

NEW HORIZON

Built with low-tech techniques and a low profile, Chile's Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa nevertheless brings high style to a remarkable setting

PHOTOGRAPHY: CRISTOBAL PALMA WRITER: RAINBOW NELSON





Budding Charles Darwins will love this 'pre-historic fossil' drawn up by Cazú Zegers, Rodrigo Ferrer and Roberto Benavente for a jaw-dropping spot at the end of the earth. An hour's drive from Puerto Natales in Chile's Patagonia, at the northern entrance to the Torres del Paine National Park, this new five-star hotel was designed to minimise its impact on the dramatic terrain surrounding Lake Sarmiento.

Zegers says she shaped Tierra Patagonia to resemble a fossil, and relied on local materials and low-tech building techniques used by Chilean craftsmen since the 19th century. Enshrined in the design is what Zegers describes as the 'luxury of the essential', with spectacular views of the Paine Massif distributed generously throughout the hotel's public spaces. The 40-room

resort is a welcome addition to the Purcell family's stable of impeccably designed Chilean retreats, which already includes Ski Portillo and Tierra Atacama.

Explorers returning from their daily immersion in the glacial scenery of the Torres del Paine can reward themselves in the Uma spa's outdoor Jacuzzi and indoor pool, or relax in the hotel lounges, designed, like the rooms, by Alexandra Edwards and Carolina Delpiano. All have cosy, contemporary interiors that soften Zeger's structure by using bespoke, handmade furnishings and Patagonian textiles that would surely have Darwin nodding in approval at the latest lavish contribution to hotel evolution. ✦
Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, Torres del Paine, Chile, tel: 56.2 263 0606, www.tierrapatagonia.com. Rates: four-night stay from US\$2,460 per person

THE LONG VIEW

Protecting guests from the biting southern winds, the resort's roof is formed from local lenga wood shingles and anchored to the rugged landscape by reinforced concrete clad in local stone and timber

Wallpaper*

1.



2. SCREEN GEM
Potemkine, Brussels

Housed in a former cinema lobby, the Potemkine bar features a square wall of bulbs that shows low-res versions of black and white movies. Meanwhile, a huge whale 'skeleton', created by Bonom, Brussels' most celebrated graffiti artist, hovers above the bar. Lounge chairs are upholstered in green or red leather, while the angular rosewood furniture references the 1950s work of Pierre Jeanneret at Chandigarh.

Guy Dittrich
2-4 Avenue de la Porte de Hal,
Saint Gilles, tel: 32.2 539 49 44



Photography: Filip Vanzieghem, Derryck Meneere, Jaime Navarro



1. FRENCH FANCY
Kartel, Shanghai

French designers Thomas Dariel and Benoit Arfeuillère have turned a fin-de-siècle property in Shanghai's French Concession into a louche three-storey lounge bar. The space is a dramatic mix of exposed concrete, mirrored walls, custom-made furniture and bold slashes of colour, while up on the timber-decked rooftop, views of the French Concession's roofline are framed by the distant towers of downtown Shanghai. **Daven Wu**
5th Floor, No 1 North Xiangyang Road, www.kartel.com.cn

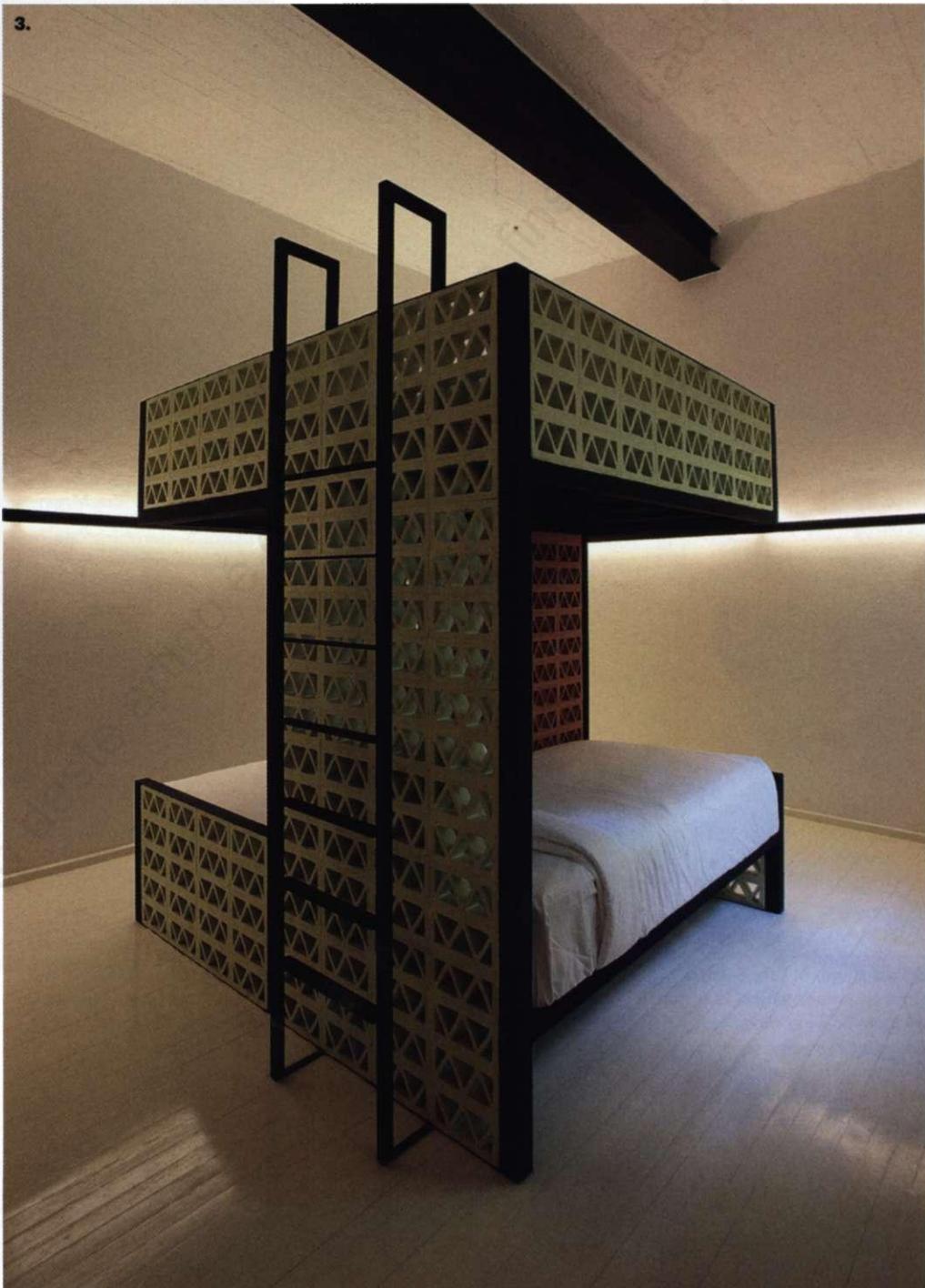


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3. MEX IT UP
Downtown, Mexico City

Located in Mexico City's historic centre, Downtown is housed in one of the few remaining 17th-century palaces. Originally known as the Palacio de los Condes de Miravalle, the hotel/hostel is a response to the lack of decent contemporary places to stay in the centre and it boasts a red, volcanic-rock facade, magnificent patios and a stone-forged staircase featuring a 1945 mural by Manuel Rodriguez Lozano. Painstakingly restored by the Habita Hotel Group and local architects Cherem Serrano, the building retains original features, such as wooden beams, ribbed ceiling vaults and

clay floor tiles, while new additions include the red-brick lattice bathroom partitions. Downtown has 11 suites with courtyard views, six master suites with street-view balconies and budget-friendly hostel beds (pictured below). It also features a rooftop bar and swimming pool, ping pong tables, a screening room, a beer garden and a restaurant serving traditional street food. **Pablo León de la Barra**
Isabel La Católica 30, Centro Histórico, tel: 1800 400 8484, www.grupohabita.mx
Rates: from \$25 per hostel bed; \$175 per room





1. FOLK FESTIVAL
Bonvino Wine Spa, Hungary

On the shores of Lake Balaton, Central Europe's largest lake, the 48-room Bonvino Wine Spa, in the Badacsony wine region, shows off the work of Hungarian interior design company Geppetto Studio. The reception desk on the upper floor is made from local oak normally used for wine barrels, and it overlooks the restaurant, where diners can look up to an installation of wine bottles suspended from the ceiling. The menu capitalises on oenophilic delights, too, with dishes

such as pear soup with wine and grilled Mangalitsa pork cutlets in a white wine sauce. Rooms are painted in a palette of white, grey and black, and feature colourful, folk art-inspired graphics. The spa, in dark volcanic stone, has an indoor pool with a Jacuzzi, a sauna and a solarium, and offers distinctive treatments such as a lava-stone massage. **Sara Henrichs** 8258 Badacsony, Park Utca 22, tel: 36.87471000, www.hotetbonvino.hu. Room rates: from €99

2. MOUNTAIN KING
Le Chalet Zannier, Megève

In the heart of one of France's most stylish alpine resorts, Arnaud Zannier's recently opened Le Chalet Zannier shows a stunning attention to detail and a feel for a curated, timeless style. Formerly the home of acclaimed chef Marc Veyrat's restaurant, La Ferme de Mon Père, the vast site has been renovated to create three alpine-style chalets, offering 12 rooms and suites, a lounge bar with an open fireplace, and a spa with a pool, a steam bath and a sauna. One of the chalets is available to rent exclusively and houses eight bedrooms, a private spa, a wine cellar and a home cinema. The remaining rooms and suites are housed in the other two chalets. A terrace, with exceptional valley views, is the perfect place for a spot of lunch or après-ski tea, while the restaurant, run by Michelin-starred French chef Julien Burlat, serves a gourmet menu devised using locally sourced, seasonal ingredients. **Marie Le Fort** 367 Route du Crêt, tel: 33.4 50 21 01 01, www.lechaletzannier.com. Room rates: from €450 (whole chalet available to rent weekly, rates on request)

3. PRETTY IN PINK
Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles

Part of the Dorchester Collection, the six-decade-old Hotel Bel-Air has recently reopened after a 24-month renovation by the Rockwell Group and Alexandra Champalimaud. Great care was taken to keep much of its originality, such as the familiar Spanish Colonial architecture splashed in 'Bel-Air Pink', while the hotel's refurbishment embodies the Golden Age of Hollywood. The new restaurant will be run by renowned chef Wolfgang Puck. **SH** 701 Stone Canyon Road, hotelbelair.com. Room rates: from \$565

