freshness and to support Leeds businesses.

Two of us had the spinach and ricotta, I had the bosco and the other a margherita.

At first glance I thought the size would cause me a few problems to finish. I am glad to say that I had no such problems devouring the whole delicious pizza.

There were no complaints from any of the others with their choices and the taste I had of the spinach and ricotta convinced me that there would be plenty for me to choose from on another visit.

There is probably no other pizza restaurant in Leeds where you can get Christmas pudding pizza for dessert. The chef certainly let his imagination run away with him and the result was divine. There are other desserts including vanilla, pistachio and chocolate ice cream.

Having got into the seasonal spirit with the dessert it seemed rude not to try the

hot mulled wine which, given the temperature outside was hovering around freezing, was a delicious way to end the evening.

With an eye on the holiday season, head chef Russ Croston has created a festive menu with toppings such as brie, pistachio, cranberry, sage and onion arancini.

The two-course menu is just £19.95 and three courses for £24.95

Also, there is a massive amount of free parking, both on the road outside the Ottimo and across the road in the Oakwood Clock car park. MS

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Food and Drink

Ottimo Pizza Oakwood: I tried this Leeds independent gem that is setting a new standard for pizzerias in city

Leeds is not short of options when it comes to pizza.

The city has a long history of restaurateurs doing it - and doing it well.

So there was intrigue when **Ottimo opened in Oakwood in March** last year, offering, **in its founders' own words**, the promise of "wood fired pizza and small plates, with a focus on seasonality, flavours and textures".

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Ottimo Pizza, on Roundhay Road, Oakwood, Leeds. | Steve Riding

It was masterminded by pals Paul Bolster, who conveniently owns **popular cafe Tasty next door** on Roundhay Road, and **Nick Julian**, who runs Pizza Freak in Kirkstall.

And Ottimo had big, pizza-sized shoes to fill. The new pizzeria replaced **Pizza Loco's permanent restaurant**, which was a popular, cult brand before moving to **set up shop inside Meanwood Tavern**.

DESTINATION & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT



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Travel > News & Advice

Brighton to twin with Santa Monica – but which is cooler?

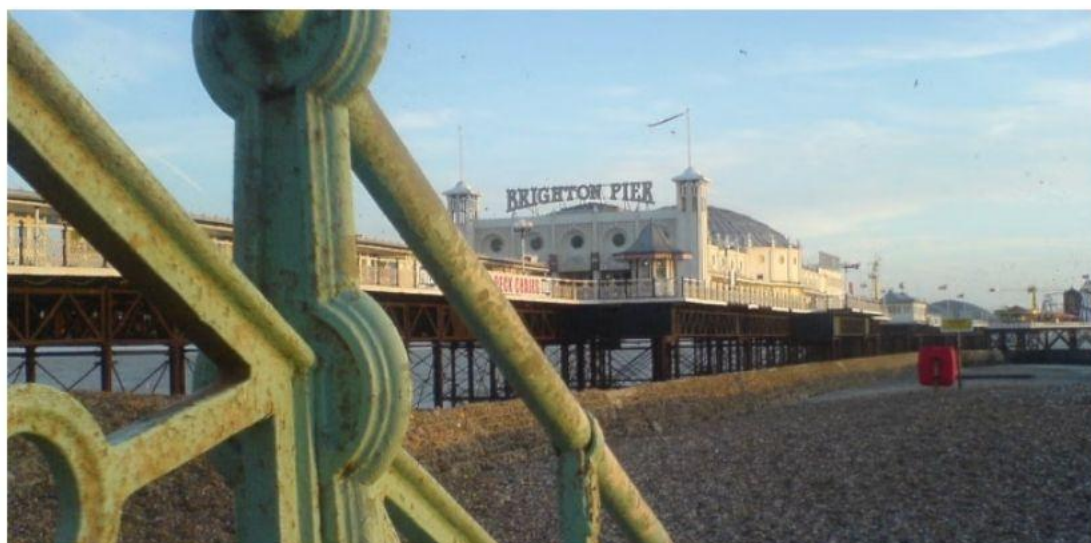
The Californian resort is the western end of Route 66 from Chicago via St Louis, while the Sussex city marks the southern terminus of the A23 from London via Crawley

Simon Calder Travel Correspondent

Wednesday 29 June 2022 11:51 BST



1 Comment



Both feature frequently as backdrops for movies.

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism said: “The pact aims to deepen the relationship between the two cities promoting cultural understanding between their citizens and offering an exchange of ideas and activities through school curriculums, events series, and in-market tourism experiences on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Brighton does not currently have a twin city. Santa Monica is twinned with Hamm in Germany, Fujinomiya in Japan and Mazatlan in Mexico.

But now that the Sussex resort has teamed up with the Californian icon, *The Independent* asks: which is cooler?

Notable highways that end at the pier

Brighton: A23 from London via Gatwick and Crawley

Santa Monica: Route 66 from Chicago via St Louis and Tulsa



Journey's End: the sign at Santa Monica pier marking the end of Route 66 (Simon Calder)



HOME / FOOD & DRINK / CHEFS

Meet The Chef: Josiah Citrin Of Mélisse, Santa Monica, California In USA

We talk to Josiah about his culinary influences and bringing a touch of Santa Monica style to Brighton earlier this year.

By ILM Reporters | July 30, 2022

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Josiah Citrin is a culinary expert and veteran of Los Angeles's gourmet dining scene, with more than 25 years of experience. He was recently in Brighton to launch a coast-to-coast culinary collaboration, representing Santa Monica in a pier city friendship agreement.

He is a two-star Michelin chef and owner of Santa Monica's highly acclaimed Mélisse, Charcoal Venice, Openaire situated at the LINE LA in Koreatown, and Dave's Doghouse in the Staples Center in Downtown Los Angeles, the Philips Arena in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Talking Stick Resort Arena in Scottsdale, Arizona.

We caught up with the chef to hear all about his background, his cooking style and where he eats on his day off.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, including where you are today, professionally, and what got you here?



One of Josiah's signature dishes is egg caviar

What's your signature dish?

One of my signature dishes would be egg caviar, served as a soft poached egg with cauliflower mousseline and whipped lemon chive crème fraîche, and another is the lobster bolognese, a dish of Maine lobster served with fresh capellini and a brown butter truffle froth. Both are served at [Citrin](#).

What are the most important considerations when crafting your menu?

When crafting my menu, the most important consideration is being able to use the freshest of local, seasonal ingredients, to get the best flavour and nutrients from the food. This was also a key focus for myself and chef Dan Kenny when creating the Santa Monica x Brighton fusion menu at The Set.

How would you describe your cooking style?

My cooking style is rooted in classical French techniques, infused with influences of modern, global flavours and Californian cuisine. Each dish I create is driven by seasonal and fresh market produce, sourced locally.

Do you have a favourite time of year or set of ingredients that you look forward to working with?

We are so lucky in Santa Monica to have great food and great weather all year round. Great farms come to us from all over California with amazing produce. Each time a new season starts, it is my new favourite as each season brings something new.

When you're not in the kitchen where can you be found?

I like to stay active and often hang out at the beach, surfing around the Bay St. area, riding my bike along the coastal path or around Santa Monica Pier.

What's your favourite takeaway or comfort food?

Doritos nacho cheese flavour!

Celebrations for the new Friendship Cities agreement between the two cities burst into life this month, with a beach volleyball and a sunset BBQ on Brighton beach last weekend.



Throughout July, Californian cuisine will be rattling the city’s tastebuds as a Michelin-starred chef dishes up treats at Shelter Hall in Kings Road Arches, Brighton, while smooth Santa Monica tunes drift through the airwaves each Sunday.

The month of culture swapping will culminate in a friendship mural to honour the two locations, which will be unveiled by the cities’ mayors.

The agreement is a partnership between Visit Brighton and Santa Monica Travel and Tourism

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Santa Monica and Brighton team up in historic partnership

7TH JULY 2022 COMMUNITY ECONOMY HERITAGE LEISURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAVEL BRIGHTON



Official Friendship Cities Agreement Signed Between The Mayors of Santa Monica and Brighton, A New Mural Is Revealed!

This weekend, the Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Lizzie Deane, and the Mayor Pro Tem of Santa Monica, Kristin McCowan each signed the official Friendship City

Partnership Agreement in person (following a virtual signing in May) with senior representatives of Visit Brighton and visiting leaders of SMTT in attendance.

The Mayors also unveiled a dedicated street art mural to mark the collaboration by Santa Monica artist, Ruben Rojas, on Brighton's Palace Pier.



Inside the curious system of twin towns, and why Brighton is twinned with the celebrity-magnet Santa Monica

Brighton and Hove's mayor, Lizzie Deane, and her Santa Monica counterpart Kristin McCowan signed a Friendship Cities Agreement at the end of July to boost tourism

November 07, 2022 7:00 am • 5 min read



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LONDON ROCK PARTNERS MAKING WAVES IN HOSPITALITY

OCTOBER 3, 2022 | IN SUPPLIER NEWS | BY HOTEL MAGAZINE



Leaders of the hotel management company prepare to share their thoughts ahead of the Annual Hotel conference (AHC) and celebrate expanding client portfolio with leading outdoor aqua adventure park and historic 400-year-old manor.

Within 30 days, **London Rock Partners** have signed two prestigious UK property contracts. They will provide management support to the UK's most exciting destination, **Adventure Park Snowdonia** as well as **Haycock Manor Hotel** – an iconic and historic 400-year-old property located on the Great North Road, Peterborough.

This is following the recent announcement of management partnerships with branded properties the **Hilton Garden Inn Snowdonia** and the **Mercure Hotel & Spa Bournemouth** – adding to the existing management portfolio which includes the **Hilton Garden Inn Abingdon Oxford**.

Born in a post-pandemic era out of founders **Naveed Khan** and **Clare Anna's** aspiration to establish a more flexible hotel management model, the former hospitality management executives have been invited to take part in a series of leading industry events. Clare will lead a panel discussion at the **Annual Hotel conference (AHC)** in October and will take part in an Online panel discussion hosted by **Hotel Solutions Partnerships** later this month.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING NEWS

Expert expansion at London Rock Partners

April 4, 2022



Expert expansion at London Rock Partners

Hospitality and asset management company, London Rock Partners, continues to expand with its latest advisor appointment of leading F&B expert Howard Eggleston. Bringing some of the UK's best F&B expertise to the table, Howard Eggleston joins as [London Rock Partners Restaurants & Bars Advisor](#).

Howard Eggleston, London Rock Partners, Restaurants & Bars Advisor

With an impressive vocation spanning three decades, Howard has owned and operated a portfolio of brand and commercially successful hospitality venues. Today he is the owner and director of the [RHPD Group](#).

Overseeing the award-winning Tomahawk Steakhouse, RIO Brazilian Steakhouse and Pollo-to-Go takeaway, Howard is a multi-concept, multi-site operator and his unparalleled process for sourcing, developing and opening venues is to a standard that the industry aspires.

He leads with high effectivity and impeccable streamlining, and he led the disruptive roll-out of the Tomahawk concept. Starting in 2017, it expanded to 11 venues by 2021 with plans in place to double this by Q4 2022. Similarly, RIO operates three venues across the UK and received Trip Advisor's most prestigious award for best 'Everyday Eats' restaurant in the country within just a year of operating.

Howard brings a wealth of F&B knowledge to the London Rock Partner's network of hotel hospitality



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London Rock Partners to manage the Winchester Royal Hotel



Eloise Hanson
July 12, 2023

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[London Rock Partners](#) [Naveed Khan](#) [Winchester Royal Hotel](#) [Winchester](#)

Reading Time: < 1 minute

UK: Hotel management company London Rock Partners has been appointed to operate the luxury Winchester Royal Hotel in Hampshire.

The 16th century Winchester Royal Hotel offers 81 bedrooms and suites, a restaurant and walled garden, five meeting rooms as well as wedding and event space.

It joins other managed properties by London Rock Partners including an independent boutique country house and a

**GUESTS ARE
SPENDING MORE**



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MEWS

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ATURES,NEWS October 19, 2021

Management of Judges House Hotel taken over by London Rock Partners

ew signing is one of three new deals by the asset and hospitality management company, which
ill work with Pride of Britain Hotels to spearhead the relaunch of Judges House



By Zoe Monk



PROPERTY & INTERIORS



BY SALVATORE FLOTT



Over the years, a who's-who of world leaders and celebrities have stayed here, including every president from Herbert Hoover to Barack Obama. Back in the '70s, Frank Sinatra leased Suite 33A—at a reported \$1 million a year—while Marilyn Monroe stayed in Suite 2728 for much of 1955. Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor also chose to call the hotel home.



The interiors were designed by Jean-Louis Deniot whose custom creations promise to complement the building's Art Deco history with contemporary luxury. The artwork, curated by world-renowned auctioneer and collector Simon de Pury, will, we're told, add 'a touch of modern glamour to the historic building'.



Tempus Hot List: August 2023

BY LAUREN O'NEILL | 10 AUGUST 2023 | [CULTURE, FOOD & DRINK, LIFESTYLE, TRAVEL](#)

From the hottest hotels to where to sip sangria in the sunshine, discover August's best buys to know and places to go, before September's back to school feeling rolls around.



Visit RH England The Gallery at the Historic Aynho Park

Luxury design and lifestyle brand RH, formerly Restoration Hardware, has long been a staple in North America for interiors aficionados and lovers of luxury home furnishings but, having not previously had a retail presence here, the brand has remained slightly under the radar in the UK – until now. Instead of setting up shop in central London, the brand has gone for a bolder approach for its launch into the UK, opening experiential RH England, The Gallery at the Historic Aynho Park, a 17th century estate in the Cotswolds, spanning 73 acres, this August. The 55 sq metre manor – restored by esteemed architect Sir John Soane in the 19th century – is now home to several hospitality outlets – restaurants The Orangery, The Loggia, and The Conservatory, as well as a Wine Lounge, Tea Salon, and Juicery – all seamlessly integrating RH's luxury home furnishings with rare art and antiques. The Gallery is also home to an exhibition celebrating Sir John Soane, as well as a design and architecture library featuring an extensive collection of books dedicated to design,

INTERIORS + DESIGN



INDUSTRY REPORT

1 THE OWO RESIDENCES BY RAFFLES UNVEILS PENTHOUSE

The OWO has unveiled its highly-anticipated penthouse residence, with an internal area of 7,700 sq ft. and unobstructed vistas of St James's Park. Winch Design, renowned for its expertise in luxury super-yachts and residences, crafted the interiors and collaborated with over 40 suppliers.



Bespoke furniture, fabrics, artwork, and accessories beautifully capture the building's inspiring history and exciting future, while honouring London's creative flair as a hub of art, culture, and design. Complete with a private gym, sauna, cinema, games room, staff quarters, and expansive terraces with panoramic views, The OWO Penthouse is a one-of-a-kind residence with services and amenities provided by Raffles London and The OWO's destination restaurants.

2 VALOURAN ANNOUNCES HISTORIC GRADE II-LISTED THE CHAPEL AS INAUGURAL SITE

Property developer Valouran has announced the development of The Chapel, a historic Grade II listed building in St John's Wood, into five luxury apartments. The 14,805 sq ft. property has a diverse history as commercial offices, event space, TV studios, and



a squash court. Led by Darling Associates, the restoration preserves its architectural heritage while infusing contemporary design and eco-friendly amenities. Gunter&Co will curate the interiors, embracing understated luxury with natural materials. Sustainability is prioritised with zero-emission heat pumps and biodiversity-enhancing green spaces. Positioned in St John's Wood, Valouran continues its commitment to innovative developments, with more projects planned across London.

3 RH UNVEILS THE GALLERY AT HISTORIC AYNHO PARK

This summer marks the opening of RH England: The Gallery at Historic Aynho Park — a landmark estate, famously remodelled by Sir John Soane in 1798. Spanning 73 acres and over 60 rooms, RH England has been transformed into an opulent design and hospitality destination and marks the beginning of the



retailer's global expansion. The estate houses three primary restaurants: The Orangery, The Loggia, and The Conservatory (opening in Autumn) along with The Grand Viewing Terrace, The Tea Salon, and The Sir John Soane Exhibition, showcasing architectural works. The Architecture & Design Library holds a rare collection, while the east wing houses The RH Interior Design Studio, offering professional design services, private client presentation rooms and a vast assortment of textiles, furniture, and lighting finishes.

4 EL FUERTE OPENS FOLLOWING RENOVATION BY JAIME BIERSTEIN STUDIO

The historic, family-owned El Fuerte Marbella, first opened in 1957, has reopened its doors as a brand new five-star hotel. Its reimagined interiors were brought to life by Jaime Bierstein, whose contemporary yet Andalusian-inspired design



pay homage to the hotel's heritage while embracing modern luxury. Light-filled spaces adorned with fortress pillars and palatial arched doorways maintain the hotel's charm. The Le Marche restaurant boasts earthy terracotta, golden brown, and green tones, complemented by soft fabrics, providing a relaxed ambience. Additionally, Soleo offers a beachside dining experience, while the rooftop terrace, Edge by Paco Perez, provides stunning sea views and a pool. The basement hosts the cool sanctuary of Claims Spa.

5 BONADEA SECURES POSTCODE EXCLUSIVITY FOR SILVIA FURMANOVICH

Bonadea, a leading tableware, glassware and object d'art destination, now holds exclusive rights to stock and sell Silvia Furmanovich's home accessories. The São Paulo-based jewellery designer ventured into the category in 2022, creating art-like, handcrafted jewellery



boxes, trays, frames, and marquetry-made products. Founded by Creative Director Gemma Martinez de Ana in 2016, Bonadea opened its London store in 2021. Furmanovich's designs celebrate the natural world, combining wood marquetry, ebony, copper, vintage lacquer, shells, bamboo, and netsukes with gold, diamonds, and colored gemstones. The store showcases a signature range, including the Acacia Wooden Marquetry Jewellery Box and the Celestial Vide Poche tray, perfectly complementing Gemma's whimsical tablescapes and object d'art.

RH UNVEILS RH ENGLAND: THE GALLERY AT HISTORIC AYNHO PARK

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luxury briefing
ISSUE 241

INTERIORS + DESIGN



INDUSTRY REPORT



AREA FOCUS THE LOBBY

Hotel lobbies are more than just a gateway; they are the first glimpse of what's to come for the guest, making it a crucial space for designers to get right. SPACE rounds up the most impeccably crafted hotel lobbies across the globe, where aesthetics and functionality converge to create unforgettable first impressions.

ST REGIS JAKARTA INDONESIA

Indonesia's rich musical heritage inspired Chroma+maud Design in their collaboration with LUDWIG for the St Regis Jakarta lobby. The Sound of Light chandelier, influenced by Indonesian Gamelan music dynamics, responds to Indonesian gamelan and Barong music, creating a captivating, animating light across the lobby. The hotel celebrates Indonesian art featuring local artists, with an atmosphere of Indonesian design throughout. An anchoring wood installation by Thomann adds a touch of local flora to the reception area, creating the first the expansive space.

marriott.com/chromamaudesign



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Hotel News

Waldorf Astoria New York teases 2025 opening with luxury condo announcement

14 Jul 2023
by Varun Sharma



BUSINESSCLASS.COM

Towers of the Waldorf Astoria

Since its highly acclaimed opening in 1931 - as the world's largest and tallest hotel - the Waldorf Astoria remains one of New York City's most prominent landmarks. It has been undergoing a full-scale renovation - and The Towers will sit atop the 375 guestroom hotel.

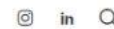


By David Friedman - and covering the entire story

The residences at The Towers of the Waldorf Astoria will offer a diverse range of options, from elegant studios to luxurious four-bedroom units and magnificent penthouses nestled within the iconic copper pinnacles. Several marquee residences boast expansive private outdoor spaces. Each residence features all-new windows that incorporate modern sound-attenuating technology while paying homage to the original 1931 design.

Privacy and security are paramount at The Towers of the Waldorf Astoria, providing residents with a distinct residential experience separate from the hotel. With two fully staffed residential entry lobbies available 24/7 and a striking porte cochère boasting double-height vaulted ceilings, residents enjoy a private entry with 24-hour valet service from East 50th Street.





INTERIORS

MAKE YOUR MARK

With help from industry experts, we look at how to effectively reflect your ethos through your interior design, and the importance of this.



Interior design can offer an opportunity to serve as a visual representation of your hotel's brand identity and values. When guests enter your venue, if the design elements immediately convey the hotel's ethos, this can create a consistent and more memorable experience. This consistency, in turn, can build trust and enable guests to connect with your brand on a deeper level.

In order to showcase the personality of your brand through design, drawing inspiration from surroundings is a great place to start. Milan's Casa Baglioni is located in the design district of Brera - an area known as the 'artists district', recognised for its timeless charm and considered the most beautiful in Milan.

Lorenzo Soleri, General Manager at Casa Baglioni in Milan, explained how they worked with local Milanese architects, Spagnolo & Partners, for the design, as the team wanted the hotel spaces to draw inspiration from the art and design world of 1960s Milan.

The hotel's furnishings, crafted by Italian artisans, also echo the famous works of Milanese sculptors and artists - a large chandelier is reminiscent of Lucio Fontana's neon artwork (on display at the nearby Museo del Novecento), while ceilings and floors feature colours and geometric shapes once favoured by Gio Ponti.

Lorenzo explained: 'Precisely, as the name suggests, Casa Baglioni reflects a new concept of hospitality, where the settings - thanks to a refined combination of colours,

materials and textures - are like those of an elegant home in the Brera zone: sophisticated, welcoming and precious at the same time.

'Our common spaces, such as the lobby and the second common living area, 'salotto', offer an in-house bar corner for guests to sit and relax, to reinforce a 'feel at home' concept as soon as they walk through the doors.'

A venue's layout and spatial organisation can have a drastic effect in reinforcing a brand's message, and it's Casa Baglioni's subtle combination of textures and colours that add fluidity to the space.

'For example, decorative glass vases, that sit on bookshelves in the bedroom, have been designed to discretely partition areas of the room. Our larger rooms are cleverly zoned using chrome dividers, curved walls and distinctly high ceilings to maximise space and views', said Lorenzo.

Also noticing the importance of spatial organisation and design in emphasising a venue's ethos is Kaja Krause, Principal and Director of Strategy at Champalimaud Design, who sees how the layout and spatial planning of a hotel directly influences how guests will experience and interact with the different spaces.

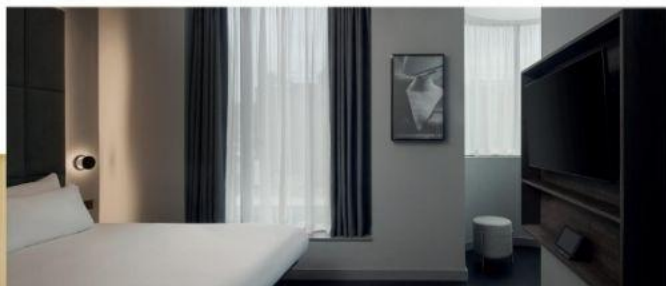
'How, furniture placement and the points of connection between the discrete spaces all have an impact. Sensory management is a key component of a guest's journey, and the best designs are attuned to appeal to all of a visitor's senses. To provide a complete ambience, from lighting and

INTERIORS

Pg 48 left - Hotel Amano

Pg 48 right - Lime Wood Hotel - Image by Jane Eastham

Pg 49 - Hotel Amano



"Sensory management is a key component of a guest's journey."

textures to sounds, scents and tastings, throughout the journey is the key to creating the most memorable and transformative spaces', said Kaja.

In Kaja and her team's design for the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental, they layered cut-outs based on Arabic geometric patterns for door signage, backlit for added ambience, which seamlessly integrated into the design, while providing functional direction for guests.

Kaja sees that every great hotel begins with a strong concept, rooted in all that makes the property unique: identity, history and location. 'This involves a deep understanding of the ethos that the hotel represents, and the emotions that it hopes to evoke in guests. Consider elements that tell a story and resonate with the hotel's brand message. At the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental, we drew inspiration from the destination's ancient history, ultimately designing our interiors around a theme of 'The Land where the Ocean meets the Desert'.

Both furniture and decor play a huge role in communicating a hotel's values to consumers, as they collectively work to represent these through their choice of materials, craftsmanship and design.

Kaja explained how high-quality, sustainably sourced furniture echoes a commitment to environmental responsibility, while unique, handcrafted pieces can showcase support for local artisans.

'With the demand for technology in hospitality continuing to grow, modern venues which pride themselves on keeping up-to-date with tendencies must now consider the role that tech integration can play in reflecting a hotel's ethos.

Technology can be integrated into a hotel's interior design to enhance guest experience and reflect its ethos - whether that be wellness, personalisation or service. Smart lighting, climate control and room access can provide convenience and customisation, while advanced audio-visual equipment can elevate entertainment options. Kaja believes that technology should add value to the overall guest experience, while remaining entirely unobtrusive: 'This is especially important for hotels that aim to build a harmony between modernity and tradition.'

To ensure your venue doesn't fall behind or become outdated, certifying that your interior design evolves to reflect changes in your ethos, or brand identity, over time is essential. In order to do this, you should stay sharply attuned to guests' changing lifestyles and needs. Kaja recommends regularly reviewing and refreshing your interior design to reflect any shifts in the hotel's ethos or brand identity: 'Collaborate with interior designers who can incorporate new elements, while preserving the hotel's unique character and heritage. Consider repurposing existing furniture or décor, updating colour schemes or



LUXURY LIFESTYLE | 14 AUG 2023 | 3 MIN READ



The Towers of the Waldorf Astoria provide a discreet residential experience separate from the hotel, ensuring privacy and security. Owing to the generous scale of the property, residents will enjoy the highest number of service staff of any super-luxury residential building in New York. Some of the numerous benefits include 24-hour valet service, six dedicated residential elevators with destination Spanish technology, and a dedicated on-site concierge. Notably, each residence features a concierge closet for secure and private deliveries, laundry and valet service that's accessible from within the home and the common corridor.

Over and above this, residents will have exclusive access to over 50,000 square feet of private residential amenities designed by Jean Louis Derré. These amenities include a swimming Twilight Pool with views of Park Avenue, a verdant Winter Garden, private bars reminiscent of the original Waldorf Astoria, a state-of-the-art fitness center, opulent private clubs, and several entertaining spaces for private functions.

In addition to the private residential amenities, residents will have priority access to the Waldorf Astoria New York's renowned heritage spaces, spa, restaurants, and bars. The Waldorf Astoria New York's renowned service will be extended to the condominiums, offering residents signing privileges, preferential pricing, and a la carte services such as:

"Waldorf Astoria New York is our flagship and origin story, and we look forward to reopening its doors to welcome guests to the iconic landmark which is integral to the fabric of our brand as well as New York," said Dino Micheli, Global Head of Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts. "We are thrilled to offer a new residential component to the hotel, which will increasingly infuse a new life and spirit to the space and inspire us to bring our iconic 'True Waldorf Service' to the next level for residents."



LARRY LIFESTYLE | 14 AUG 2013 | 5 MIN READ

The iconic Waldorf Astoria New York on Park Avenue is introducing a new era of luxury living with its first-ever luxury condominium residences: The Towers.

Developed by Cofa Insurance Group and designed by renowned architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the historic landmark of Waldorf Astoria New York has undergone an extensive restoration to offer a world-class residential lifestyle in the heart of Midtown Manhattan.

For nearly a century, the Waldorf Astoria has epitomized timeless glamour and opulence, hosting Hollywood's elite, world leaders, and unforgettable cultural events. Now it sets a new standard for luxury living in New York City with its exclusive private amenities and access to the unrivalled services of the globally renowned Waldorf Astoria hotel group.

Internationally acclaimed designer Jean-Louis Denot has meticulously crafted the sophisticated residential interiors and amenities, blending modern elements within the building's historic Art Deco design. From stucco to aquile petrouches, each residence boasts custom features, including solid custom paneled interior doors with bespoke antique bronze hardware, Italian manufactured custom cabinets by Molteni&C, and vanities with polished marble countertops. Every residence has been fully outfitted with all-new windows featuring modern sound-dampening technology while paying homage to the original 1931 design, and herringbone floors with a custom carved finish. To top it off, residence kitchens come complete with a full suite of integrated state-of-the-art Gaggenau appliances.

"The Waldorf Astoria has a former lavish aura," says Jean-Louis Denot. "The interiors will reflect the magnificence of the

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Indonesian culture celebrated throughout Champalimaud Design's St. Regis Jakarta

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Champalimaud Design, the New York-based interior design studio, has created extraordinary spaces throughout the St. Regis Jakarta by incorporating Indonesia's traditions of design, music, and art. Their concept tells the story of Jakarta, of the culture, and of the people. Throughout the public spaces, restaurants, and bars, Champalimaud has created spaces that evoke connections, engagement and conversation, taking guests on an enriched journey through the hotel.

Courtney Brannan, Principal at Champalimaud Design, said: "Inspired by the rich jazz traditions of Indonesia, we looked to infuse Jakarta's cultural heritage with a contemporary energy. We collaborated with local artists to elevate our designs and create an immersive, memorable visit for guests. We hope the hotel will be experienced as a representation of the city, captivating for both locals and guests from far away."

Indonesia's rich musical heritage provided key inspiration for Champalimaud Design. Gamelan is the traditional instrumental ensemble of Indonesia and an integral part of Indonesian culture heard at religious ceremonies, celebrations and dance performances. The harmony between dance and music is echoed in the kinetic 'Sound of Light' chandelier in the lobby, created in collaboration with celebrated Czech glassmaker LAMVIT. The chandelier's lighting elements follow the lead of the music playing, undulating and moving according to the sounds and rhythm of the music by Indonesian composer Andi Rianto. The chandelier produces a shimmering light that dances across the space and illuminates the ceiling.

St. Regis Bar

Incorporating the work and spirit of the local community and artisans is integral to Champalimaud Design's philosophy and the St. Regis Jakarta is a celebration of Indonesian art, with the studio's interpretations of Indonesian design and the work of Indonesian artists incorporated throughout the hotel. In a dynamic video work by artist collective Tromarama, local florals float across the reception area ceiling, adding life to the double volume space.

There are a diverse range of musical genres in Indonesia and the hotel's signature St. Regis Bar, unique and different at every St. Regis hotel around the world, is full of details and nods to the different instruments and elements of music. The wall-covering mimics the sound waves of jazz, while the striking mural captures the interplay of jazz and art, reflecting the rhythm, energy, and spirit of the history of jazz in Indonesia. The mural

Champalimaud Design unveils opulent Abu Dhabi creation

By VICKY LARSEN · 17 July 2023 · 6 min read

Champalimaud Design, has released its latest redesign of the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental, the iconic, beachfront resort in Abu Dhabi. Champalimaud Design has integrated a sense of place, emphasising high craftsmanship and weaving a contemporary sensibility through reimagined guest rooms, suites, public spaces, and restaurants.

The concept for the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental is inspired by its position between one of the world's largest continuous deserts and the equatorial waters of the Arabian Gulf, taking a rich tale of 'The land where the Cloven meets the Desert'. The studio's narrative was informed by an equidistant landscape of patterns shaped by nature and by the layered history of cultural exchange in Abu Dhabi. The redesign of the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental presents a vision of sophistication and modernity, authentically reflecting the traditions of the Emirates. Design elements come together to immerse guests and inspire an emotional connection to the location. Artworks throughout were curated by art consultant ASTO, completing the final layer in a rich visual story.

Roger Krause, Principal and Director of Strategy, Champalimaud Design, said: "The design narrative brings to life a romantic and bespoke, sophisticated yet understated residential sensibility. There is a major focus on craftsmanship and precision. It is luxurious in every aspect, from the broad concept to the mood of the lighting and the tactile of the materials."

Upon entering the lobby, guests are welcomed by ornate marble and gilded ceilings paired with new contemporary furnishings and tonalities. Along the corridors, bright wall-ton and teal wall coverings are contrasted against dark stone floor drapes and custom carpet patterns inspired by natural sand, which pick up the tonality of the various walling marble columns to blend in with the grand corridor volumes. Door signage is designed with layered cut-outs based on Arabic geometric patterns, adding glow and ambience as you move through the corridors.

The hotel's rooms and suites possess a modern residential aesthetic. Headboard walls are adorned with backlit screens inspired by the geometric lighting effects of traditional Arabic screens. An oversized mirror integrated at the end of the screen reflects the terrace and surrounding views, giving a sense of expanded space and deep connectivity to the city and the ocean. Headboards, bedside tables and lamps were designed and curated to bring a rich sensibility, using thoughtful leather and metal detail throughout. These are softened with bespoke colourful ceramic lamp bases, soft linen shades and custom area rugs inspired by the patterns created by older oil sand. Each custom light fixture draws inspiration from organic forms and local gardens.

Bespoke furniture and upgraded finishes throughout the suites carry on the visual theme of tradition through a contemporary lens. Mother of pearl inlay in the bedroom dresser references the history of pearl diving that once sustained the Arabian Gulf, while sheer drapery and a deep sea blue accent colour scheme connect the outdoors to the indoors. Curved wood flooring is complemented by hand-tufted rugs with patterns inspired by the movements of sand and water. New screens have been added in the arrival entry areas, alongside an upgraded custom pattern on the headboard wall. Integrated custom light fixtures evoke the heritage of oil lamps and hanging lanterns, and heritage of oil lamps and hanging lanterns, a nod to local traditions of the past now interpreted in a modern design. The interior doors were replaced with new white door frames and fluted translucent steel panels for a renewed experience that provides more light between

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See inside stately home party pad transformed



There is also a wine lounge and tea salon as well as a juicery, serving made-to-order fresh juices and grilled baguettes.

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Champalimaud Design returns this iconic landmark, Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental in Abu Dhabi, to its palatial design splendour with overarching concepts originating from the destination's layered and ancient history – a rich story of 'The Land where the Ocean meets the Desert'...

The concept for the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental is inspired by its position between one of the world's largest continuous deserts and the aquamarine waters of the Arabian Gulf. The Champalimaud Studio narrative was informed by an exquisite landscape of patterns shaped by nature and by the layered history of cultural exchange in Abu Dhabi. The redesign of the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental presents a vision of sophistication and modernity while authentically reflecting the traditions of the Emirates. Design elements come together to immerse guests and inspire an emotional connection to the location. Artworks throughout were curated by art consultant VISTO, completing the final layer in a rich visual story.



Image credit: Mandarin Oriental / Champalimaud Design

signage is designed with layered cut-outs basic
 ambiance as you move through the corridors.



Image credit: Mandarin Oriental / Champalimaud Design

The hotel's rooms and suites possess a modern residential aesthetic. Headboard walls are adorned with backlit screens inspired by the geometric lighting effects of traditional Arabic screens. An oversized mirror integrated at the end of the screen reflects the terrace and surrounding views, giving a sense of expanded space and deep connectivity to the sky and the ocean.

Headboards, bedside tables and lamps were designed and curated to bring a rich sensibility, using thoughtful leather and metal detail throughout. These are softened with bespoke colourful ceramic lamp bases, soft linen shades and custom area rugs inspired by the patterns created by water and sand. Each custom light fixture draws inspiration from organic forms and local gardens.



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A look at the redesign of Abu Dhabi's Emirates Palace

New York firm Champalimaud Design is behind the invigorated new interior

by *Holly Byrne* | August 6, 2023 | [SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [in](#)

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Positioned between one of the world's largest continuous deserts and the Arabian Gulf, the property's location was another significant influence on the reimagined hotel interiors as the Champalimaud team endeavoured to create a strong sense of place through strategic design decisions.

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Custom carpet patterns were inspired by raked sand to highlight the tonality of existing marble colourations within the lobby, as ornate marble and gilded ceilings are paired with new contemporary furnishings and finishes, creating a timeless atmosphere.

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Courtney Branan, Principal at Champalimaud Design say of the project, "Inspired by the rich jazz traditions of Indonesia, we looked to infuse Jakarta's cultural heritage with a contemporary energy.

"We collaborated with local artists to elevate our designs and create an immersive, memorable visit for guests.

"We hope the hotel will be experienced as a representation of the city, captivating to both locals and guests from far away."

Indonesia's rich musical heritage provided key inspiration for Champalimaud Design.

Carillon is the traditional instrumental ensemble of Indonesia and an integral part of Indonesian culture heard at religious ceremonies, celebrations and dance performances.

The harmony between dance and music is echoed in the kinetic "Sound of Light" chandelier in the Lobby, created in collaboration with celebrated Czech glassmaker LAMVIT.



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Jan 28, 2023

St Regis Jakarta

Champalimaud Design, the New York-based interior design studio, has created extraordinary spaces throughout the **St. Regis Jakarta** by incorporating Indonesia's traditions of design, music, and art.

Their concept tells the story of Jakarta, of the culture, and of the people.

Throughout the public spaces, restaurants, and bars, Champalimaud has created spaces that evoke connections, engagement and conversation, taking guests on an enriched journey through the hotel.



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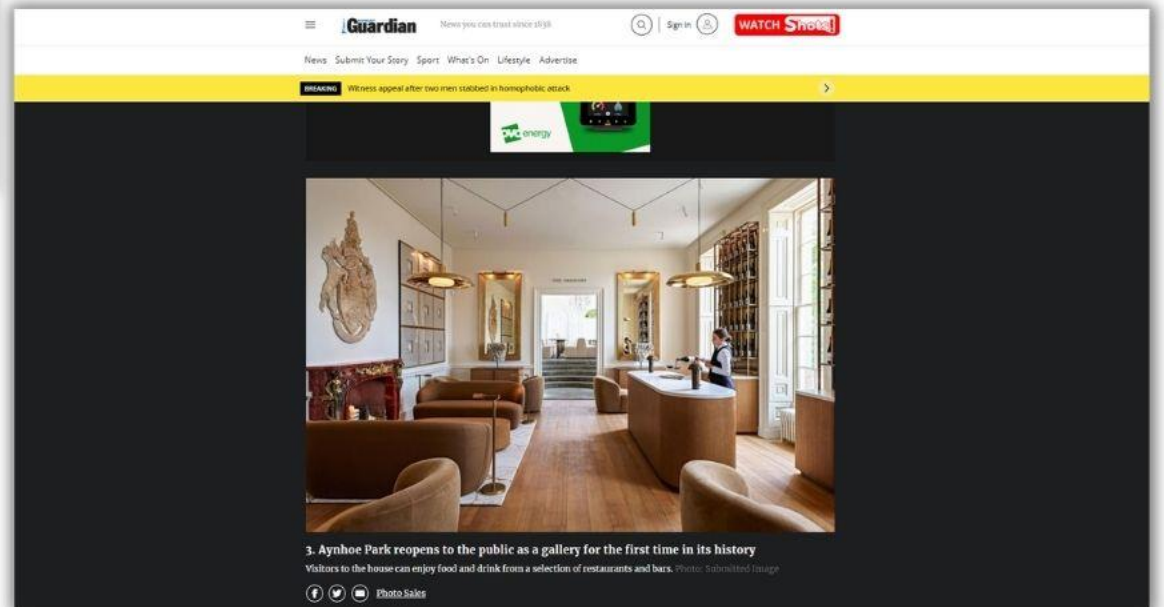
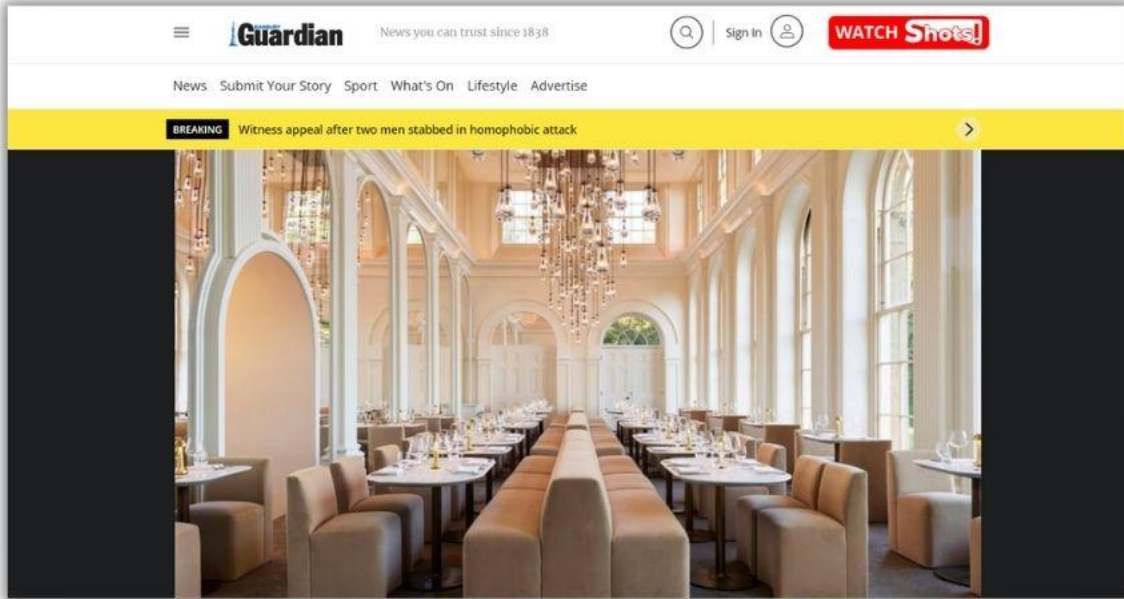


The wallcovering mimics the sound waves of jazz, while the striking mural captures the interplay of jazz and art, reflecting the rhythm, energy, and spirit of the history of jazz in Indonesia.

The mural was created by Indonesian artist **Eddy Susanto** and the studio collaborated with Susanto on the colour, figures, and segmentation of the piece.

Inspired by Java Jazz, the mural is "painted" using texts depicting Javanese Wayang Figures in Javanese Shadow Puppet Performances.

The central chandelier above the main bar is a custom designed glass sculpture inspired by the trombone and saxophone, incorporating long cylinders of bronze



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the iconic Waldorf Astoria New York on Park Avenue.

The celebrated New York City landmark has introduced an unprecedented residential lifestyle to the heart of Midtown Manhattan, offering residents a world of exclusive private amenities along with special access to the best-in-class services found only at the globally renowned Waldorf Astoria New York.

The Waldorf Astoria has been a beacon of timeless glamour and luxury for nearly a century – home to Hollywood's elite, host to countless world leaders, and the site of cultural events and galas that hold a special place in the hearts of New Yorkers and visitors from around the world.

When the Waldorf Astoria opened on Park Avenue to rapturous reviews in 1931, it was the largest and tallest hotel in the world and remains one of New York City's most prominent landmarks.

The property is in the midst of an unprecedented restoration, undertaken with care by developer Dajia Insurance Group and renowned architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, with great attention given to the original Art Deco design. This talented team has invested years of work to understand the building's history and maintain its heritage for future generations, while bringing it into a new age.

The full block property will include condominium residences atop the 375-key Waldorf Astoria New York hotel.

The sophisticated residential interiors and amenities by internationally acclaimed designer Jean-Louis Deniot, the visionary behind some of the world's most opulent private homes, create a truly modern experience within the building's historic framework. Deniot has carefully considered each detail, designing his own custom creations for The Towers that include: solid custom-paneled interior doors with bespoke antique bronze hardware, custom cabinets manufactured by Molteni&C in Italy, vanities with polished marble countertops, custom forged polished nickel fixtures, and tile mosaics featuring a Waldorf Astoria-inspired pattern, done in a modern style with a nod to French Art Deco, further complementing the building's history.

The wide variety of residences range from gracious studios to opulent four bedrooms and magnificent penthouses within the iconic copper pinnacles and several marquee residences with expansive private outdoor spaces. Every residence has been outfitted with all new windows that feature modern sound-attenuating technology while paying homage to the original 1931 design, and herringbone floors with a custom cerused finish. Residence kitchens feature a full suite of integrated state-of-the-art Gaggenau appliances, all fully vented to the outside.

Privacy and security are paramount at The Towers of the Waldorf Astoria, which offers a discrete residential experience separate from the hotel. There are two residential entry lobbies—both fully staffed 24-hours a day—and a dramatic porte cochère with double-height vaulted ceilings that will offer residents a private entry with 24-hour valet service from East 50th Street. There are six dedicated residential elevators with destination dispatch technology, as well as a secure residential entrance into the Waldorf Astoria New York, offering access to the hotel's restaurant, food and beverage service as well as the world-class spa. Residents

Glamour, Gamelin and Dancing Chandeliers - An Oasis of Light and Sound Make for Memorable Moments



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There are a diverse range of musical genres in Indonesia and the hotel's signature St. Regis Bar, unique and different at every St. Regis hotel around the world, is full of details and nods to the different instruments and elements of music. The wallcovering mimics the sound waves of jazz, while the striking mural captures the interplay of jazz and art, reflecting the rhythm, energy, and spirit of the history of jazz in Indonesia. The mural was created by Indonesian artist Eddy Susanto and the studio collaborated with Susanto on the colour, figures, and segmentation of the piece. Inspired by Java Jazz, the mural is "painted" using texts depicting Javanese Wayang Figures in Javanese Shadow Puppet Performances. The central chandelier above the main bar is a custom designed glass sculpture inspired by the trombone and saxophone, incorporating long cylinders of



Lumens Bar embraces and explores how light and metals play together, with a colour palette influenced by the bronze tones of instruments. The studio created a central feature that mimics liquid and captures light in different ways as guests walk around the bar, while over the bar are beautiful crystals that are reflected in the room itself and onto the deep red upholstery. The wall architecture is a beautiful rhythm of lines and arches with a champagne coloured gold leaf applied

Dining spaces include the Rose Gourmand Deli, Drawing Room, Tea Room, J.J.A. restaurant, offering upscale dining and Bel Étage, for all day dining. The colour palette of Bel Étage was inspired by the local cuisine of Indonesia. Rich reds, oranges and saffron colours, reminiscent of the persimmons and turmeric used in Indonesia were woven throughout the space. The studio introduced designs that would allow the space to transition throughout the day, morning light turning into a moodier setting at night.



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Rich Culture meets modern luxury: Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental By Champalimaud Design

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By TT Barley • August 10, 2023 • 6 Min read

Champalimaud Design returns this iconic landmark in Abu Dhabi to its palatial design splendour with overarching concepts originating from the destination's layered and ancient history.



Cultural significance meets modern opulence: Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental By Champalimaud Design

Champalimaud Design, the New York-based interior design studio, is creating transformative spaces and unparalleled products in the residential, hospitality, and wellness spheres.

The latest venture from the award-winning studio is the redesign of the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental, the iconic beachfront resort in Abu Dhabi. Champalimaud Design has integrated a sense of place, emphasising high craftsmanship and weaving a contemporary sensibility through renovated Guest Rooms, Suites, Public Spaces, and Restaurants.

in f t w s



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Cultural significance meets modern opulence: Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental By Champalimaud Design

The redesign of the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental presents a vision of sophistication and modernity while authentically reflecting the traditions of the Emirates. Design elements come together to immerse guests and inspire an emotional connection to the locale, between the modern and the traditional, and the past and the future.

Inside The Waldorf Astoria Residences New York's Exclusive Private Spaces

by Editorial Team

Published 19 September 2023 at 15:19



The Waldorf Astoria has been a hallmark of glamour and luxury since 1931. This Park Avenue landmark is now stepping into a new era of glamour and, by doing so, will open a whole new world to exclusive and personalised experiences.

Upon arrival, residents take the elevator, which leads them into an opulent world which extends to 50,000 square feet of private amenities, encompassed by the world-renowned and possibly unrivalled Waldorf service.

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Starlight Lounge

Perched above the iconic Park Avenue and connected to the Starlight Terrace, the Starlight Lounge is a crowning jewel in New York's skyline. The space showcases an intimate atmosphere against the city's dramatic skyline, where classic cocktails meet contemporary flair.



The stunning 25-meter Starlight Pool will overlook Park Avenue in a dramatic double height-space, illuminated by a restored skylight that allows the architects' original intent to be observed again for the first time in 70 years. With a meticulously crafted drinks menu and an unprecedented level of bespoke service, this lounge doesn't just offer nightlife — it redefines it.



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Home



Decluttering wisdom from furniture designer Sue Timney, who has just started an epic clearout

Sue Timney, the grande dame of British design, is facing the prospect of her next job of the design: no longer needs. The eternally chic textile, furniture and interior designer, whose clients include Kate Winslet, and Boris Johnson, is taking control of her collections and beginning a new chapter and has already released the Timney Fowler edition of her latest design and product ranges of her designs. The 77-year-old's latest project, a new home and workshop for the Williams Living, of which she is creative director, is a blueprint for living one's third act with panache. Here she shares some of the lessons she has learned.

IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN DO IT
I've wanted to downsize at my age, but I'm a collector. It's hard. I've had the pleasure of being able to acquire for my taste. There's a basement and garage that are so full of things I thought were completely essential. Having got to a certain stage in life – to grant but not necessarily – and making this a huge place I've got and that I have rather a lot of things, made me think, you know what, I don't actually need all this. I'm ready to let go of many possessions, and I'm finding them a pleasure to the process. I'm letting go of everything.

HOW TO START
The first thing I say to my children is, "What are you doing with this?" I've got three boys and a girl. My daughter has been most open to it – she gets that Mum doesn't want to lose the nostalgia attached to a lot of things.

DO NOT HOLD ON TO THINGS YOU DON'T WANT
I have acquired some things over time that have a certain amount of value, and I have recently made myself a list of things that I don't want. I've got a lot of things that I don't want. I've got a lot of things that I don't want. I've got a lot of things that I don't want.

pieces of art but sometimes it's difficult to let go of things. I've got a lot of things that I don't want. I've got a lot of things that I don't want. I've got a lot of things that I don't want.



But Timney has shifted the interior of Williams Living's show apartment with a mix of colorful art and craft, being careful not to crowd the room with clutter.

Library and helped start the library for the Williams Living. I'm very happy knowing there are a great home and being used. Both these places mean a lot to me.

IF YOU WILL, SEND OUT A SPECIALIST
If you have art or objects, find out if there is an auction house with an expert in that field or a specialist sale. Then be clear in the charity shop that, indeed, your items with care – they might be one with a dedicated section for furniture or fashion, or one where you like the person working there, and it's part of your local community, but every charity shop is the same. If you're looking for a specialist, be clear in the charity shop that, indeed, your items with care – they might be one with a dedicated section for furniture or fashion, or one where you like the person working there, and it's part of your local community, but every charity shop is the same.

Cluster will literally leave you without room for new interests

NOT KEEP THE OLD
Go digital and reduce all the cluttered paperwork. It's such a big advantage if you can do it, for all sorts of reasons.

PAUL GRANT
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CLARKE THE NEW ONE
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is going on and being surrounded by some of that so that I feel in touch with and can support local artists and makers within the community, and maybe join in as well.

GRASS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGN A NEW YOU
One of the best things I can do for myself is to get rid of my possessions, it's a wonderful opportunity to get something new about the person you are now – the person you were 20 years ago when you last selected your surroundings.

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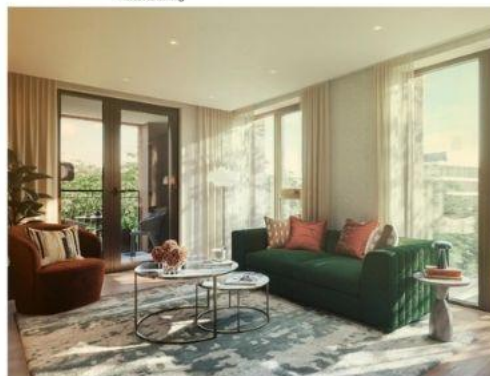
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WELLNESS

The smartest homes to grow old in

Loveday & Co is just one of the latest care and retirement communities in London to feel more like a luxury hotel

Wallacea Living



Started by Paul Coles, who is also behind Riverstone, Wallacea Living is a new luxury retirement venture. "We disagree with the prescription for old age being to slow down," Coles says. Opening in autumn 2025, Wallacea will be a 104-apartment building located in Marylebone, London. The building will offer gardens, a swimming pool, a cinema and a round-the-clock concierge service. Alongside a thoughtfully designed space from the interior designers Jestico + Whiles and the creative director Sue Timney, the building will have views across north London. They will also offer an in-house care service, with as little outsourcing as possible to streamline their residents' needs.

Prices announced in autumn 2023

wallacealiving.com

Q&A: 'Retirement living is all about giving people purpose'

Wallacea Living's co-founders Paul Morgan and Paul Coles discuss the firm's upmarket approach to later living

Lewis Berrill

Wallacea Living's debut in the later-living sector will be an integrated retirement community (IRC) opening in September 2025 at West End Gate, nestled between Paddington Basin and Little Venice in London.

Wallacea was co-founded by chief executive Paul Morgan (pictured below, left), former managing director at Audley Group, and chief investment officer Paul Coles (pictured, right), formerly of Goldman Sachs, where he created London-focused retirement community Riverstone. The firm aims to differentiate itself by offering a distinctly upmarket approach to the retirement sector.

Work is under way on its 104-apartment building, which will feature a range of one- and two-bedroom luxury apartments and two-bedroom penthouses, starting at £900,000 and going up to £3m for a penthouse.

The scheme's amenities will include a restaurant, a gym, a pool, a spa, a salon, a library, a private cinema and multifunctional private event spaces, plus an in-house care service for residents in need of additional support.

Why do you believe your approach to IRCs is different?

Coles: If we break down the ethos of the retirement living sector,

it's all about effectively giving people purpose, extending their enjoyment of life and creating good-quality life experiences later in



Debut development: Wallacea Living's West End Gate scheme

life. As you get older, you have plenty of experience and plenty of time, yet some of us get more fearful. What we want to do is create a community with deep social interaction and active bodies and minds, as the science is clear: these things help against ageing.

For example, we are creating our own business hub under which our residents can pick up one of a number of business templates to take on themselves, such as using our contacts to work with coffee producers to ensure sustainable methods of coffee production and import are undertaken, and even to demonstrate the value of the business by serving it in our communities.

How hard is it to convince people to choose later-living options?

Morgan: What you tend to find with our demographic is that

they have already given the idea some consideration. They often know they want to do something different, but they're not entirely sure what their options are.

Often, people will want to release equity for their grandchildren's education, and some of the more forward-thinking want to release it to fund a bit more of an exciting retirement, and they are the ones that we would like to get in front of, as we think we can offer that.

How is Wallacea combating the stigma surrounding later living?

Morgan: There is a stigma around the sector - certainly care homes - and one of the most important parts of our job is to ensure that there is a clear differential between what we are offering and care homes.

From day one we have intended to ensure that we are in and around the local community so we can educate people and so they understand what our lifestyle

offering is. It's purely independent living: you have your own front door, and while we do have care offerings, it's as far removed from a care home as you can think.

Something that really sets us apart and breaks down that perception of later living is the level of fun we have on offer. From day one, we will help facilitate residents' desires to enjoy their lives.

How can later living help address Britain's housing crisis?

Coles: We always hear about how 300,000 new homes are needed a year. But if you do the simple calculation of population growth against the number of new homes, you would be looking at needing about 90,000 new homes. So, why is it that 300,000 are needed? It's purely because of the decreasing size of households.

Our ageing demographic is creating a lot more one- or two-person households. Almost two thirds of the entire need of housing is driven by an ageing demographic. Building retirement living often frees up larger homes with numerous bedrooms that can trickle down to the first-time buyer.

How can planning policy support later living?

Coles: It's a major constraint for the sector, and it's not us asking for positive treatment; it's just that residential consents are very slim, far between and slow.

It's more than just a sector issue; it's a national issue. We don't have anywhere near enough planning consents coming through to free up developers to build much-needed housing - for later living or otherwise. ■

The time of your life

Giving people the time of their life during their retirement is the mantra of new London market entrant, Wallacea Living, reports **Lee Pearl**

Established by former managing directors, Paul Morgan (Audley) and Paul Coles (Goldman Sachs), Wallacea plans to open its first development in Paddington in 2025.

"Paul Coles and I had been speaking for some time about the opportunity in London," Morgan says. Coles had been part of the team that financed Bancroft Place for LifeCare Residents before leading Goldman Sachs' retirement venture, Riverstone, while Morgan spent 15 years at retirement living pioneer, Audley.

"With Paul's emphasis on the planning and development side of the business and mine from an operational perspective, we thought we had the skill set to succeed with a new venture," Morgan says. "It

"After a slow start in recent decades, integrated retirement community (IRC) operators are now increasingly targeting untapped demand and affluence in the capital."

was a great opportunity for me at a personal level. I've spoken at enough conferences about how these businesses should operate. It was time to put that to the test and try use the best practices I learnt previously and build on them or do things slightly different."

After a slow start in recent decades, integrated retirement community (IRC) operators are now increasingly targeting untapped demand and affluence in the capital. "In New Zealand you have 800,000 people over the age of 65 – 50,000 living in IRCs," Morgan says. "In London you have one million over 65s and just over 1,000 apartments."

The Wallacea founder says it was elderly Londoners' love of an active social lifestyle that made the capital ideally suited to the retirement living offering. "People in London love the atmosphere and the lifestyle and the friends they have so don't want to move out into the countryside, so we have to find opportunities within the M25," he explains. "There are different expectations in London compared to other regions and we need to make sure we meet those."

Wellbeing ethos

When asked what makes Wallacea different from its growing number of competitors, Morgan highlights its



Wallacea founder says it was elderly Londoners' love of an active social lifestyle that made the capital ideally suited to the retirement living offering.

wellbeing ethos and in-house recruitment model. "We have a real emphasis on wellbeing, where I genuinely believe a lot of people pay a lot of lip service to it, but don't have a great deal to back it up," Morgan notes.

The company has already hired care and wellbeing director Fiona Cannon, who will be fully involved in the sales process going forward with Wallacea's first marketing suite going live this month.

"Wellbeing is right at the heart of everything that we are going to do," Morgan says. "That starts from the sales process. The health and wellbeing manager will be involved in the sales



London's first integrated retirement community (IRC) development.

CARING OVERSICURE

SEPTEMBER 2023



Interior view of a modern retirement living development showing a lounge area with a fireplace and large windows.

"We will only be delivering care to people living with us; we won't be serving people outside the complex, which will allow us to concentrate on delivering a better service."

process and fully understanding our customers' needs and what they want out of the coming years. "If someone could try to get out there, we want to play a role in that. We want to help people try to achieve their real life goals. We want to make sure we have an emphasis on employment and we want people to have the time of their life as they go through their retirement."

In-house recruitment

The second key differentiator of Wallacea highlighted by Morgan was its ethos of in-house recruitment.

"Anyone who works for us will be 100% employed by us," Morgan says. "There is no franchising within any element of the business. All the people who come and join us will be recruited and trained by us, which means that anyone who lives with us can speak to any member of the team and will get straight to the right person right away." Highlighting the need for a single well-

defined team, Morgan cites a previous example of how a care team member turned one of the company's worst quality indicators around and gained its status as the care team, who in turn paid a star. As the situation evolved the help in question evolved into a team.

Demographic care

With the opening of its first site in 2025, Wallacea Living Care will be registered with the Care Quality Commission as a 24-hour demitertiary care provider.

The company intends to recruit a care manager with at least a Level 5 qualification, along with an experienced team to provide the day-to-day services.

"We will only be delivering care to people living with us; we won't be serving people outside the complex, which will allow us to concentrate on delivering a better service," Morgan notes.

"The whole ethos is to be a home for life. Our care team will be trained to deal with a range of dementia. We will have close links with dementia nurses and other specialists if people do need any more care. We don't want people having to leave us any longer than a few weeks before they find somewhere else to live as it is all. We will be able to care for them up and down the line."

Paddington development

The 15-floor Paddington site, which was purchased from Berkeley Homes, will comprise 100 care and residential apartments and a selection of professional grade from 400 to 1,000 sq ft. Facilities will include a cinema, restaurant, bar, cinema and multi-purpose function

room for exercise and activity classes. By targeting the capital's affluent over 65s, Wallacea plans to offer a wide range of social and creative activities to keep its residents mentally and physically healthy.

"There's a misconception of retirement that people should move there," Morgan says. "We disagree with that. It's only in the time we want to take advantage and have fun. When people talk about health and wellbeing there's a lot of concentration on the gym. We're not just about that. So of course people need to be healthy and physically active but it's about the whole person."

Rapid expansion

Looking ahead, Morgan reveals Wallacea plans for rapid expansion over the next decade as growth in the IRC market finally begins to accelerate following a sluggish start in the UK.

"Over 2019 the market was still fairly slow," Morgan observes. "During 2019 to 2020 we had a wave of new people picking up. The villages that had opened in the last three or four years have sold out and so have more than those in 2009 or 2011. There's a greater interest, more information out in the press and I think ABCO has done a particularly good job in showing there are retirement villages in place so there is a bit of a perception for the moment."

Morgan reveals Wallacea plans the offering "Sheldale House" in terms of sites by the end of the decade. "With its suburban growth plans, it's going to be the one to watch as the IRC market finally gets off the ground."

Q&A with Wallacea Living's co-founders: 'Retirement living is all about giving people purpose'

By **Lewis Berrill** | Wed 20 September 2023

Wallacea Living's co-founders Paul Morgan and Paul Coles discuss the firm's upmarket approach to later living.



Paul Morgan

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Paul Coles

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Later life doesn't have to be boring – I'm living proof!

Interior designer Sue Timney, 73, shares why continuously challenging herself is key to ageing happily

🕒 54 MINUTES AGO



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Later living / LIFESTYLE

Award-winning interior designer Sue Timney is creative director at new later living development Wallacea Living



THE TIME OF YOUR LATER LIFE

Retirement needn't mean slowing down, with life expectancy now longer than ever, when you downsize your home, it should be an opportunity to upsize your life, believes Sue Timney, Wallacea Living's creative director

In Marylebone, a brand-new residential complex is taking shape, one that is designed to provide an environment where residents can make later life the time of their lives. The first high-end retirement community from Wallacea Living is due to open in early 2026 and promises to offer unparalleled living spaces that embody luxury, culture, and design – environments that not only inspire but also enhance the quality of everyday life.

Luxury apartments will marry a thoughtfully curated mid-century aesthetic with practicality – think reinforced walls in the bathrooms to allow for the installation of aids if necessary, and hide and slide oven doors that help to prevent burns. And every apartment will be fitted with an emergency response system that incorporates unobtrusive movement sensors.

Meanwhile, fostering a sense of community, public spaces will include tranquil landscaped gardens, a swimming pool and spa, restaurant, private cinema, and library bar. A curated programme of inclusive events will focus on wellbeing and encourage homeowners to make the most of the freedom that retirement brings, whether that means taking up a new hobby, or indulging one they have not been able to commit enough time to previously. And the location, moments from the shops, restaurants, theatres, and many amenities of the West End, ensures residents can continue to enjoy the London life they love for as long as they are able to. Simultaneously maintaining current social networks and enjoying new ones.

Responsible for bringing this concept to life is award-winning interior designer Sue Timney, who, as creative director at Wallacea Living, has been working on plans for the development with architectural and interior design firm Jestico + Whiles. We sat down to talk about her background and her vision.





The brand new retirement village is being built in the heart of London, in Marylebone

with a wonderful group of like-minded people in the business of design excellence and luxury living in later life. The research work I do within inclusion and design for ageing shapes the way that I think about how functionality and the beauty of good design come together.

Describe your vision for how the space will look and what has inspired your plans? At Wallacea Living we are focused on good design that evokes a feeling of wellbeing. In the past, spaces that were designed for the retirement community had a tendency to feel utilitarian and patronising, we are determined that this is not the case here. Rather, we want the design to feel comfortable, welcoming and, most importantly, ageless. We have steered away from an overly hotel-like aesthetic that can lend itself to a beautiful but often neutral and bland space, instead we have focused on using tone, colour and surface textures to create a richness of design. All of which combines to create a space that people feel intrinsically happy to inhabit.

Tell us about the public spaces Our main public spaces are particularly important as it is here that we are really trying to foster a sense of community.

We have incorporated locally sourced art and artefacts into the design, to reflect how we would like to integrate with the neighbourhood and join together as a community. We hope these pieces will inspire a desire to learn new ways of thinking and making, too – something that will be reinforced by the programme of events that will run in these spaces. Pets are welcome here, and the benefits of this are enormous: the power of pets to bring people together, to enhance our lives, and to decrease stress is well proven.

We also have wonderfully quiet, contemplative spaces, too, where there will be a sense of intimate indulgence. Our library of books, for example, covers the whole range of topics from food, travel and the natural world, to art, design and biographies. The selection reflects the range of homeowners who will be living at Wallacea and the different life experiences and viewpoints they will bring to the community here. In fact, there are so many wonderful books, that I intend to put some time aside myself, to sit and read with a good cup of coffee and a slice of cake.



Facilities at the new retirement development will include a private cinema



Tell us a little about your background

After completing a degree in Fine Art at Newcastle University, I went on to do a postgraduate degree at Edinburgh University, and then a masters degree at the Royal College of Art (the RCA) in London. Whilst completing my masters, in the early eighties, I was given the opportunity to go to Japan. My time there taught me everything I know about design, interiors and working as a team. I was there on a travelling scholarship and my first client was Issey Miyake, whom I ended up consulting with for over twenty years. I learnt so much from him. Some of the other clients and designers I have worked with over the years include well-known names like Paul Smith, Sam Mendes and the McCartney family, as well as

organisations such as The British Red Cross and the WWF. The latter necessitated a different way of working, looking more at the wider world. I love the mix of challenges and thrills that have come with such a broad scope of work.

How did you come to be involved with Wallacea Living? Throughout my working life I have remained close to the RCA. I was made a visiting professor and fellow there, and I am also currently a visiting fellow of the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design at the RCA, focusing on age and diversity, which I love. It means that when I was offered the chance to become creative director at Wallacea Living, it felt like the perfect opportunity to work

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and excitement about the future.

No Thanks

I'm In!

Sum aims to create a lifestyle for this fresh and positive stage in our lives.

"Our families have grown and now it's our time to enjoy some luxury," she says.



Sue is proof that later life is fabulous

Through her work with **Wallacea Living**, where she acts as Creative Director, Sue wants to help residents find new ways of expressing themselves, surrounded by culture and creativity. Sue is nurturing this optimistic stage of our lives through luxury. "Longer lives do not mean boring lives," she implores.

At 73, Sue says that constantly challenging herself is key to thriving. "Staying active and involved in projects that bring you a sense of joy and fulfillment is essential.

interior designer

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SPLASH, shaped rug designed by Amechi Mandi for FLOOR STORY

News

DIARY DATES

8-16 MAY 2024
TASTE OF DESIGN

Various locations, UK
www.tasteofdesign.co.uk
Taste of Design is a unique series of events that sees some of the UK's finest luxury interior brands exhibiting at a selection of majestic and elegant venues. Now in its 20th year, the annual event has become known as one of the major dates in the calendar for interior design professionals and effortlessly manages to achieve the often-elusive trick of combining business with pleasure. From peaceful parks, opulent period interiors and landscaped gardens, to contemporary surroundings, the venues are some of the most spectacular that the UK has to offer.

21-23 MAY 2024
CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK

London
www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com
Clerkenwell Design Week showcases thousands of cutting-edge products for your upcoming interior design projects. The UK's leading design festival celebrates London's creative hub with more than 130 resident showrooms, over 200 exhibitors and new for 2024, 50 design destinations. Explore the world's leading design brands, undiscovered talent, specially commissioned installations, and brand activations as well as hundreds of design-led events, workshops, talks, parties, showrooms presentations and more.

14-22 SEPTEMBER 2024
LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

Various locations, London
www.londondesignfestival.com
London Design Festival is an annual event, held to celebrate and promote London as the design capital of the world and as the gateway to the international creative community. Building on London's existing design activity, their concept was to create an annual event that would promote the city's creativity, drawing in the country's greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to deliver an unmissable celebration of design.

6-9 OCTOBER 2024
DECOREX

Olympia, London
www.decorex.com
Decorex is the ultimate destination for high-end interiors and it returns in 2024 to Olympia London from the 6-9 October. It's the place to meet emerging and established interior design brands and discover unique products for your upcoming projects. Across the four days in October they will host the industry to connect with one another and be inspired by the plethora of beautiful products on show.

Design.SM has announced the retirement of co-founder Simon McCarthy, pictured with Holly Halsom, Managing Director, and Rachel Pratt, Studio Director.



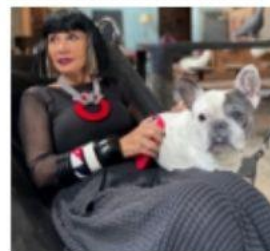
RETIREMENT OF CO-FOUNDER

Design.SM has announced the retirement of co-founder Simon McCarthy, who alongside Steve La Bouchardiere, established the company in 1988. Simon's departure marks the end of an era for Design.SM, while also signalling an exciting new chapter ahead with Holly Halsom, Managing Director, and Rachel Pratt, Studio Director, consolidating their leadership roles and joint ownership of the company. Simon and Steve founded Design.SM over three decades ago, driven by their shared passion for hospitality, creating aesthetically pleasing spaces that were renowned for being commercially successful. The company's name, Design.SM, is derived from their initials, symbolising their collaborative spirit and vision. Throughout their 36-year tenure, Simon, Steve and the wider team have garnered numerous international accolades for their outstanding work, establishing Design.SM as a leader in the industry.

Tragically, the passing of Steve in February 2023 marked a poignant moment for Design.SM. His infectious enthusiasm and kindness left an indelible mark on the hospitality industry, and his absence is deeply felt by all who knew him. Simon's contributions to Design.SM extend far beyond his experience of delivering remarkable design projects. His energy, drive, and commitment has shaped the careers of countless designers. As a mentor, Simon's guidance and wealth of knowledge has inspired his colleagues to reach new heights in their profession. Looking towards the future, Holly and Rachel, who have been integral members of the Design.SM team for years, are poised to lead the company into its next phase of growth. Both have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, and their on-going joint ownership of Design.SM underscores their dedication to honouring the legacy of Simon and Steve.

AWARD-WINNING DESIGNER APPOINTED AS CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Wallace Living has announced the appointment of Sue Timney as Creative Director, following her involvement as a Creative Consultant on the



Award-winning interior designer Sue Timney has been appointed as Creative Director of Wallace Living | Photo credit: Alex MacArthur

Integrated Retirement Community start-up's first development. In her role, Timney will spearhead the creative strategy and interior design of Wallace Living's residential and amenity spaces, further enhancing the company's commitment to creating environments that inspire and elevate the later living experience. Bringing over forty years of industry experience to the role, Timney has been, and continues to be, involved in the design for all the amenity spaces at Wallace Living's first site, including the restaurant, the cinema, the bar, the library and the multi-functional space. Working together with architectural and interior design firm Jessica + White, who are bringing her vision to life, she has already made a substantial impact on the Show Suite and Show Apartment. As Creative Director, Timney will continue to enhance the residents' aesthetic experience, whilst also working with the senior management team to help curate an exciting, inclusive cultural programme of events, for both industry leaders and customers, showcasing diverse perspectives and experiences.

Wallacea Living: Sue Timney

March 12, 2024 Social care



Sue Timney (photo credit Alex MacArthur)

Integrated retirement community start-up Wallacea Living has appointed Sue Timney as creative director, following her involvement as a creative consultant on

Home > Care Markets > People > Wallacea Living appoints Sue Timney as creative director

People

Wallacea Living appoints Sue Timney as creative director

By **Deven Parikh** 12th March 2024

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Sue Timney

Wallacea Living has appointed of Sue Timney as creative director, following her involvement as a consultant on its first development.

In her role, she will lead the creative strategy and interior design of Wallacea's residential

Wallacea Living appoints creative director

12 March 2024 People moves



Integrated retirement community start-up [Wallacea Living](#) has appointed Sue Timney as creative director, following her involvement as a creative consultant on the company's first development in central London.

Advertisement

Home > Care Markets > People > Wallacea Living appoints wellbeing manager

Care Markets People

Wallacea Living appoints wellbeing manager

By **Deven Pamban** - 5th March 2024



Darlene Mazeau

Wallacea Living has recruited Darlene Mazeau as its wellbeing manager. Mazeau began her career competing for France in athletics in long-jump and sprinting between 2009...



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Retired athlete appointed as wellbeing manager at Wallacea Living

Integrated Retirement Community Wallacea Living has announced the appointment of its new Wellbeing Manager, Darlene Mazeau.

By **Gemma Lloyd** March 6, 2024



Integrated Retirement Community Wallacea Living has announced the appointment of its new Wellbeing Manager, Darlene Mazeau.

Mazeau will oversee all wellbeing and health initiatives in line with Wallacea Living's mission to create an elevated living environment and community for those in their later years.

Mazeau brings a wealth of experience with her, along with a strong commitment to promote good physical and mental health.

She began her career as an athlete competing internationally in long-jump and sprinting between 2009 and 2018. She says this experience has played a huge part in inspiring her to go on to focus on holistic wellbeing.

Mazeau acquires a unique knowledge on sport and nutrition which is believed to be invaluable to the role.

After retiring as an athlete, Mazeau worked as an occupational health trainer at TP Health where she worked with organisations such as the NHS, Amazon, and the Science and Technology Facilities Council. She then gained further experience as a project manager, a

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Retired sprinter appointed at Wallacea Living

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Why Care Is An Incredible Vocation

By Fionna Cannon, Care & Wellbeing Director at Wallacea Living (www.wallacealiving.com)



One of the questions I am often asked in my role is, what makes a good carer? And the answer is really very simple – ultimately its somebody that you would want to look after your own family.

It's a job that can be challenging and rewarding in equal measure, but for me, it has been an overwhelmingly fulfilling vocation throughout my working life. It's a job that has people at its heart, and requires solid communication and listening skills, along with buckets of empathy and passion. Above all else, it requires someone with the right character and attitude, because the truth is, skills can be learnt and developed, but attitude is more inherent.

TACKLING THE SHORTAGE OF CARE WORKERS

Despite care being such a rewarding career path, the UK is today facing a severe shortage of carers. The industry body Skills for Care revealed that, in the year to

March 2022, there were 1.79 million posts in adult social care, of which a staggering 165,000 were unfilled, an increase of 52 per cent on the previous year.

This deficit of carers is one of the reasons why we see hospitals overloaded with patients, ready to be discharged, but unable to leave due to insufficient support and care available to them. It's a problem that continues to hinder the NHS, but that needs to be resolved if we're ever to cut hospital wait times and improve the health care system. Integrated Retirement Communities offer a real solution to owners who need rehabilitation, with on-site care available to support residents in their homes, enabling them to leave hospital quicker and providing tailored support to suit their needs.

ENCOURAGING MORE PEOPLE INTO THE CARE PROFESSION

In order to attract more workers into care, we must start with recruitment and encouraging potential carers in the right way by giving them something back. It's not just about money (although this is undoubtedly a big consideration), but it's also about the way in which carers are managed and supported in their role. This could be as simple as regular check-ins with their manager and wider team to offer on their workload and

any challenges that arise. But it's also important to provide pathways for training and development to support their career progression, whether that's skills in health and social care or to achieve a managerial position. This is about a concerted effort to keep people in the profession and prevent a high turnover of staff.

FOSTERING A SUPPORTIVE WORKPLACE CULTURE

Building and nurturing the right workplace culture is a vital part of employee retention, and arguably none more so than within care. This is a job that often requires many hours spent on the road, visiting patients in their homes and ultimately working alone. Without a solid system of support, it can be a lonely job with carers often feeling under-valued and unsupported in the work they do.

Years ago, carers would be required to go to the office every week to collect their rota and talk with their colleagues, sharing experiences and advice and having the opportunity to discuss any problems they faced or issues that had arisen. However, as the world has moved online, the vast majority of carers now receive their rotas online and as a result no longer go to the office regularly, meaning they are missing out on invaluable face time with colleagues and managers. No longer feeling part of a team, their sense of belonging and camaraderie erodes, so that when they have a particularly difficult day at work, they feel isolated, anxious and experience low self-esteem. And the tragedy is, all this can ultimately result in them deciding to leave the profession. Far too many carers are now providing care, yet not receiving the care they need from their work.

INTRODUCING A ONE-TEAM APPROACH

At Wallacea Living, we will be delivering care on site by our dedicated team of carers, all of whom are employed directly by us. This one team approach will enable seamless communication between our carers, so that they can best support the owners who require care, while also building a strong and supportive team culture. They will spend their working days visiting owners on site, meaning they will have ample opportunities to offer advice to one another when needed, being part of a network of colleagues to share experiences with. Sometimes it's as simple as that morning hello, or afternoon coffee break, just to enhance team morale and camaraderie.

Throughout my career I have always felt a strong sense of fulfilment from the work I do. With such a great need for more carers to join the profession, it's vital that we provide the right support, training and working environment from which to nurture the next generation of carers. Only then will we begin to resolve so many of the challenges facing the UK's health and social care system.



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Wallacea Living now ARCO approved

Integrated Retirement Community (IRC) operator Wallacea Living has reached a key milestone ahead of an early 2026 Marylebone launch, securing ARCO (The Associated Retirement Community Operators) Approved Operator status.

Sally Ireland, director of Legal and Compliance at ARCO, noted: 'It is the first time that we will be recommending an operator whose first scheme is not yet open, marking a major step in Wallacea Living's commitment to the highest industry standards.'

ARCO is the main body representing the UK's Integrated Retirement Community sector. The ARCO Approved Operator status places Wallacea Living among a select group of organisations in the sector committed to delivering an outstanding customer experience, a promise that's underpinned by the highest professional and ethical standards.

The news follows a rigorous and independent assessment that concludes that Wallacea Living has, months prior to opening, met all requirements of the ARCO Consumer Code, a comprehensive set of standards designed to ensure transparency, fairness and best practice in the operation of retirement communities.

The ARCO Consumer Code covers every aspect of a customer's journey, from marketing and sales through to ongoing operations, including complaints handling, resident satisfaction and staff training. Passing the assessment means Wallacea Living has demonstrated that it has all the systems, facilities, service, processes and safeguarding in place to deliver the highest level of service and transparency to welcome incoming owners.

'We are setting the benchmark for the best-in-class communities in London', commented Paul Morgan, CEO of Wallacea Living. 'To be recognised before our first community even opens is a powerful validation of the exemplary quality of our operations, and testament to the dedication of our management and day-to-day teams. It reassures our future owners and their families that they can buy with confidence, knowing our communities will operate with integrity, transparency and care at every stage of their journey with us.'

Located between Little Venice and Paddington Basin in Marylebone, Wallacea Living is delivering thoughtfully designed luxury apartments for residents over the age of 65, supported by an exceptional range of on-site amenities.

www.wallacealiving.com

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Wallacea Living shakes up leadership team with new appointment to debut Marylebone community

Zoltan Zolyomi joins Wallacea Living following seven years with Audley Villages

By Stephen Hall July 21, 2025



Wallacea Living has appointed Zoltan Zolyomi as general manager of its debut Integrated Retirement Community (IRC) in Marylebone, London, ahead of opening to homeowners early next year

Bringing more than 15 years' experience across retirement living and luxury hospitality, Zolyomi has 'an exceptional understanding of how to create enriching, high-quality integrated retirement community that balances five-star service with genuine community spirit,' according to Wallacea.

Zolyomi joins Wallacea Living following seven years with Audley Villages, where he held multiple GM roles across the South of England. His early career with Luxury Hotels The Celtic Collection, including a tenure at the renowned Celtic Manor Resort, has provided a strong foundation in five-star guest experience, something he said he's keen to embed across every aspect of life at Wallacea Living.



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For a hospitality world that welcomes everyone

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Zoltan Zolyomi, General Manager of Wallacea Living

Bringing more than 15 years' experience across retirement living and luxury hospitality, Zoltan has an exceptional understanding of how to create an enriching, high-quality integrated retirement community that balances five-star service with genuine community spirit.

Zoltan joins Wallacea Living following seven years with Audley Villages, where he held multiple General Manager roles across the South of England. His early career at luxury hotel group, The Celtic Collection, included a tenure at the renowned Celtic Manor Resort, which provided a strong foundation for five-star guest experience, something he's keen to embed across every aspect of life at Wallacea Living.

Commenting on his appointment, Zoltan said:

"What truly sets Wallacea Living apart is our foundation in warmth and hospitality," said Zoltan. "We're building more than just a place to live, we're creating a dynamic, inclusive community that offers luxury with warmth, and independence with connection."



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Wallacea Living appoints Zoltan Zolyomi as general manager

By Deven L'Amber - 11th July 2025



Zoltan Zolyomi

Wallacea Living has appointed Zoltan Zolyomi as general manager of its integrated retirement community in Marylebone, London, ahead of its opening early next year. Bringing more than 15 years' experience across retirement living and hospitality, Zolyomi joins following seven years with Audley Villages, where he held general manager roles across the south of England. His...

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Wallacea Living appoints executives to sales and marketing team

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From left: Georgina Hardy and Karolina Harvey

Integrated Retirement Community operator [Wallacea Living](#) has appointed Karolina Harvey as head of sales.

Harvey has nearly a decade's experience in the senior living and wider property sectors and previously worked as a sales manager at Audley Villages for four years. She has also worked at LifeCare Residences, Catalyst Housing Association and Churchill Retirement Living.

Harvey said: "Having worked in the senior living sector more than a decade, I have seen what works well. The approach taken by Wallacea Living, placing the emphasis on proactive wellbeing and community, really aligns with my own beliefs on how we can make a positive difference to older people's lifestyles, so they maintain independence and still enjoy the freedom that later life brings.

"I'm very much looking forward to working for Wallacea Living, a company that looks at later living in a unique way; we're using the extensive knowledge and experience of the entire team to put forward a really attractive offering for the over 65s."

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Care Markets People

Wallacea Living strengthens sales and marketing team

By Deven Pamban - 11th August 2025



Georgina Hardy (left) and Karolina Harvey

Wallacea Living has bolstered its sales and marketing team with two senior appointments. Karolina Harvey joins as head of sales, having previously worked as a sales manager at Audley Villages for four years. With nearly a decade's experience in the senior living and wider property sectors, she has also worked at LifeCare Residences, Catalyst Housing...

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Wallacea Living: Karolina Harvey and Georgina Hardy

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Georgina Hardy (left) and Karolina Harvey

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