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EDITORIAL

Material world

Let's talk about the world of textures, shapes and properties that at **PORCELANOSA Group** form the primary focus of our studies, research and work... Our teams look to nature for all the wonders it offers, helping us find future solutions that respond to the challenges and needs of responsible construction. It is through this approach that our materials, perfect and inspiring, come to life – thanks to the cutting-edge technologies, talent and sensitivity of the teams behind our brands.

These materials all contribute to creating exceptional spaces: homes, offices, public areas and exteriors where environments are humanized in line with new sustainability standards.

Our materials offer a new way of working, providing custom technical solutions while also adding beauty and adaptability to the most diverse and demanding spaces, whether it be large surfaces, façades, dreamlike exteriors, high-traffic and high-wear areas or comfortable interiors. At **PORCELANOSA Group** there are no limits, only our unwavering commitment to continuing research, providing solutions and collaborating in shaping a better world.



ON THE COVER: Detail of the façade of the new Bernabéu Stadium, a powerful icon that enhances the skyline of Madrid.
Photo: Alfonso Quiroga / Real Madrid.

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Legal deposit: B-10622-2020

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CONTENTS / Number 45

8 ROYAL HOUSEHOLD / PORCELANOSA

10 NEWS ARCHITECTURE

12 NEWS TRENDS

14 PORCELANOSA AWARDS 2024

15 years of talent, excellence and future vision.

**18 INTERVIEW NICO AND WERNER
VAN DER MEULEN ARCHITECTS**

24 MORITZ RETIRO MADRID / SPAIN

Contemporary transformation.

30 CHALET HÔTEL BLYTHE LES GETS / FRANCE

Alpine-style finesse.

36 INTERVIEW LAURA CARRILLO

With sense and sensibility.

42 GARE OULLINS CENTRE LYON / FRANCE

A space at human scale.

46 VIOLA HOUSE GUANGZHOU / CHINA

Stone, light and memory.

52 INTERVIEW KRISTINA ZANIC

The power of essence.

56 VILAFRANCA HOUSE MADRID / SPAIN

Embracing the landscape.

60 CASA CDG MADRID / SPAIN

Luxury is living it.

64 MINIMALIST MODERN ASPEN / USA

A haven of modernity and tranquility.

70 VILA FOZ FIVE PORTO / PORTUGAL

Smart harmony.

76 BERNABÉU MADRID / SPAIN

A powerful icon.

80 CASA HUERTAS VALENCIA / SPAIN

Details that count.

84 PIPA AWARDS

Porcelanosa International Project Award.

92 AGENDA VALENCIA

96 SHOWROOMS

From Guangzhou to New York.

100 SPUR LINE TOLL HOUSE / CANADA

102 LA FÁBRICA / BURGOS / SPAIN

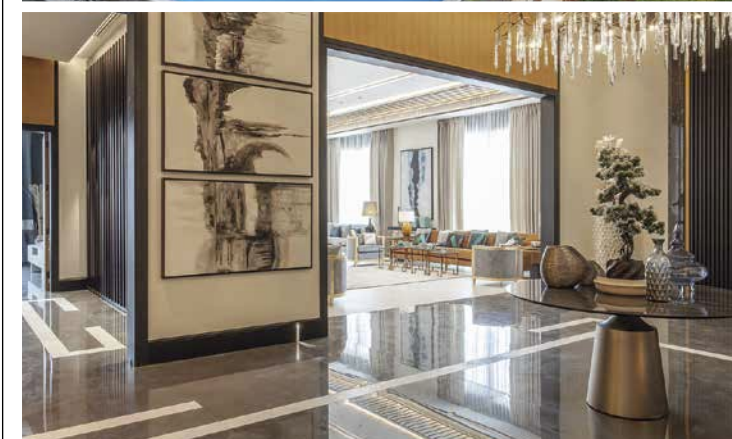
103 ISDIN / BARCELONA / SPAIN

104 DOUBLETREE BY HILTON KU'DAMM
BERLIN / GERMANY

106 TALKING ABOUT...



18



36



64



96

PORCELANOSA joins the Board of Trustees of the Princess of Girona Foundation

PORCELANOSA Group has joined the more than 80 companies and individuals that make up the Board of Trustees of the Princess of Girona Foundation, an organization that aims to promote the development of youth in Spain, and facilitate their integration into society for the benefit of all.

The Group's collaboration with the entity was made official last July, at an event held at the 33rd annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Princess of Girona Foundation, chaired by His Majesty King Felipe of Spain, which took place at the Hotel Meliá Lloret in Lloret de Mar (Girona). After the meeting and lunch with the trustees, the entourage gathered at the Costa Brava Conference Centre, where the Princess of Girona 2024 Awards ceremony took place.

PORCELANOSA Group was represented by Cristina Colonques, the company's Director of Institutional Relations and Assistant to the President. The event coincided with the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of King Felipe VI's reign, and the recent coming of age of the Foundation's honorary chair, Her Royal Highness Princess Leonor.

This collaboration will make a significant contribution to the important work carried out by the organization, for the personal and professional development of the future generations of Spain.



ABOVE: Their Majesties the King and Queen, and Their Royal Highnesses Princess Leonor and Infanta Sofia with the winners of the Princess of Girona Awards.

LEFT: Cristina Colonques (Director of Institutional Relations and Assistant to the President of PORCELANOSA Group), José María Álvarez-Pallete (CEO of Telefónica), José Creuheras (chairman of Atresmedia) and Josep Oliu (chairman of Banco Sabadell).

BELOW: photograph of the Princess of Girona Foundation trustees.

© Casa de S. M. el Rey.



Photos: Martí E. Berenguer.



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What makes the Hilton Rijeka Costabella Beach Resort & Spa truly unique is not only the opportunity to savor the menu at Nebo, where the culinary expertise of Deni Srdoč, the youngest Croatian chef to earn a Michelin star, takes center stage, but also its privileged location in Kvarner Bay, boasting 200 meters of private beach.

The resort's luxury services, and, most importantly, its ambiance of relaxation and well-being, are especially designed to elevate guests' sense of comfort and convenience. The use of materials from **PORCELANOSA Group's** companies, featuring various finishes and textures, further contribute to elevating this exclusive atmosphere.



Photos: Adolfo Ranciaro.

A new 'skin' for the Regent Hotel Hong Kong

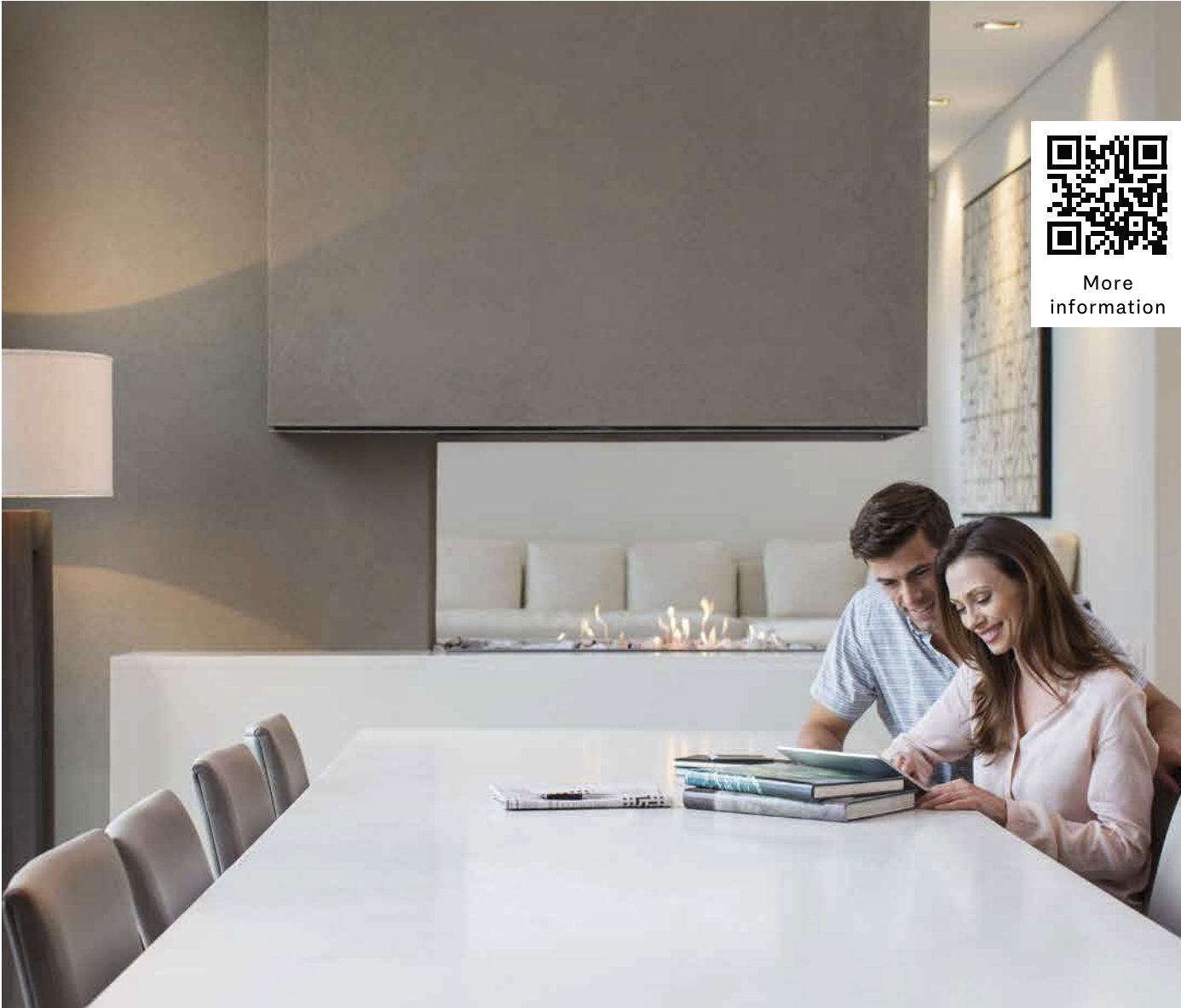
This hotel, one of the most luxurious in Hong Kong, has undergone an extensive two-year renovation project led by local designer Chi Wing Lo, with **Krion®** solid surface playing a prominent role. Both the façade and the domed roof of the main entrance are clad in this cutting-edge material. The "new" Regent, however, has also successfully managed to preserve its signature features, such as its exclusive views over Victoria Harbor and the city skyline, its exquisite interior design, and a gastronomic offering especially tailored to satisfy the most discerning palates.



Photo: Eamon M. McCormack / Getty Images.

Sumayya Vally: a voice worth listening to

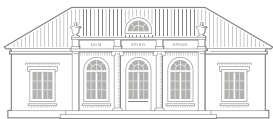
The influence of this Muslim architect, born in South Africa to a family of Indian heritage, continues to gather pace, offering a vision that stands in contrast to the typical Western perspective. The designer behind London's Serpentine Pavilion 2021 and the first Islamic Arts Biennale in Jeddah in 2024, her latest mission is Regenerate Kakuma: a project focused on creating cultural and agricultural spaces in one of the world's largest refugee camps in Kenya.



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The GEO ceramic collection showcases the color of the year

This exclusive collection from the **S-tile** range by **L'Antic Colonial** represents an artistic expression that highlights the qualities of Pantone's Color of the Year 2025: Mocha Mousse. This warm brown shade, with hints of cocoa and coffee, shimmers through ten embossed geometric patterns with a matte finish to provide a unique tactile experience. Its versatility and visual impact have earned it Interior Design Magazine's Best of Year Award in the Tile + Stone Wall Covering category.

Undora®, the epitome of beauty, practicality and sustainability

Crafted from a carefully selected range of raw materials, **Krion** new surfaces provide the ideal solution for both current and future interior design and building finishes. The brand's innovative **Undora®** panels feature highly authentic textures that are visually striking and tactile, as well as offering an almost infinite array of design possibilities. Additionally, it can also simulate the appearance of materials such as mortar, marble, natural stone, terracotta, wood and textiles. This material is the result of a comprehensive, eco-responsible R&D and in-house design process, in which aesthetics, practicality and the development of a low-environmental impact production method have been the primary focus.



An immersive experience into the origins of matter

XTONE offers an immersive experience that allows you reconnect and resonate with the beginning of everything – nature at its most essential. The goal is to emphasize the vital role that nature plays for the brand by closely replicating the original source of its materials, in an experience that will be officially unveiled at **PORCELANOSA Group** upcoming International Exhibition of Global Architecture and Interior Design. Spectators will be transported to the depths of the earth, where they will be able to interact with the technologies showcased.

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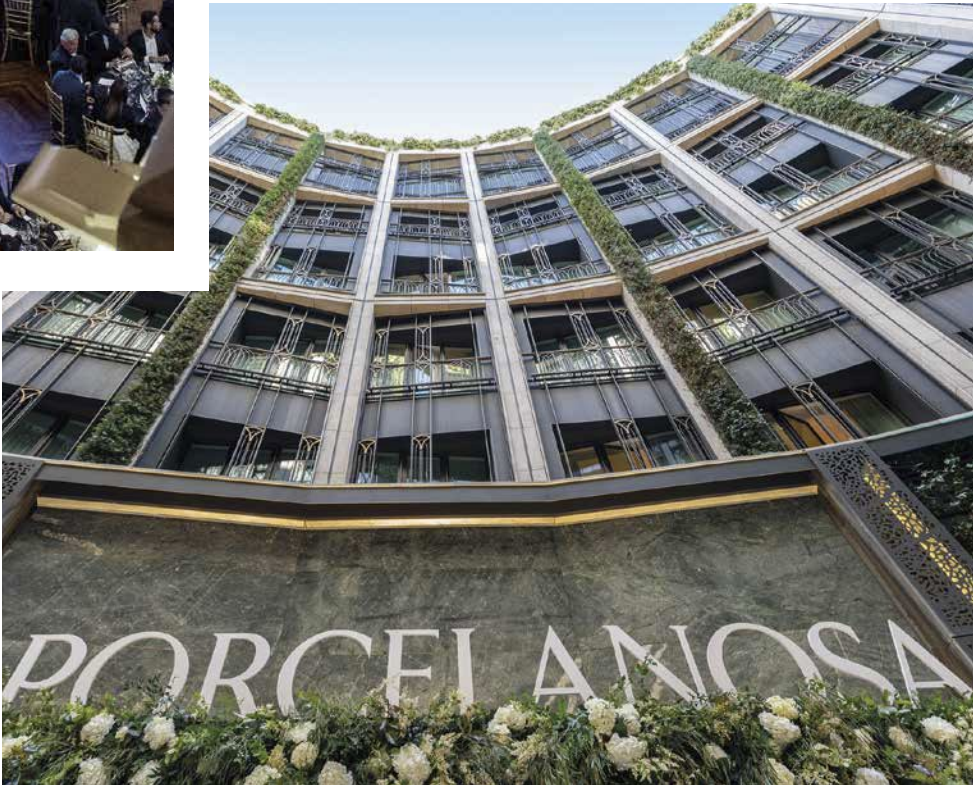


15 years of talent, excellence and vision for the future

Sometimes it's important to look back on the past, taking stock of significant events, situations, challenges, achievements and decisions. This is precisely what we aim to do with this feature, through its photos that offer a tangible flavor of the past 15 years of the **Porcelanosa Architecture, Interior Design and Property Development Awards**. There is, of course, also an intangible dimension, which shows through in the great expressions of interest, affection and spirit of collaboration of the many professionals who place their trust in us, our work and our shared values. Although it's impossible to condense these entire fifteen years into pictures, and not everyone who has shared our journey appears, in their absence they still serve as the driving force behind our pursuit for new challenges, as we excitedly prepare for the next edition – the 16th – in 2025.



Exceptional moments in refined settings. Madrid venues such as the Palacio de la Bolsa, the Rosewood Villa Magna Hotel, the Four Seasons, the Real Casino and the Mandarin Oriental Ritz have all born witness to the Porcelanosa Awards, which celebrate the work of the most outstanding architects, interior designers, developers and entrepreneurs in a sector that strives for a more beautiful and sustainable world.



15 years of talent, excellence and vision for the future



It is for them that we decided to create this feature, which also serves to announce next year's **Porcelanosa Awards** and reiterate our unwavering commitment to continue honoring the talent, effort, creativity and technological breakthroughs of all the projects and the people behind them.

- 1** Patricia Urquiola. Award 2011.
- 2** Álvaro Siza. Award 2012.
- 3** Javier Sordo Madaleno. Award 2012.
- 4** Luis Alonso and Sergi Balaguer. Award 2012.
- 5** Sir Richard Rogers. Award 2013.
- 6** Luis Vidal. Award 2013.
- 7** Eduardo Souto de Moura. Award 2014.
- 8** Rafael de La-Hoz. Award 2014.
- 9** Belén Moneo. Award 2015.
- 10** Christian Gibbon and Christos Passas, from Zaha Hadid Architects. Award 2016.
- 11** Andrés Perea. Award 2016.
- 12** Emilio Tuñón. Award 2017.
- 13** Juan Antonio Gómez Pintado. Award 2017.
- 14** Carme Pigem and Ramón Vilalta, from the RCR studio. Award 2018.
- 15** Mark Fenwick, from Fenwick Iribarren Architects. Award 2018.
- 16** Simon Kincaid, from Conran and Partners. Award 2018.
- 17** Kelly Hoppen. Award 2019.
- 18** Carlos Lamela. Award 2019.
- 19** Emma O'Neill, from the William Sofield studio. Award 2019.
- 20** Charles Renfro, from Diller Scofidio + Renfro. Award 2022.
- 21** Toyoo Itō. Award 2023.
- 22** Sir David Chipperfield. Award 2024.

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“A home becomes more than just a space when it evokes emotions and influences your mood”

The Nico van der Meulen Architects team leaves an undeniable mark of architectural excellence in South Africa. Their outstanding residential, commercial and hospitality projects seek the seamless union of form and function. Projects of great beauty adapted to structural needs. In this game of perfections, materials play a decisive role as elements that define and enhance their search for sustainable solutions, always empathetic to the environment. To do so, they have relied on brands from the **PORCELANOSA Group**.

Text: PAOLA ROCCA



SANDTON RESIDENCE. This building was conceptualised as stacked perforated boxes that intersect concrete-clad walls. The interior was designed to introduce warmth and natural tones, with **L'Antic Colonial Tortona 11 Walnut** timber in main areas. The **Porcelanosa's XLIGHT Liem Grey Polished** tiles draw the heaviness of the exterior into the rooms. **XTONE Liem Dark** screens are used to delimitate the inner spaces.
Photos: Franz Rabe.



1 PIONEER VILLA.
A private residence, offices, sports entertainment complex. The major facades are clad in marble, with porcelain tiles **Porcelanosa Bottega White** with concrete effect and **XTONE Orobico Dark**, with its polished finish.

2 KLOOF ROAD.
In this family orientated home, the use of the **XTONE Solo Black** porcelain at the countertop and dining table brings an elegant and characterful touch to the kitchen space.

3 RESIDENCE W.
A contemporary design defines the outdoor finishes, where porcelain tiles **XTONE Solo Black** and **Butan Bone** by **Porcelanosa** are combined.

Renderings: Nico van der Meulen Architects

It's been 40 years since Nico van der Meulen Architects set out its adventure. How has the world's approach to architecture and living changed in these years? And yours?

Nico van der Meulen: There have been significant changes in the world's approach to architecture and living. With advancements in technology, sustainability, and urban development, architects have embraced new ideas and techniques to create innovative, energy-efficient, and environmentally friendly spaces.

The focus has shifted towards creating spaces that promote health and well-being, foster community interaction, and reduce negative impacts on the environment.

We have been emphasizing functionality and sun control right from the start, especially in the African context where reducing heat all year round is a problem in many countries. This in itself is the basis of sustainability, and our approach has evolved to incorporate new trends and principles in our designs, still placing a strong emphasis on functionality and the use of materials and technology that minimize our carbon footprint and promote energy efficiency.

We also prioritize creating spaces that are functional, beautiful, and tailored to the needs of our clients, while considering the larger impact of our designs on the surrounding environment.

Furthermore, viable and environmentally conscious design practices can elevate a home to a higher level, showing a commitment to future generations and the well-being of the planet. Incorporating natural light, green spaces, and energy-efficient technologies can enhance the overall quality of living and make a home a truly special place.

Functionality is non-negotiable for you. But, what makes a home go beyond a living space?

Werner van der Meulen: A home becomes more than just a space when it evokes emotions and influences your mood. It should inspire, calm, and provide a refuge from the sensory overload of daily life. For us, design is about creating this emotional connection. We want our clients to walk into their homes and feel as though they've been transported into a new environment —one that excites and grounds them. If I don't feel emotionally connected to a project, I know I need to revisit the design. It's this passion that ensures our work goes beyond functionality and truly resonates with the soul of the home.

Harmonizing luxury with functionality is at the core of your ethos. How do you achieve this binomial?

Werner van der Meulen: A truly functional home

“Throughout the phases, we ensure that our clients are kept informed and involved, providing regular updates and seeking feedback to ensure that the final product is exactly what they envisioned”



is one that seamlessly integrates into your daily life, making everything feel effortless. This ease of living is the foundation of luxury—when a space feels intuitive, it frees you to enjoy its beauty and elegance. In our designs, every detail serves a purpose, but it's also crafted to elevate the experience. Luxury is not just about opulence; it's about feeling that your environment supports you in ways that make life more enjoyable. By ensuring that form always follows function, we create spaces that are both sophisticated and livable.

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”. You have cited this quote by Maya Angelou as an indelible influence in your approach to your work. Do you think architecture must attend not only the functional but also the emotional?

Nico van der Meulen: Absolutely, I believe that architecture should not only attend to the functional aspects, but also the emotional ones. Not only in your treatment of the client, but also the buildings have the power to evoke a wide range of emotions in people, from joy and awe to comfort and tranquillity. When designing a space, it is important to consider how it will make people feel and how it will impact their overall well-being. Creating a space that is not only functional, but also emotionally enriching can have a profound impact on those who experience it. Maya Angelou's quote serves as a reminder that the emotional aspect of architecture should not be overlooked, as it can

leave a lasting impression on those who interact with the built environment.

You always look for a connection, a continuity between the exterior and the interior. To that end, you founded M Square Lifestyle Design & Necessities, your interior architecture and décor divisions, in 2004. Why is this holistic design ethos important for you?

Nico van der Meulen: Our total design philosophy is important for us because we believe that there should be a seamless connection and continuity between the exterior and the interior of a building. We see architecture and interior design as interconnected elements that work together to create a unified and harmonious space.

By founding M Square Lifestyle Design & Necessities we are able to ensure that every aspect of the design process is considered and integrated seamlessly. This all-inclusive approach allows us to create spaces that not only look beautiful, but also function well and enhance the overall experience for the occupants. By paying attention to details such as materials, colors, lighting, and furniture, we can create a cohesive and well-designed space that is both visually pleasing and functional.

Collaboration lies at the heart of your design philosophy, working hand in hand with your clients to create spaces that truly serve and identify them. You aim to create bespoke luxury living. How do you achieve that?

Nico van der Meulen: Nico van der Meulen Architects and M Square follows a collaborative process that involves close communication with our clients, consultants, contractors and subcontractors throughout each stage of the design and construction process. We start by understanding our client's unique needs, preferences, and lifestyle, and work together to create a vision for their ideal living space.

We then use our expertise and creativity to design custom solutions that not only meet but exceed our client's expectations. Our team of architects, designers, and consultants pay attention to every detail, from selecting the finest materials and finishes to incorporating cutting-edge technology and sustainable design principles.

Throughout the phases, we ensure that our clients are kept informed and involved, providing regular updates and seeking feedback to ensure that the final product is exactly what they envisioned. By creating this collaborative and transparent process, we deliver truly bespoke luxury living spaces that reflect the individuality and style of our clients.

“In our collaborations with the PORCELANOSA GROUP, we work closely with their team to select materials that meet our design requirements, while also considering environmental factors”

Should architecture –and design in general– be human-centric?

Werner van der Meulen: Absolutely. Since we specialize in designing homes, our entire process revolves around creating a human-centric experience. For us, every home must be a reflection of the people who live in it. It should not only be aesthetically pleasing but also deeply functional, comfortable, and aligned with the needs and preferences of its inhabitants. Human experience drives the design—from how a space flows to how it feels. That’s why understanding the lifestyle of our clients is always at the forefront of our design process.

In your opinion, what makes a great design?

Werner van der Meulen: Great design constantly questions conventions and pushes boundaries. It honors the past while embracing the future, and it must always strive to be sustainable and inspiring. A truly great design should excite people and improve their lives in meaningful ways. It’s about finding the perfect balance—between form and function, creativity and practicality, aesthetics and usability. Thoughtful materiality is key, as is the emotional response it evokes. Just consider the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which moves people through its simplicity and depth. Ultimately, great design has a timeless quality, a positive impact on its surroundings, and an enduring sense of purpose.

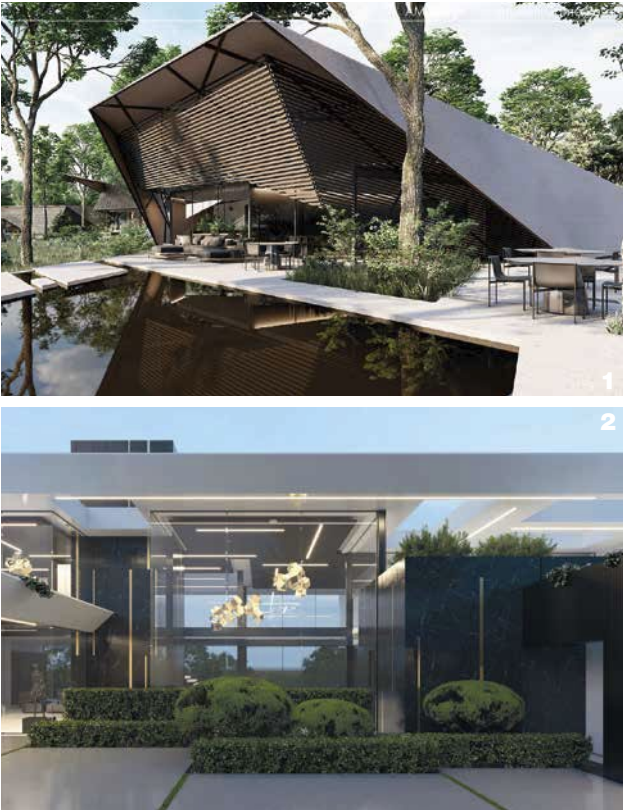
The concern for sustainability is something you share with Porcelanosa Group. How does that concern translated into the materials you choose to work with?

Nico van der Meulen: As a company that is environmentally conscious, Nico van der Meulen Architects collaborates with suppliers and partners, such as **Porcelanosa Group**, who share our values and commitment to environmentally responsible practices. When selecting materials for our projects, we prioritize choosing sustainable and eco-friendly options that minimize environmental impact, promote energy efficiency, and contribute to a healthier indoor environment.

In our collaborations with the **Porcelanosa Group**, we work closely with their team to select materials that meet our design requirements, while also considering environmental factors. We source products responsibly and this allows us to create beautiful spaces that not only look great but also contribute to a more eco-friendly built environment.

What about technology and innovation? Will AI and generative design play a key role in what’s to come?

Nico van der Meulen: Yes, AI and generative design are already transforming architecture and are expected to play a significant role in shaping its future. Generative design,



driven by AI, allows architects to input design constraints (like space, materials, and cost) and generate thousands of design iterations quickly.

AI evaluates these designs against criteria such as sustainability, structural integrity, and aesthetics, enabling architects to find optimized solutions that they might not have conceived manually. It helps architects design more energy-efficient tenable buildings. Generative design tools can analyze factors, such as sunlight exposure, wind patterns, and material performance to create structures that reduce energy consumption and enhance natural ventilation and lighting.

You have pointed Pioneer Villa –a 90-hectare secluded private estate in which you worked with PORCELANOSA Group materials– as one of the most exciting projects of your career. Why? What makes it so special?

Nico van der Meulen: This is the culmination of 40 years of innovation, functionality, passion and experience combined. Being one of the major private homes under construction globally, encompassing a 7,000 m² extraordinary home, including a 3,000 m² private clubhouse and golf course, is being built to 7 Star hotel standards and will set the standard for luxury living for many years to come. This is the kind of project that only happens once in a lifetime for an architect.

What does a project need to have for you to become passionate about it?



1 AM LODGE.
An exclusive five-star tented lodge, located near the Kruger National Park. Light steel structures were used to enclose each node, wrapped in canvas to create a primary skin. **Porcelanosa Bottega White** tiles were used, as in the outdoor pool area.

2 and 3 K RESIDENCE.
The seemingly floating roofs wrap and morph, embodying an unique character of spatial freedom in its design. **PORCELANOSA Group** provides the dark and light tile cladding with the sobriety of the most sophisticated marble **XTONE Liem Black** and the solid surface **Krion® K-Life 1100**.

Renderings: Nico van der Meulen Architects

Nico van der Meulen: Several factors come into play: A site with challenges, a client who is prepared to build something that was never done before and a brief that challenges the accepted view of a building. Often it is not the biggest or most expensive, but a project which challenges us to do the unexpected.

What projects is the firm currently working on?

Nico van der Meulen: We are busy working on many projects in several countries around the world and designed more than 4,000 buildings during the past 40 years, many of which have received international acclaim, some as far afield as the United States of America, United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Portugal, Australia, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Canada, and many African countries. The firm is known for designing many of South Africa’s most beautiful homes.

You established the firm in 1984, with your wife Santa. Two of your sons are architects and have joined you, along their wives. And the third, a sculptor, features many of his works in your houses. Has been a family business key in the success of the company?

Nico van der Meulen: The participation of the family in the business has certainly added a unique dimension to the firm’s operations. Family-run businesses often thrive because they are built on shared values, continuity, and long-term planning. Our focus on maintaining high standards of design and execution,

coupled with the personal investment of each family member, likely enhances the quality and uniqueness of the firm’s architectural projects. Together with a team of talented and enthusiastic associates, architects, designers and experienced support staff, the family run business has grown into an internationally recognized quality brand. The integration of sculpture and other art forms from the family’s creative pool has also become a distinguishing characteristic of our aesthetic.

Young, fresh talent is an appreciated asset in your firm. You are not afraid to welcome young architects on board. What do they bring to the table?

Nico van der Meulen: We have consistently emphasized the value of young talent in the practice. Our progressive approach to design and innovation is bolstered by its openness to integrating fresh architectural minds into our team. This willingness to welcome young architects is a strategic decision that allows the firm to remain at the forefront of contemporary design. Young talent brings a multitude of benefits to the table, enhancing both the creative and operational aspects. They bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, digital proficiency, enthusiasm and energy to the firm.



MORITZ RETIRO MADRID / SPAIN

Contemporary transformation

The restoration of homes in iconic buildings presents a range of challenges. In this project, Estudio Baldó has created a space that seamlessly blends respect for the past with modern functionality.

Text: PACO MARTÍNEZ Photos: ÁLEX DEL RIO

The living room enjoys an abundance of natural light. The transition to the entrance of the home is marked by columns clad in **Liem Black Polished** marble-effect porcelain from **XTONE**. The same material has been used for the back wall. The different spaces are defined by the compositions that create distinct atmospheres, using natural stone and porcelain tiles. Bespoke cuts of **Carrara White** and **Liem Black** by **Porcelanosa** are used to design the main hallway, while **Aston Classico** from **L'Antic Colonial** features in the relaxation area.



LEFT: the new design highlights the importance of flooring in creating rooms with their own identity while retaining a sense of connection.

RIGHT: the bathroom stands out for its vibrant **XLIGHT Emerald Green** front wall by **Porcelanosa**. The matte black washbasin is from the **Architect** series, and the single-lever faucet with a brushed copper finish is from the **Square** collection, both by **Noken**.



When tackling a project of this significance, "the first thing we do with the technicians is ask the client what they envision for their home: a walk-in wardrobe in the bedroom, an open-plan kitchen... Once we've ascertained this, we explore what materials we can play with". This is how Miguel Baldó, founder of Estudio Baldó, describes their approach to such an ambitious project. They were tasked with refurbishing an apartment in a historic building with a protected façade, located in one of the most prestigious areas of Madrid.

The first step in this process was to thoroughly understand the client's personality in order to define their needs and style. In this case, the client was a businessman whose work required frequent overseas travel. He was seeking a residence in Madrid that could serve as a personal refuge and base for him and his family, to spare them from having to move from hotel to hotel. Miguel Baldó and his team, composed of technical architects, architects and interior designers, along with external collaborators, began by considering how to redistribute the space, while ensuring the

SIDE: the bathroom, in line with the overall design, preserves the high ceilings using large-format **XLIGHT** flooring and wall tiles from **Porcelanosa**. The furniture, in an oak finish, is from the Icon series by **Gamadecor**. It is complemented with **Square** washbasin faucets, a wall-hung toilet, and a full shower system also from the **Square** collection.

RIGHT: the combination of **Marmol Carrara Blanco** and **Spiga Butan** porcelain wall tiles creates an exclusive and inviting shower space in a bathroom that embraces rich detail.

BELOW: **PAR-KER**® from **Porcelanosa** as flooring and **XLIGHT Emerald Green** from **Porcelanosa** as a decorative headboard in the bedroom.

OPPOSITE PAGE: **PAR-KER**® by **Porcelanosa**, laid with a herringbone pattern, brings a unique warmth to the room.



preservation of the home's abundant natural light. All the materials "had to be of the highest quality, in line with the expectations of a client with such a discerning profile. We decided to blend the existing traditional elements, like the ceiling moldings and cornices, with modern touches that were not overly minimalistic".

The team faced a significant challenge when, as they were fitting out the new living room, they discovered that the radiators were connected to the risers and could not be removed. The solution was to build columns that were clad with **XTONE**. This enabled the original radiators to be preserved, which were fitted with new controls that were subsequently aged through a stripping process in keeping with the overall aesthetic.

"I have been working with **PORCELANOSA Group** products for years. They are excellent and also very good value for money", says Miguel Baldó. For this particular project, moreover, "we also took the client to the showroom in Madrid-Alcalá so he could see and touch the materials, helping him to envision what his home was going to be like". This overall approach allowed the professionals to achieve a final result that is both classic and contemporary, with every detail carefully curated, "because that's what sets us and our work apart".



CHALET HÔTEL BLYTHE LES GETS / FRANCE

Alpine-style finesse

This boutique hotel in the French Alps reinvents the concept of 'luxury skiing', transforming the traditional ski trip into an experience that surpasses all expectations.

Text: ABRIL CANO Photos: GIOVANNA FLEMING



The sobriety of the **Karachi Grey** series by **Porcelanosa** lends an elegant and refined touch to the overall project. The large-format porcelain tiles were customized to meet the technical requirements of each space, ensuring the desired material continuity.



Just an hour's drive from Geneva International Airport and Chamonix – the gateway to the majestic Mont Blanc – the area embraced by the villages of Morzine, Avoriaz and Les Gets basks in a stunning location right at the heart of the French Alps. Here, a holiday on the slopes offers a unique opportunity to indulge in the luxurious comfort found in the area's spectacular ski chalets.

It is in Les Gets, a small Alpine commune with fewer than 1,500 inhabitants, that we discover the breathtaking new Chalet Hôtel Blythe, whose architecture and interior design were created by Shep & Kyles, a studio also known for its numerous other projects in the region.

The initial goal of the hotel was to create something entirely unique, placing the comfort and well-being of the client at the heart of the decision-making process. The first step was the meticulous selection of the location, just a two-minute walk from the ski lifts that transport visitors to the slopes. Then, as the project's interior designer Kyles Garrett explains, "we were entrusted with reinterpreting the original idea and implementing our own vision".



ABOVE: the sauna area features **Karachi Grey** flooring by **Porcelanosa** in a non-slip finish.

LEFT: the natural essence of stone takes center-stage in the bathroom cladding, providing the robustness that conceptually defines the space. The sloped ceiling with wooden beams rests on the **Baltimore** porcelain tile collection by **Porcelanosa**.

RIGHT: the swimming pool, designed as a relaxation and comfort area, stands out as one of the most striking spaces thanks to the vibrant contrasts of the **L'Antic Colonial** mosaic pool lining, set against the elegance of the walls clad in **XLIGHT Liem Dark** large-format porcelain tile by **Porcelanosa**. The flooring of the areas is also crafted from **Karachi Grey** by **Porcelanosa** in a non-slip finish, creating continuity between all the spaces.



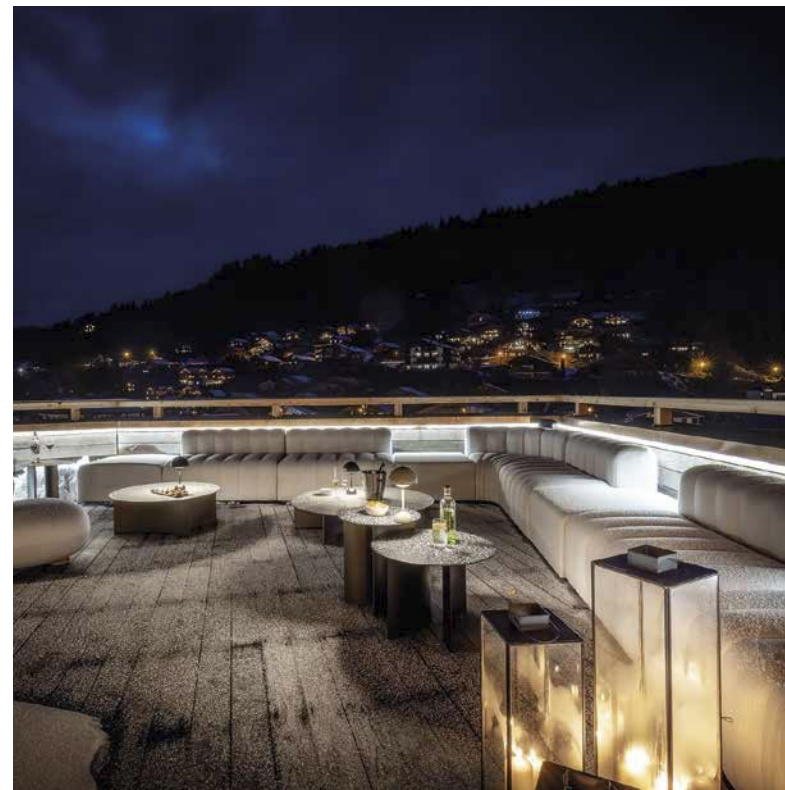


LEFT: **Fiori di Bosco** meticulously recreates the fossil effects and grey-cream tonalities of marble, in the large-format **XLIGHT** wall tiles by **Porcelanosa**. Its warm, smooth texture enhances the luminosity of the private spaces designed for relaxation.

RIGHT: the interior design proposal is completed by the metallic-oxides rendered through **XLIGHT** by **Porcelanosa**, which contribute to evoking the feel of distinct, one-of-a-kind spaces. The flooring flows seamlessly into the shower tray, crafted from **Newport** porcelain tile by **Porcelanosa**.

This vision has resulted in the creation of a building comprising 16 suites, where the organic stone and wood elements of the façade blend seamlessly with the interiors. The use of flooring, wall tiling and mosaics from **PORCELANOSA Group** companies all help to elevate the sense of exclusive comfort, both in the rooms and in the water area – which features a swimming pool, sauna and massage services, as well as a Turkish bath for relaxation and an ice room for toning muscles, all designed to aid recovery after long skiing sessions.

The chalet also offers many more features when it comes to après ski culture, such as exceptional dining services led by head chef Peter Webster, and areas where guests can mingle over cocktails. Its facilities also include cutting-edge audio and television equipment, a ski and boot storage room with boot heaters, and a car park with two electric vehicle charging points. In short, everything has been especially designed so that once you leave Chalet Hôtel Blythe, all you'll be able to think about is coming back.



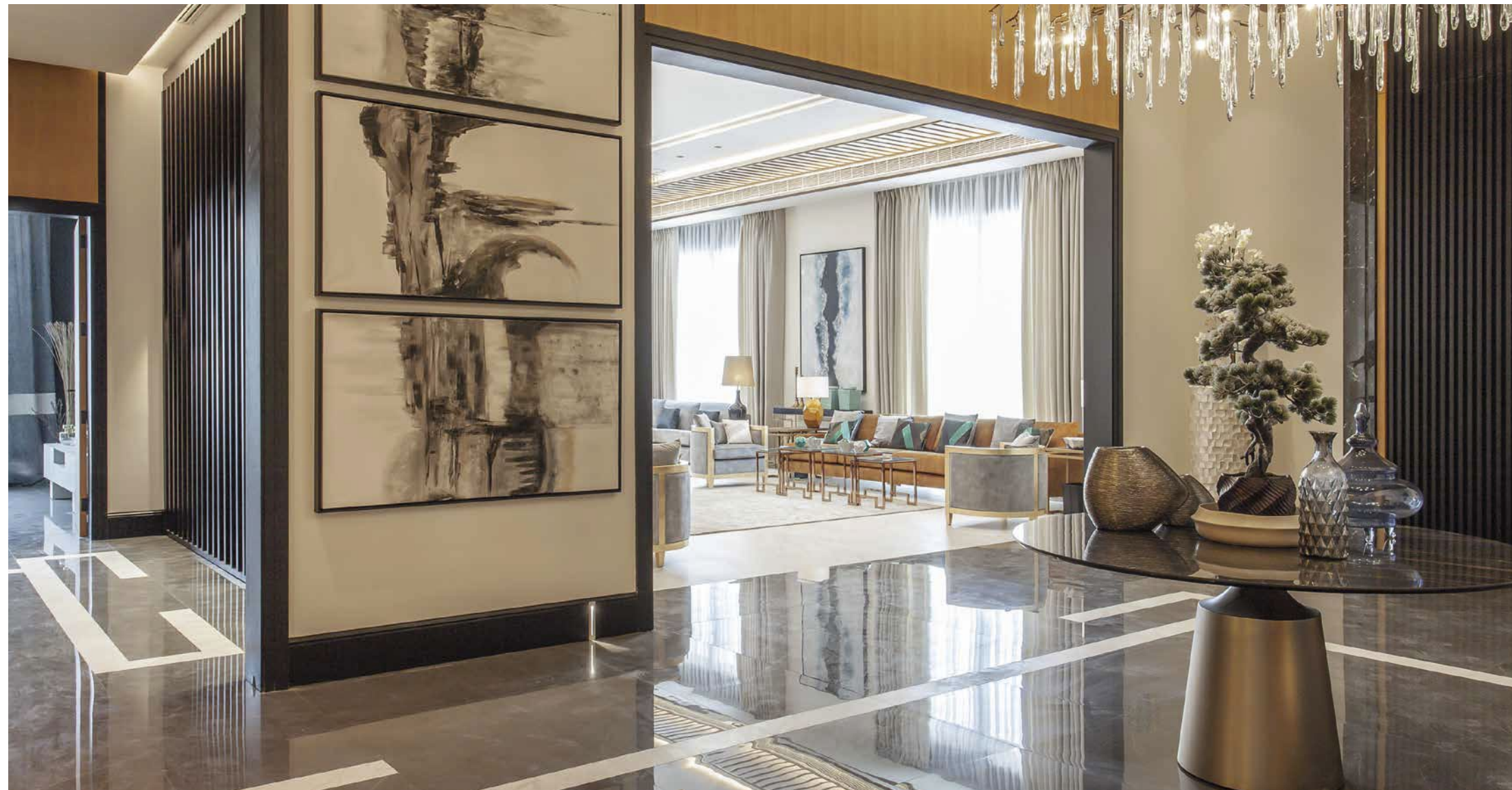


INTERVIEW **LAURA CARRILLO**

With sense and sensibility

The present and future of the prestigious Estudio Carrillo lie in the hands and vision of this professional and her unique projects – projects with soul that fuse architecture and interior design to form the core essence of her commitment and approach to enriching and giving meaning to spaces.

Text: PAOLA ROCCA **Photos:** ALFREDO EZQUERRA



ABOVE: in the spectacular staircase of this Middle Eastern mansion, the background mural has been created using a composition of bespoke cuts from various **XTONE** collections, featuring marble and onyx aesthetics such as **Glem White** and **Ars Beige**. Following this same aesthetic, the flooring is created using large-format **XLIGHT** tiles by Porcelanosa, with custom-designed decorative details from **XTONE**. **LEFT:** the reception hall combines the soberness of **XLIGHT Liem Grey** with the bright contrasts of **XLIGHT Glem White**.

Founded in 1959 and boasting projects across Europe, the Middle East and America, Estudio Carrillo is an indisputable leader in interior design. How has your approach evolved over the years when responding to new client expectations?

Society is changing, and so are lifestyles. Nowadays, clients want results that are more in tune with the human and family experience – services that go beyond the technical and formal in favor of a more intimate, everyday concept of livability that fosters human connection. That's where the role of the interior designer becomes key, as we're the essential link between the purely physical or spatial aspects and the continuity of the architecture. What's essentially changed is the designer's role, which in the past took more of a backseat because everything was reduced to basic architecture. But today, we know that creating a 360° experience in a home largely depends on the interior design. The approach now is much more holistic, and client is able to get a more satisfactory result that aligns more closely with their desired experience.

You've said before that "trends are useful but ephemeral, while personality leaves a vital and lasting imprint". Can you describe your approach and mindset when tackling a project?

Our guiding principle is always to reflect the client's personality. That's the basis of Carrillo's slogan: "unique projects, projects with soul". Trends are important but, in the end, what matters most is the personality and essence of the client inhabiting the space. When approaching a project, the first thing I always consider is the culture and

"I'm proud to say that, with PORCELANOSA Group, we've managed to achieve an outstanding result that meets the client's expectations, and great versatility in terms of the variety of materials"

context – the client's habits, and their way of life. This helps me to get a better picture of the purpose of the house: what it's going to be used for, whether it's a purely family space or will be used more socially, whether it's meant to be shared, or whether it requires some more formal and other more private spaces. My aim is for the project to be lived to the full, loved and used. It's not just a "Laura Carrillo" project for me to leave my personal stamp on. It's something that goes beyond my own professional footprint – a project that has to be enjoyed in the long-term by those who live there.

Let's talk about your project in the Middle East. How do architecture and interior design come together in such a demanding task?

That's a very interesting and significant question for me, because in projects of this kind I always strive for the architecture and design to go hand in hand. It wouldn't make any sense for me to do a major job using an aesthetic that's not in keeping with the architecture of the house. It basically boils down to a question of visual storytelling, one that's carefully thought out and technically executed, but which also allows the people living in or visiting the home to feel a sense of coherence and natural harmony.

The house stands out for its presence of beautiful and sophisticated materials. How did you go about choosing them? What was your criteria?

Before starting this project, we made several visits to **PORCELANOSA** facilities to get an in-depth sense of what would work best for each area. For jobs as demanding and on such a large scale as this one, each aspect is carefully hand-picked and previously discussed with our technical team. Part of the success of the end result lies in our thoughtful choices at this stage. We assess both the look and efficiency of the materials and their suitability for their intended use. The overall bearing of each area always goes hand in hand with the refinement and quality of the materials and, of course, we also consider how they fit into the overall budget. This is definitely one of the most time-consuming aspects of the process, because it involves balancing the client's wishes with the overall aesthetic harmony and technical consistency of the design. I'm proud to say that, together with **PORCELANOSA Group**, we've managed to achieve an outstanding result that meets the client's expectations, and great versatility in terms of the variety of materials, which all stay true to the intended atmosphere and overall aesthetic of the project.

Designing a space enables you to create a positive visual impact, but the house is still a place that needs to be lived in. How do you strike the balance between aesthetics, livability and comfort?

To achieve this, both in this project and all the others we undertake, we first need to connect with the client or individual who'll be living in the home.

My job as a professional is to strike the perfect balance when combining materials and textures. For example, you need to know exactly how to make an exclusive porcelain tile stand out in one area, while also creating the necessary



ABOVE: one of the mansion's living rooms, featuring **Persian White Pulido** natural stone flooring. The rosette is created from **Persian White Pulido**, **Kayak**, and **Buonarotti**, all from **L'Antic Colonial**. The intercalated squares in the flooring are also created from natural stone in **Nairobi Crema**, from **L'Antic Colonial**.
LEFT: wall cladding in the room with a decorative fireplace, crafted from **XLIGHT** onyxes by **Porcelanosa**. The flooring is **XLIGHT Liem Grey** by **Porcelanosa**. The main dining room features **Heritage Cognac** flooring by **Porcelanosa**, with a side finish in **XLIGHT Liem Grey**.

BESIDE THIS TEXT, RIGHT: this dressing room stands out for its exquisite onyxes, courtesy of Porcelanosa. The XLIGHT cladding transitions seamlessly with the dressing table created from XTONE, all resting on the XLIGHT Liem Grey main flooring.

BELOW: one of the bathrooms, featuring Persian White Pulido flooring by L'Antic Colonial. The wall claddings and volumes are created from bespoke cuts of XLIGHT and XTONE.

FAR RIGHT: another bathroom in this magnificent mansion, featuring XLIGHT Liem Grey flooring and Glem White cladding.



"It's essential for each professional to be surrounded by complementary experts, in order to elevate the shared project"



warmth in the rest of the space and allowing the other textures to speak for themselves. This involves everything from the combination of the wallpaper and color schemes, right down to the smallest details and accessories, so that each individual element brings maximum value to the overall whole.

Artificial intelligence has now made its way into key sectors such as architecture and interior design. What's Estudio Carrillo's attitude towards this future shift?

AI is making waves across all sectors, including architecture and design. We're learning to work with it, but by approaching it as just another tool. It's certainly a fantastic innovation, but will never be able to take the place of "soul", or the unique vision of the professional.

What are the differences between a residential project and one for a hotel or resort?

That's a very interesting question, because nowadays hotels are trying to be more relatable and they tend to create personalized spaces that give us that "home feel". Actually, the difference doesn't lie in the project's scale or format, because over my career I've also worked on homes that were big enough to be a hotel, but we always have to keep in mind the end user, and I think the distinction lies here. No matter how big it is, a home is always designed for a specific family or individual, while a hotel is made to accommodate many different people of diverse nationalities and cultures. Of course, we want them to feel as much at home as possible, but we'll never be able to tailor the project as specifically as we can for a private residence. However, this question is very pressing right now, because at the moment there's a definite trend towards turning hotels into more personalized and livable spaces, closer to the feel of a residential project.

The idea of luxury is becoming more organic and experiential. What's your approach to working with exteriors? Are the outdoors the new go-to way of "living the good life"?

In residential projects, landscaping is taking on an increasingly important role. In my opinion, just as the interior designer has now become essential for complementing the architecture, the same emphasis should be placed on the landscaping and outdoor environment, because it's integral to the final result. It's essential for each professional to be surrounded by complementary experts, in order to elevate the shared project. The outdoor spaces have definitely taken on a vital new significance today, and they're no longer a secondary aspect of the project, but a main one. The interiors and exteriors both form part of the overall experience – something that the client both needs and expects for their home. When all aspects of the project work together, the end result becomes even greater, elevating the design's overall purpose and enriching the experience of the user.

A space at human scale

Facilitating sustainable and user-friendly mobility is a priority in fostering a more human-centered lifestyle in large cities. Designed by the Atelier Schall studio, this metro station in a suburb of Lyon is a prime example of successful constructability in the design of public spaces.

Text: PACO MARTÍNEZ Photos: BENJAMIN ROY



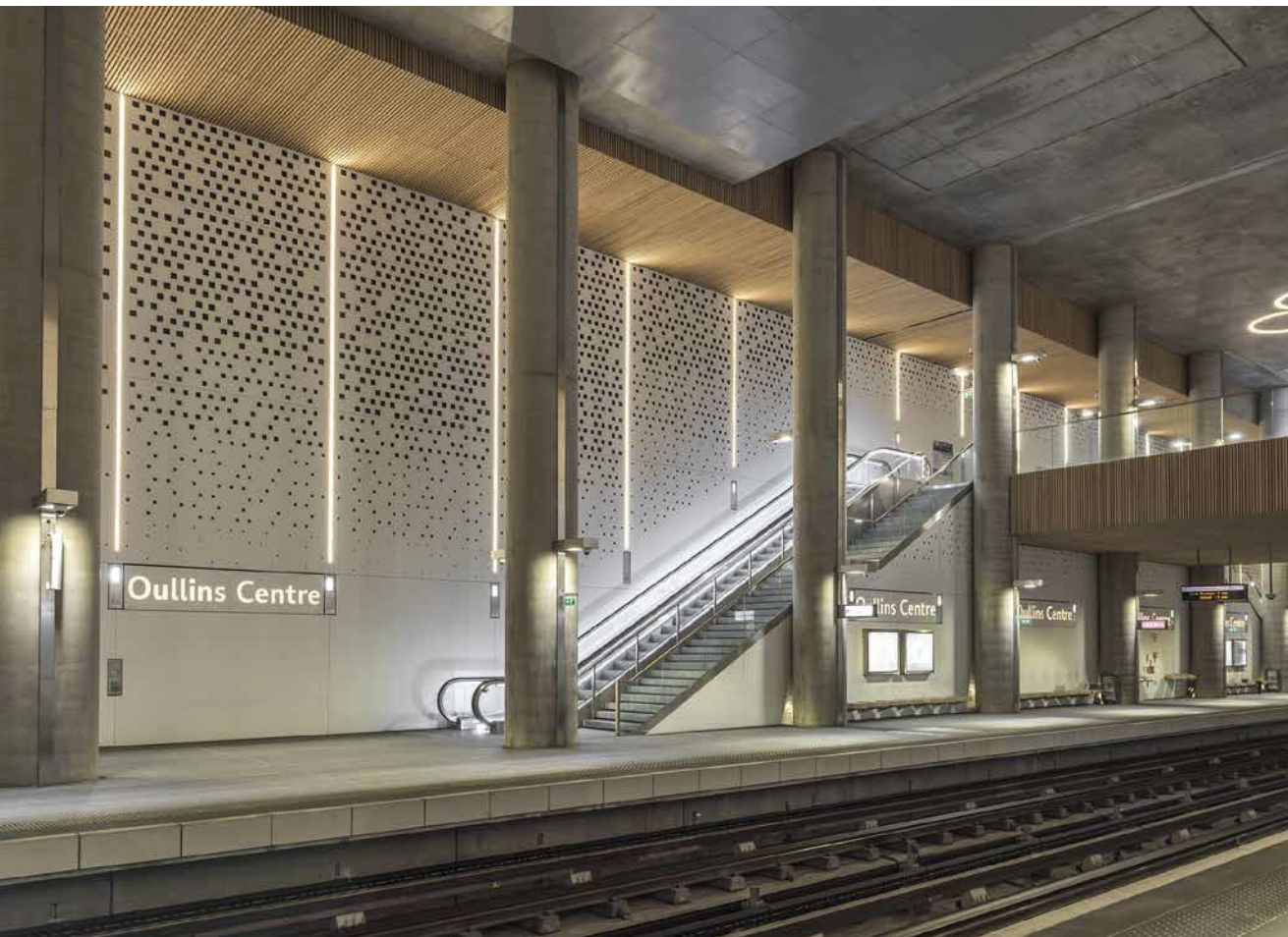
The construction of metro, train or tram stations that adhere to sustainability principles while respecting human scale presents a strategic challenge in metropolitan planning, as these terminals serve as the first daily point of contact for thousands of people with the transport network. Recognizing these needs, the French studio Atelier Schall has specialized in designing and building major infrastructure projects. For this particular commission, the aim was to "create an efficient and harmonious connection between the town center of Oullins and Lyon's public transport network, while respecting and enhancing the existing urban and landscape context", explains Audrey Lanne, one of the three architects leading the studio.

On the exterior, a dialogue has been established with the surrounding environment, centered around the church of San Martín and its square, under which the station has been built. As for the interior, the underground area is designed to be "a natural extension of the public spaces above ground". This approach has resulted in a metro station whose users enjoy a spacious, open-plan layout that is both rational and efficient.



The use of large-format, Krion® K-Life 1100 solid-surface pieces lend the station a warm, clean ambience, while showcasing the geometric lattice-effect pattern of the walls.

The combination of natural light filtering in from the vestibule with the brightness of the **Krion® Lux 1100 East Snow White** surface ensures a consistent ambience throughout the entire station, both in the entrances as well as the main atrium. The **Krion® K-FIX** ventilated façade system was used throughout the entire project.



This is achieved through generous volumes of space, and the natural light that filters in from the vestibule, softening the interior lighting. The construction is left exposed, showcasing "the refinement of the finishes, the powerful texture of the concrete structures and the softness of the materials that accompany and surround the users".

The main material used in the walls, which give the overall structure both a warm and monumental appearance, is **Krion® K-Life 1100**, by **PORCELANOSA Group**. Fire-resistant and almost non-porous, this solid surface is composed of natural minerals and a small percentage of high-strength resins. It was chosen "for its aesthetic qualities, luminosity and texture, but above all for its durability, resistance, technical performance and ease of maintenance in a particularly high-traffic public space". Its installation, which featured a geometric lattice effect, was carried out using the **Krion® K-FIX** ventilated façade system, with concealed anchoring. Although this system is typically used for exteriors, it proved to be the best solution for handling the large-format pieces. The result is an inviting, refined public space ready to accommodate thousands of people on a daily basis.

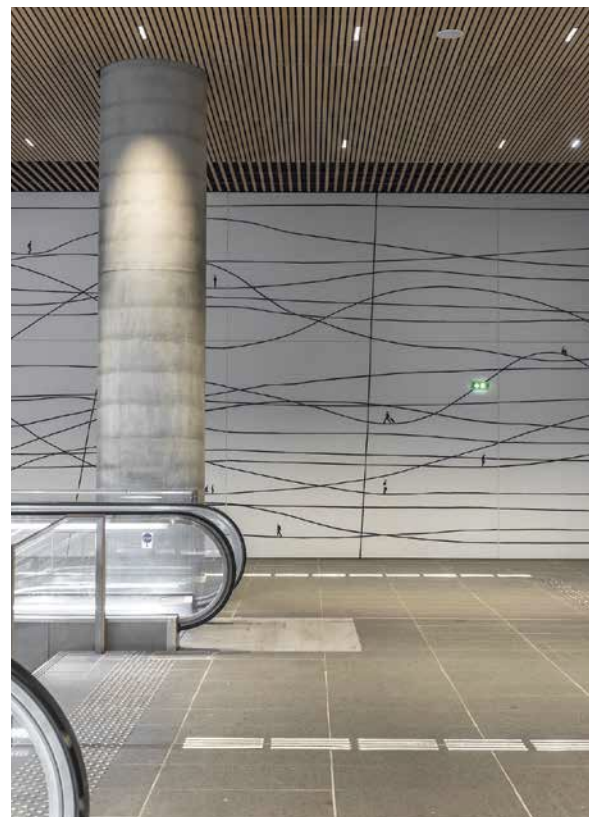


Photo: POLEY LUARD.

ATELIER SCHALL

Lucie Coursaget, Candice Picard and Audrey Lanne assumed leadership of the studio founded by Pierre Schall in 2018. Gradually, and always honoring the legacy of the values passed down by their mentor, they have infused their own unique personality into the firm's various projects. One of the studio's hallmarks is its specialization in transport infrastructures, such as metro and tram stations, cable cars and parking facilities. Some of their most notable projects include the Bibliothèque François Mitterrand metro station in Paris, the Alsace-Lorraine tram station in Nice, and the Silo multistorey car park in Haguenau.

Audrey Lanne, who in 2024 received the international Europe 40 Under 40 award which recognizes the continent's most promising architects, believes that this specialization also represents the studio's contribution to the fight against climate change: "As architects, there are various ways we can make a difference. We have chosen to focus on designing public transport infrastructures, which facilitate urban mobility for hundreds of thousands of people. Our choice of materials and installation methods is designed to ensure a certain longevity, guarantee the durability of the projects and provide a sustainable infrastructure", she explains.

Stone, light and memory

The inspiration from a childhood memory, along with the warmth and elegance evoked by marble-finish porcelain tiles illuminate this family home.

Text: IRENE REVERTE **Photos:** ELEPHANT VISION / LIN CANYU



THIS PAGE: the day area is an open space, defined by the presence of the island countertop clad in **Liem Dark Nature** made from **XTONE**, a large-format sintered compact mineral that mimics unglazed marble. This same aesthetic extends to the flooring, created using **XLIGHT** tiles by **Porcelanosa**. **Viola Blue** by **XTONE** is used as a decorative trim along the base of the columns and walls, highlighting the transition between rooms while adding a touch of elegance and sophistication.



The Chinese studio SJ Space Design was tasked with creating this home according to the specific wishes of the owners. One of the key requests was to showcase their fondness for the exquisite beauty of the **Viola** series from **XTONE**. This new collection, inspired by white marble, has perfected the aesthetic and functionality of this compact sintered mineral in pieces that respect and evoke the softness and veins of authentic Calacatta. As designer Zhang Kang explains, "the color in the bedroom is intentionally subdued to create a space that evokes tranquility. **XTONE** was used for the wall skirt, adding extra material texture while complementing the room's white tones".

Another distinguishing feature of the project is the sensation of the "little house" evoked within the home, which is "inspired by childhood memories of drawing and coloring triangular rooftops", Zhang Kang explains. This element symbolizes



ABOVE: in the living room, a large mirror framed with **Viola Blue** by **XTONE** reflects the natural light and visually opens up the space.

RIGHT: the same large-format porcelain tiles with a natural stone finish cover the columns and walls of the house, establishing a contemporary aesthetic.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: the use of **Liem Dark Nature** from **XTONE** in the kitchen and wine cellar area highlights one of the owners' most beloved corners of the home.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: in the transition area to the staircase leading to the first floor, the floor and wall coverings in **Liem Dark Nature** by **XLIGHT** contrast with the **Viola Blue** mineral compact by **XTONE**, which mimics the texture and light contrasts of marble. Its white and blue colors feature in both the wall skirt and the column, which also serves as a load-bearing wall.





the connection between the past and the present, in expressing a longing for childhood innocence. Structurally, the gable roof also serves a certain practical purpose, in reducing the effects of direct afternoon sunlight. Additionally, a skylight was installed above the living room to introduce natural overhead lighting.

Another wish of the owners, who are passionate wine enthusiasts with an impressive private collection, was fulfilled through the installation of a backlit wine cabinet in the kitchen, a feature that highlights the collection while creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere, ideal for wine tastings with friends. By blending memories of the past with the needs of the present, Viola House is a home where functionality and personalization go hand in hand to create an atmosphere conducive to peace and well-being.



THIS PAGE: the wall is clad with porcelain tiles in a natural wood finish from **XLIGHT**. For the floor, a unique geometric design was achieved using different sintered compact mineral products from **XTONE**, by creating square tiles combining **Alpi Verde Polished** with its subtle green tone, and **Aria White Nature** featuring a white marble effect. The squares are framed by **Liem Dark Nature**. The pony wall is also finished in **Alpi Verde Polished**, creating a unified effect.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: in the bathroom, **XLIGHT Aged Clay Nature** by **Porcelanosa** creates a natural stone texture.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: in this workspace, the use of **Viola Blue** by **XTONE** highlights the transition between the floor and the wall.

The power of essence

Respect for tradition, harmony with nature, and a passion for authenticity define the work of the CEO of Kristina Zanic Consultants, one of the designers who has played a pivotal role in transforming the Middle East into a new paradise for the global luxury sector.

Text: PACO MARTÍNEZ



“True luxury is all about space, the feeling of being in harmony with the environment.”



Two images of the newly opened St. Regis Red Sea Resort, located on the shores of the Red Sea, as the name suggests. The interiors were designed to enhance the creative synergy between the spaces, materials, and the evocative natural surroundings.
Photos: Jiri Lizler

Redefining luxury spaces is a challenge that has transformed Kristina Zanic and her company into true design icons. Her sensitivity, determination, and creative vision have already become the hallmark of some of the world's most stunning hotels, including the St. Regis Red Sea Resort. Kristina's sophisticated style, which shows deep respect for the landscapes and environments in which her work is set, has paved the way for a new understanding of interior spaces. She is also a globally respected lecturer, renowned for her serious and cutting-edge approach to design. This approach involves an extensive, diverse team from different cultural backgrounds, all united by a shared commitment to creative excellence.

Before settling in Dubai, you built your career in Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Thailand. Since then, your work has increasingly focused on the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. What has made this area so prominent in the global luxury development sector?

I've been involved in projects across the Middle East for nearly two decades, and I often say it's a privilege to be part of this sector. It's truly remarkable to witness the ambition, creativity and scale of development in the region. The hotel industry here continues to push the boundaries of possibility, with a relentless focus on enhancing the guest experience. Luxury was once a statement of intent, but has evolved into something more refined. The quality of hotel design, services, and breathtaking locations in the Middle East are world-class, often surpassing some of the most renowned global resorts.

Although your studio also works in the residential and corporate sectors, it's particularly sought after by major luxury hotel chains. What do luxury and exclusivity mean to you?

Hotel design is something we're passionate about; it's a diverse and dynamic sector that enables us to contribute to transforming the region into a world-class tourist destination. We're lucky enough to collaborate with some of the world's leading hotel brands, and I believe our expertise has earned us a reputation as a trusted partner.

“Design has the power to preserve narratives, traditions and history, offering new ways to reinterpret them.”

Our large, globally distributed team also allows us to be highly receptive, bringing diverse perspectives to our projects.

Defining luxury is a complex task, as it means different things to different people. Each brand has its own way of interpreting luxury for its guests. For me, true luxury is all about space – the location, the beautiful views, and the feeling of harmony with the environment. For this reason, I prefer to take a simple, authentic, and personalized approach.

What qualities do you look for in candidates who wish to join your studio's team?

Our team is a vibrant mix of nationalities and backgrounds. We have offices in five different cities, and always strive to incorporate global perspectives into our design process. It's not unusual for a single project to involve team members from three different offices, each contributing their unique experiences and perspectives.

On an individual level, I value people who are passionate, driven, and willing to go the extra mile. I look for creative minds who love what they do and are unafraid to push boundaries. Collaboration is key for us – we value team players over big egos.

For you, it's essential to respect and represent local culture and traditions, with craftsmanship as a key source of inspiration. This is reflected in projects like the Ritz-Carlton Al Wadi Resort in the United Arab Emirates, the JW Marriott Masai Mara Lodge Resort in Kenya, or the St. Regis Red Sea Resort in Saudi Arabia. Is this philosophy part of your studio's DNA?

Absolutely. I believe design has the power to preserve narratives, traditions, and history, while also offering new ways to modernize and reinterpret them. Each hospitality brand has its own unique style and vision that guides our work, but we always ensure to consider the local context. This involves drawing inspiration from the local architecture, culture and landscape, creating an authentic design that resonates with both guests and the local community. Craftsmanship is also crucial to us. In a world of mass production, discovering unique, handmade elements that add character to the design is invaluable.

In your latest project, the St. Regis Red Sea Resort, you've incorporated materials from PORCELANOSA Group companies. What led to this choice, and what do these materials bring to the project?



For St. Regis Red Sea, we chose **PORCELANOSA Group** products for their exceptional quality and diverse range. These materials integrate seamlessly with the resort's natural theme. The flowing shapes, glossy finishes, and natural tones we selected all enhance the luxurious design of the bathrooms, elevating the overall guest experience.

How will technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence, and the growing emphasis on sustainability influence the evolution of interior design?

AI is an amazing tool for the early stages of design. When brainstorming, it helps to explore different approaches and visualize ideas more clearly. One of its main advantages is the ability to create custom images for concept boards, rather than relying on existing photos from platforms like Pinterest or other websites. This allows clients to gain a clearer sense of the direction we're proposing for the project.

However, AI's role in the design process remains limited to these early stages, as much of our work still requires the human touch. It's about understanding the client, the project, and the location, and then bringing the designer's unique perspective into play – an artistic, human interpretation of how the experience should be. The main focus of our company is to keep everything as human and personalized as possible. For example, although we use design software to create images, the process often starts with hand-drawn sketches. It's a wonderful way to preserve traditional techniques and add a touch of old-world charm to modern design.

In terms of sustainability, it's remarkable how technological advances are driving the development of new materials that support green design practices. It's inspiring to see not only global suppliers of interior design materials backing these initiatives, but also local projects, who are making strides with innovative solutions.

What are your main sources of inspiration? Is it nature, your personal experiences, or perhaps the work of someone you admire?

Traveling has always been one of my greatest passions. I'm starting to lose track of all the countries I've visited! Broadening your horizons and learning about other cultures not only enriches your designs, but also the way you approach your work.

Nature is an endless source of inspiration for me, playing a crucial role in creating memorable experiences for guests, especially in resort projects.

I'm also a great art lover and enjoy collecting pieces on my travels. Each one reminds me of the places I've visited and the stories behind them, and often sparks new ideas for my design work.



ABOVE: view of a villa at the St. Regis Red Sea Resort. The interior design enhances the space's functional elegance, while also establishing a sensory dialogue with the natural beauty of the Red Sea.

LEFT: one of the hotel's rooms. The headboard is created from **Fitwall® Palm Caribbean Vertical** decorative panel by **Krion®**. The bathrooms in the rooms and suites feature floor and wall coverings by **L'Antic Colonial**.
Photos: Alex Jeffries

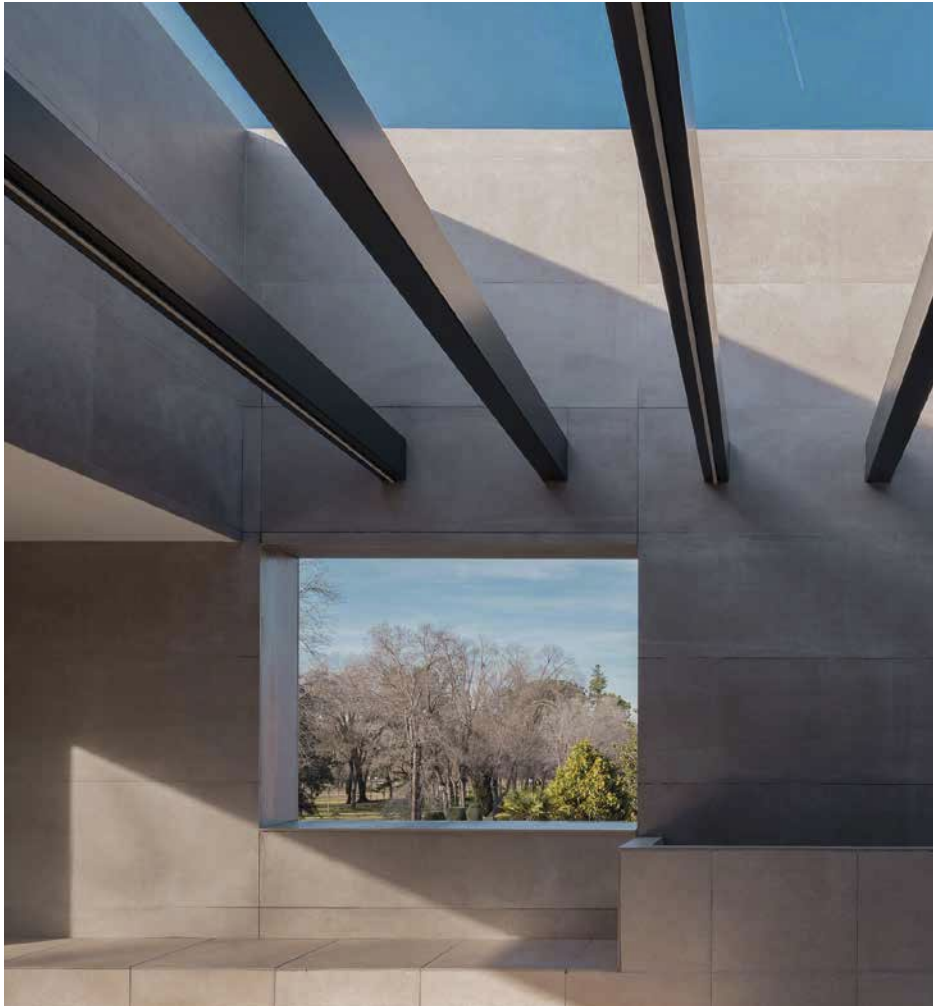
Embracing the landscape

Located in a residential neighborhood near Madrid, this house stands out for its elegant, modern architecture, which seamlessly blends with the natural surroundings while maintaining a distinct urban character.

Text: IRENE REVERTE Photos: JAVIER DE PAZ



In the private leisure area, **Porcelanosa** materials have been used to create a cohesive, dignified design. The flooring throughout the house is crafted from **Bottega Caliza** large-format porcelain tiles by **Porcelanosa**, tailored to meet every technical requirement. In the swimming pool area, the same porcelain tiles are used with a non-slip finish. Contrasting volumes define the striking façade, created using the **Boston** and **Ferroker** collections by **Porcelanosa**. The stone-like aesthetic of the upper volume contrasts with the metal oxide surface on its base and inset structure.





Located on a plot surrounded by gardens on the outskirts of Madrid, this striking 710 m² house by the OOIO Arquitectura studio is a veritable design masterpiece that seamlessly blends with its tranquil residential surroundings. Both the house and the backyard are slightly elevated, enabling the ground floor, designed to serve as the heart of family life, to open up to the outdoors, creating a fluid transition and enhancing the sense of visual openness.

The stone structure is arranged in a "C" shape, which lends character and personality to the project. This layout creates porches and terraces that seamlessly blend outdoor and indoor spaces, shielding the house from the sun and enhancing its energy efficiency. Additionally, the abundant natural light filtering through the windows reinforces the sense of comfort and well-being.

The robust and elegant architectural design is characterized by its clean lines and the use of high-quality materials, chosen not only for their aesthetic qualities but also for the sensations they evoke. Among these, the products from **PORCELANOSA Group** companies are especially prominent, both indoors, where natural and organic tones like cream, wood, blue, and green prevail, and outdoors, where these materials contribute to creating warm and sophisticated atmospheres in the open spaces. Through this overall approach, OOIO Architecture has crafted a unique experience where the art of design is celebrated within a perfect setting.



OPPOSITE PAGE: **Bottega Caliza** porcelain tiles by **Porcelanosa** have been used for the flooring throughout the interior and exterior of the house. Its shade provides continuity to the interior spaces, which are defined by abundant natural light and the presence of wooden furniture and finishes. *ABOVE:* in the main bathroom, the decorative wall tiles in **Newport Hawi Dark Gray** and **Verbier Silver**, both by **Porcelanosa**, combine with the sandy cement finish located next to the window. *LEFT:* the blue herringbone mosaic tiling is by **L'Antic Colonial**.



CASA CDG MADRID / SPAIN

Luxury is living it

The ambitious refurbishment of a villa in the exclusive neighborhood of La Moraleja has resulted in a modern, serene, elegant, and organic home, where the materials from **PORCELANOSA Group** companies play an essential role.

Text: PACO MARTÍNEZ **Photos:** ALBERTO CUBAS



ABOVE: the paving in the swimming pool area is crafted from **Bottega Caliza** by **Porcelanosa**, and has been installed using **One-flex Premium** cement-based adhesive from **Butech**.
OPPOSITE PAGE: the main staircase rests on a **Verbier Silver** porcelain platform with a stone-effect, by **Porcelanosa**. The flooring throughout the house is crafted from **Classic Chevron Natural** in an oak finish, by **L'Antic Colonial**.





ABOVE, LEFT AND CENTER: the **Classic Chevron Natural** flooring in an oak finish lends a sense of visual unity to the home. The single-lever kitchen faucet is **Round Inox**, featuring a brushed steel pull-out sprayer by **Noken**. The kitchen floor is paved with **Bottega Caliza** porcelain tiles by **Porcelanosa**.
 ABOVE, RIGHT: the feature that serves as a load-bearing wall is clad with **Airslate Graphite** by **L'Antic Colonial**.
 The flooring is crafted from **Verbier Silver**, by **Porcelanosa**.
 BELOW: the **Slim Bath** bathtub in **Krion®** rests on **Paradise Baia Stone** white mosaic tiles by **L'Antic Colonial**. The **Unique B** washbasin and countertop are from **Krion®**. All faucets are from the **Round** collection by **Noken**.
 RIGHT: wall-hung **Wave** vanity unit in misty oak, with washbasin and worktop in **Krion®**. The stone-effect ceramic tiling is **Dover Modern Caliza** by **Porcelanosa**, and the shower tray, complete with waterproofing and drain grate, is by **Butech**. For the shower and washbasin, all faucets and the thermostatic mixer are by **Noken**.



The Madrid-based studio FL-ARE, founded by Álvaro Ferrándiz and Luis Lombao, took on the ambitious project of renovating this villa, further elevating its status as a luxury single-family residence – with 1,027 m² of built space and an additional 3,000 m² of meticulously landscaped gardens – all while preserving the exclusivity of La Moraleja. Reflecting on the initial stages of the project, they recall, "we came across an old brick and tile house that required a complete overhaul". This meant undertaking a comprehensive renovation, both inside and out. "To enhance energy efficiency, we installed geothermal systems and reinforced the insulation of the façade and roof. Inside, we opened up the spaces, created diagonal sightlines, and played with the lighting to bring the space to life", they explain.

The result is, on the outside, a lush green landscape that stretches both to the edge of the pool and the base of the staircase, leading up to a building with white walls and a dark gable roof. Inside, visitors are greeted by an open-plan space, where furniture in ocher and wood tones, complemented with features clad in darker porcelain tiles, rests on the flooring chosen to cover the entire house. The oak wood finish creates an atmosphere of peace and tranquility, which the family living here will undoubtedly appreciate. The property also boasts a range of sought-after premium features, including a fireplace, a wine cellar, a gym with sauna, and a small cinema room – elements which all reflect the FL-ARE team's approach to designing a dream home.



The main living room is an invitation to enjoy the majestic landscape of the Aspen Valley, in the heart of the U.S. Rocky Mountains. In this cozy interior, the fireplace takes center stage, clad in large-format **Airslate Graphite** pieces with an elegant matte black finish. The flooring is **Supreme AC6 Michigan Clear** floating parquet with a natural wood-finish. Both materials are from **L'Antic Colonial**.

Located in the unique Aspen Valley, this home combines the legacy of the "Old West" with breathtaking views of the region's stunning landscape. Inspired by this privileged setting, its interior designer and owner created a house that seamlessly blends warmth and modernity, incorporating materials from **PORCELANOSA Group**.

Text: IRENE REVERTE **Photos:** DALLAS & HARRIS LLC

MINIMALIST MODERN ASPEN / UNITED STATES

A haven of modernity and tranquility



Basalt, a small mining town in the Aspen Valley founded in 1901, retains the essence of the "Old West" with its rich history and breathtaking views of an unparalleled natural landscape. This is the place chosen by interior designer Paul Cathers and architect Aimee Conrardy to build their property. The project was designed "with family and friends in mind, creating open spaces with defined lines, while also ensuring the feel and functionality of a true home. We maintained the light, fresh organic tones throughout the house – on the floors,

walls and cabinets", the couple explain.

The main goal was to create a welcoming atmosphere, which was achieved by balancing modernity and livability. To this end, the efficient and sophisticated materials of **PORCELANOSA Group** played an essential role. The flooring, for instance, with its natural wood finish, lends warmth to all the interior spaces. This thoughtful selection of materials, along with a preference for open-plan layouts and the careful arrangement of artwork with deep sentimental value to the owners, was



Supreme AC6 Michigan Clear laminate flooring by **L'Antic Colonial** is used throughout the day areas, creating a seamless connection between the open spaces like the living room, dining room, kitchen and transition areas. The interior designer and owner of the house selected it for its warmth and soft, organic tones, which harmonize with those of the walls, tables, armchairs and other furniture. The kitchen furnishings, from the **emotions**® collection by **Gamadecor**, enhance the natural light.

RIGHT: the master bedroom features **Supreme AC6 Michigan Clean** laminate flooring.

OPPOSITE PAGE: on the splendid terrace, a raised outdoor floor with **Riven Cream** ceramic tiles by **Butech**, in a wood finish, has been installed.

BELOW, LEFT: the floating unit in this bathroom is by **Gamadecor**. The washbasin is made of solid surface **Krion® Lux 1100 East Snow White**. The black single-lever faucet is from the **Round** collection by **Noken**.

BELOW, RIGHT: the main bathroom features a double washbasin, with **Round** single-lever faucets, and a freestanding **Arquitect** bathtub, both by **Noken**. The furniture is from **Gamadecor**. A **Pro-mate 5 Chrome** decorative profile from **Butech** adorns the window. The **Prada Acero** flooring is paired with **Spiga Prada Acero** wall tiling, both from **Porcelanosa**.



key in achieving visual harmony and a profound sense of tranquility.

To emphasize the connection between the indoors and the outdoors, the design seamlessly incorporates nature into the home. The stunning views framed by each window capture the essence of the Aspen Valley's mountains and wildlife, making them a central feature of the space.

As Paul Cathers explains, the design ultimately aimed to "invite the occupant into a sensory experience, where the simple act of contemplating the light through the windows, or listening to the rustle of the breeze moving the poplar leaves, evokes a sense of calm and stillness". "Regardless of the season, this house becomes a canvas for nature, offering unforgettable moments that celebrate the natural wonders surrounding it," he adds.

Smart harmony

A minimalist yet expressive design with a clear focus on energy efficiency, sustainability and meticulous attention to detail, bestows this home with its own unique identity.

Text: ABRIL CANO Photos: HELDER RODRIGUES - EASYPHOTO

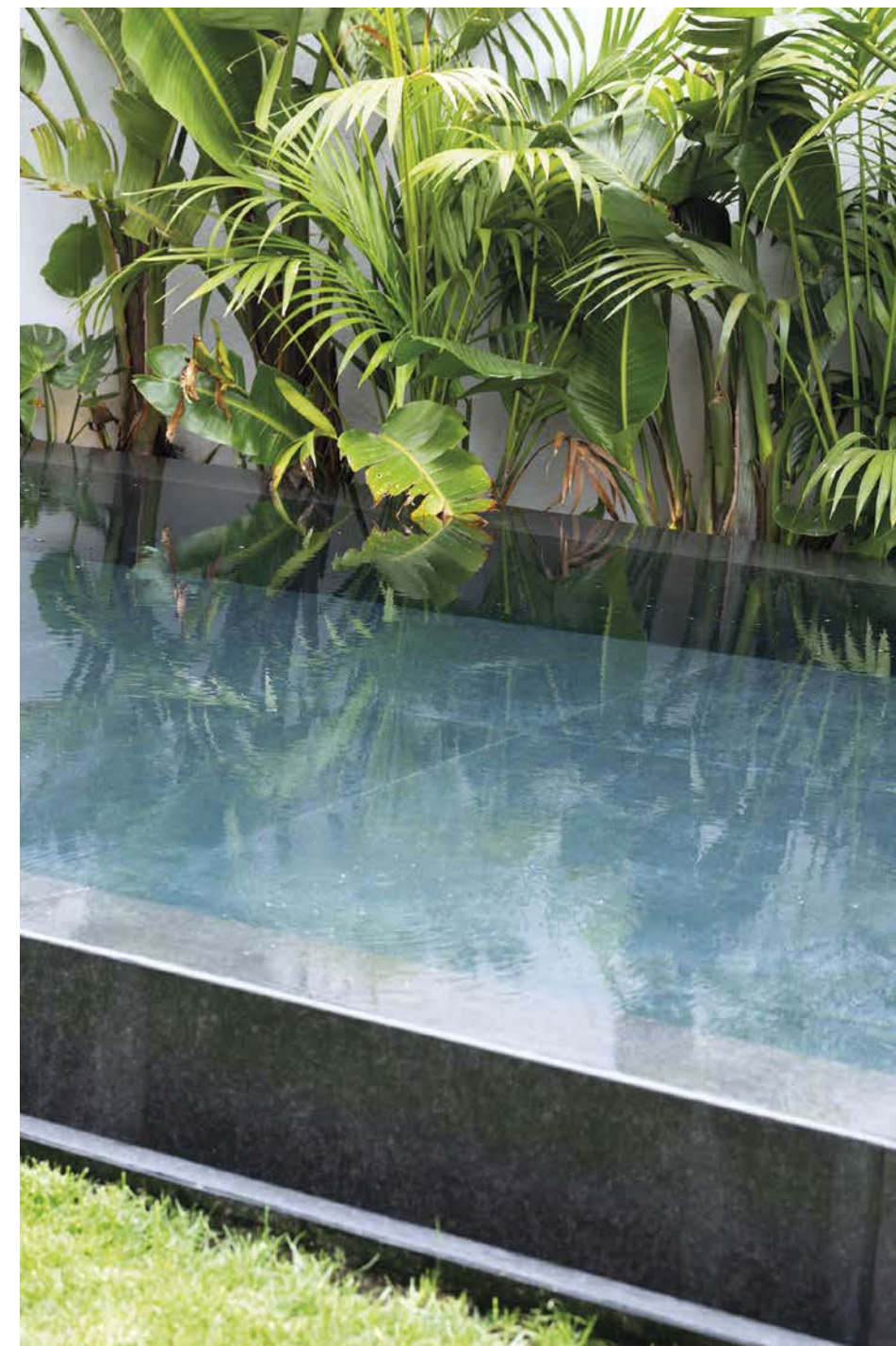
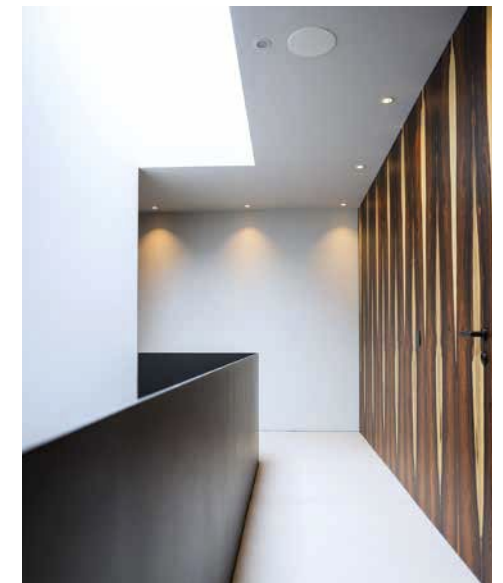


The floor-to-ceiling windows of the living room – defined by the block formed by the low tables, the large wraparound sofa and the artwork on the walls – allow the natural light to flood in, which is softened in the interiors by the warmer lighting. The flooring is crafted from **XLIGHT Stark Grey** large-format porcelain tiles by **Porcelanosa**. The chromatic contrast of the fireplace is created using **XLIGHT** in a matte black marble finish by **Porcelanosa**, which helps to divide the communal area into two distinct spaces.



For this project, the team of professionals at IDConcept, part of the Ideias Dinâmicas group, adopted a minimalist approach to form while also seeking expressiveness through the use of materials, textures and colors. The design blends the purity of its lines and volumes with the richness of its finishes, achieved through the use of natural elements. The visual and chromatic continuity of the design, along with the harmony between the details and the fluidity of the spaces, come together to create harmonious connections between the interiors and the exteriors.

At the same time, sustainability criteria have been carefully considered to minimize environmental impact. The home's construction was designed to incorporate smart energy efficiency solutions, evident in the insulation of the floors, walls, roof, window frames and glazing. The building is also equipped with photovoltaic panels and a state-of-the-art heat pump for underfloor heating. Additionally, a home automation system has been installed to control and optimize



ABOVE AND LEFT: the versatility of **XLIGHT Stark Grey** porcelain by **Porcelanosa** is showcased in the common areas, such as the staircase leading to the upper floor as well as in the more private spaces like the study and hallway leading to the bedrooms.
LEFT: the infinity pool is crafted using **Verbier Dark** by **Porcelanosa**, along with cutting-edge technical materials by **Butech**, such as the **Super-flex S2** high-performance adhesive and the new joint-sealing line **Epotech Aqua**. The paving in the relaxation area is **Bottega White** in anti-slip finish by **Porcelanosa**.



OPPOSITE PAGE: a view of the bedroom, featuring minimalist lines and **XLIGHT Stark Grey** flooring by **Porcelanosa**. In the dressing room, both the flooring and wall cladding are crafted using **Oxide Brown Nature** from the **XLIGHT** collection by **Porcelanosa**. A photo of an outdoor space showcases the use of **Paonazzo Biondo Polished** from **XLIGHT**. THIS PAGE: in the bathroom, the shower is constructed using **Imperband** polymer sheeting by **Butech**, designed for waterproofing indoor ceramic tiling and flooring. The walls are finished with **Liem Dark Nature** by **XTONE** and **Oxide Brown Nature** from the **XLIGHT** collection by **Porcelanosa**. The marble-effect front wall is made of **Paonazzo Biondo Polished** by **XLIGHT**.

the energy consumption of the irrigation system, sanitary and kitchen appliances, climate control, ventilation, air quality systems and lighting.

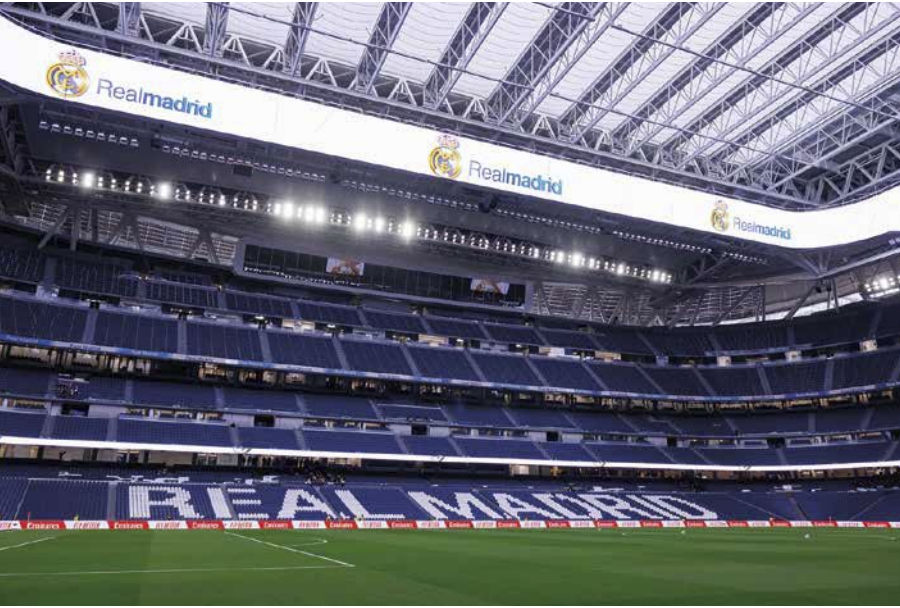
These considerations all influenced the selection of certified building materials with a low ecological footprint, such as the large-format ceramics from **Porcelanosa**, used throughout the house. The high standards of excellence required top-quality rectified finishes, with a density capable of supporting the implementation of all construction solutions. The inclusion of other products from **PORCELANOSA Group** companies, such as the brushed titanium finish in the bathroom fittings and **Noken** accessories, further enhance the design, quality and finishes essential to a home of this caliber.



A powerful icon

The extensive renovation of Real Madrid's home ground has transformed the Bernabéu into a landmark stadium whose new design goes far beyond just football. Its partnership with Porcelanosa signifies a forward-looking commitment that further enhances its already iconic presence in the city's skyline.

Photos: ALBERTO CUBAS / ANTONIO VILLALBA / ALFONSO QUIROGA / REAL MADRID.



Talking about Real Madrid and its stadium is to discuss the makings of global history. The Bernabéu has always been and still remains one of the most visited monuments in Madrid, attracting countless numbers of both national and international tourists. This fact speaks volumes about the significance of this iconic landmark, which transcends the power of sport to position itself as a social symbol with an profoundly positive impact on the Spanish capital.

The architectural approach chosen for the renovation – the result of a collaboration between GMP INTERNATIONAL GMBH, L35 Architects S.A.P., and Ribas González and Ribas Folguera, who were jointly awarded the commission through an international architecture competition – has successfully transformed the Bernabéu into an emblem of the capital. Its new cutting-edge façade serves as a distinctive feature of this public space, seamlessly integrating with its surroundings. As Tristán López Chicheri, CEO of L35 Architects puts it, “Real Madrid's new commitment to diversifying the stadium's functions aligned perfectly with our vision for urban stadiums”.

With this clear vision in mind, a host of interior renovation and finishing companies – including the Savills Real Estate Group, Construcción, 4 Retail, Proyecta Consultores de Proyectos y Obras, Acciona Cultura and Liñagar – were brought on board to assist



ABOVE AND LEFT: views of the interior and exterior of the stadium, and one of the exhibition halls.
BELOW: the versatility of **Krion® K-Life 1100**, which can be moulded into a variety of shapes, allows each element to seamlessly integrate with the overall design of the changing room, creating an atmosphere that reflects the team's identity and passion for the sport.



with the renovation. All these companies, along with the main work carried out by FCC Construcción, have played an integral role in shaping and defining the interiors of the new stadium.

For its own part, **PORCELANOSA Group**, which maintains close collaborative ties with Real Madrid, supplied high-definition technological materials for the renovation of various areas of the new stadium, including VIP zones, restaurants, dressing rooms, bathrooms, stands and priority access areas. In its capacity as an official partner of the Club, it is also essential to highlight the group's commitment to sharing significant social and professional events in spaces that go beyond just football and resonate deeply within our industry.

In this context, the new Bernabéu is indisputably a powerful icon: a dynamic meeting point and driving force for both the present and the future, and a place where “extraordinary things always happen”. Thanks to its new design, the Bernabéu now offers world-class sports, the finest national and international cuisine, breathtaking shows and corporate events among other thrilling experiences.

With a view to the future, our goal at **PORCELANOSA Group** is to continue to align our brands with this project, which has already become an integral part of the architectural, economic and sentimental landscape of the city.

RIGHT: the transition and high-traffic areas maintain aesthetic harmony with the staircases made of **Krion® K-Life 1100** solid surface, a material known for its great strength and durability. Its technical characteristics are perfectly suited to meet the demands of these areas.

BELOW THIS TEXT: the corridors and areas with high footfall maintain a continuous aesthetic, thanks to the **Vela** series by **Porcelanosa**, a large-format porcelain tile that adapts to the technical requirements of each space through the use of **Butech** laying materials and construction solutions.

BELOW, RIGHT: the **PAR-KER®** wood-effect ceramic provides continuity in this exclusive box from where to enjoy the very best views. The warmth and harmony of the space is enhanced by materials and solutions from **PORCELANOSA Group**.



LEFT: the combination of wood and **Krion® K-Life 1100** mineral compact in the VIP bar area creates the perfect balance between sophistication and innovation. The Real Madrid crest, elegantly backlit on the **Krion** surface, highlights the versatility of this material, which allows spaces to be personalized with exceptional attention to detail.



ABOVE AND LEFT: the stadium entrance tunnel, featuring **Fitwall® Rolling White Sand Vertical** wall cladding from **Krion**. The countertops and washbasins, designed to create a comfortable and modern space, incorporate clean lines and a visually appealing, easy-to-maintain finish in **Krion® K-Life 1100**. The washbasins and single-lever faucets are by **Noken**.



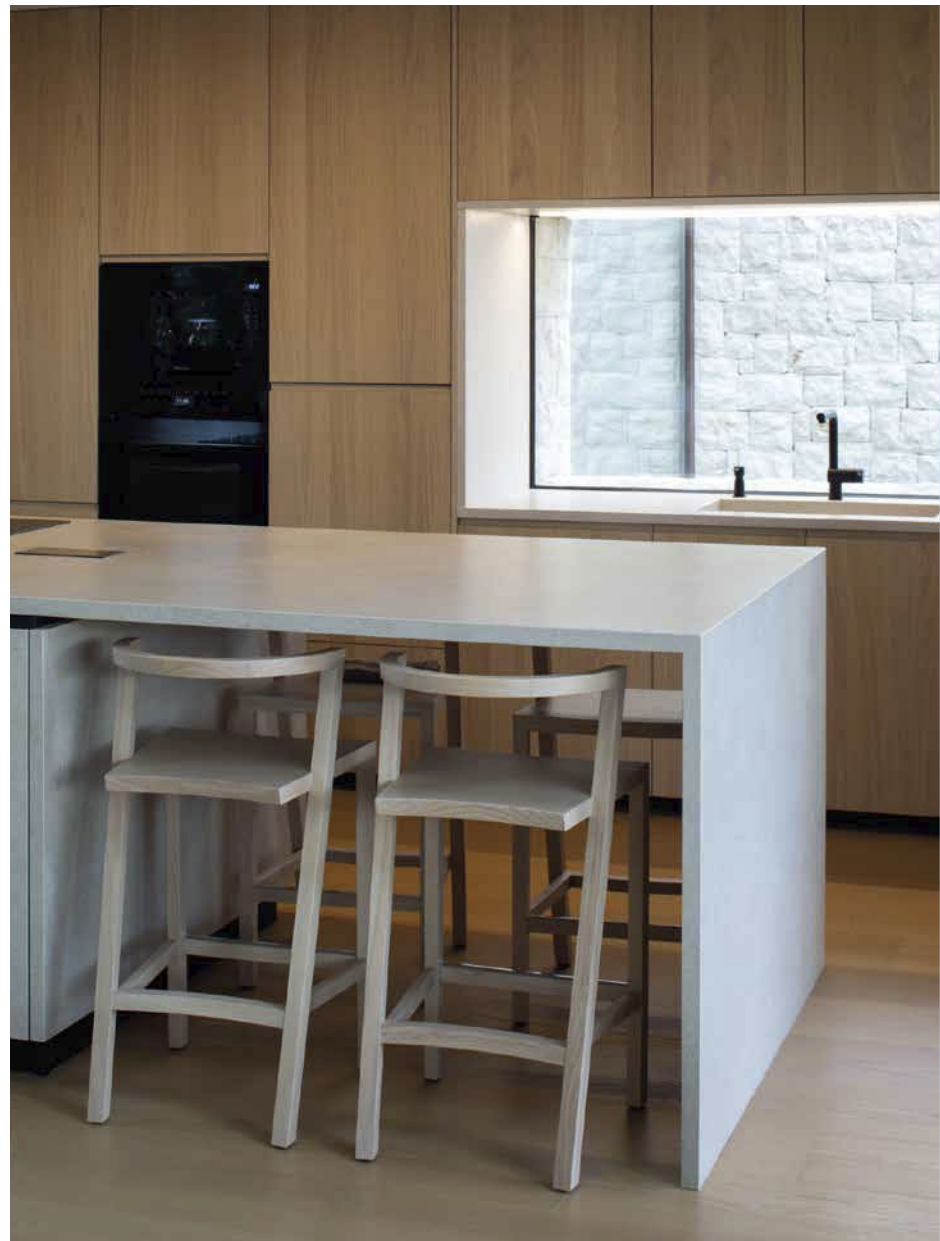
The house is divided into five volumes, each with a base of natural stone masonry and a top section made of exposed white self-compacting slatted concrete. The paving that lends continuity to the outdoor area is crafted from **Bottega Caliza** large-format porcelain tiles by **Porcelanosa**, with a non-slip finish in the pool basin and relaxation area.

CASA HUERTAS VALENCIA / SPAIN

Details that count

The distribution of spaces, chromatic and material harmony and the use of sustainable elements define this home.

Text: PACO MARTÍNEZ **Photos:** DIEGO OPAZO



“Every project begins with a fundamental idea”, says Antonio Altarriba, founder of the studio Antonio Altarriba Arquitectos. In the case of this dwelling, “to create dimension and shape the desired spaces, we divided the structure into four volumes, each serving a distinct function, yet all characterized by a base of natural stone masonry with a top of exposed white concrete”. The first and largest volume features a gently sloped roof and stands as a two-story open space, which also includes an en-suite bedroom on the first floor. The second volume houses the vertical circulation and access areas, while the third contains another en-suite bedroom. The fourth volume is dedicated to the master bedroom, which includes a large walk-in closet and bathroom. The structure is completed with a basement, housing a living room, gym-spa, service bedroom, laundry room and garage.

The home was constructed following the principles of “Earthcrafted Designs” (designs that draw from natural elements), with sustainability playing a key role. The masonry is made from recycled materials, while the formwork is also crafted from recycled wood. Bioclimatic design elements have also been carefully considered, such as the house's south-facing orientation and the incorporation of passive features like cross ventilation. These measures reduce reliance on artificial climate-control systems, enhancing both thermal comfort and indoor air quality.

Another fundamental aspect is the use of porcelain tiling, which lends the home material continuity. As Antonio Altarriba explains, “we have unleashed the full potential of this material to create a timeless atmosphere the eye will never grow tired of. It is used in an anti-

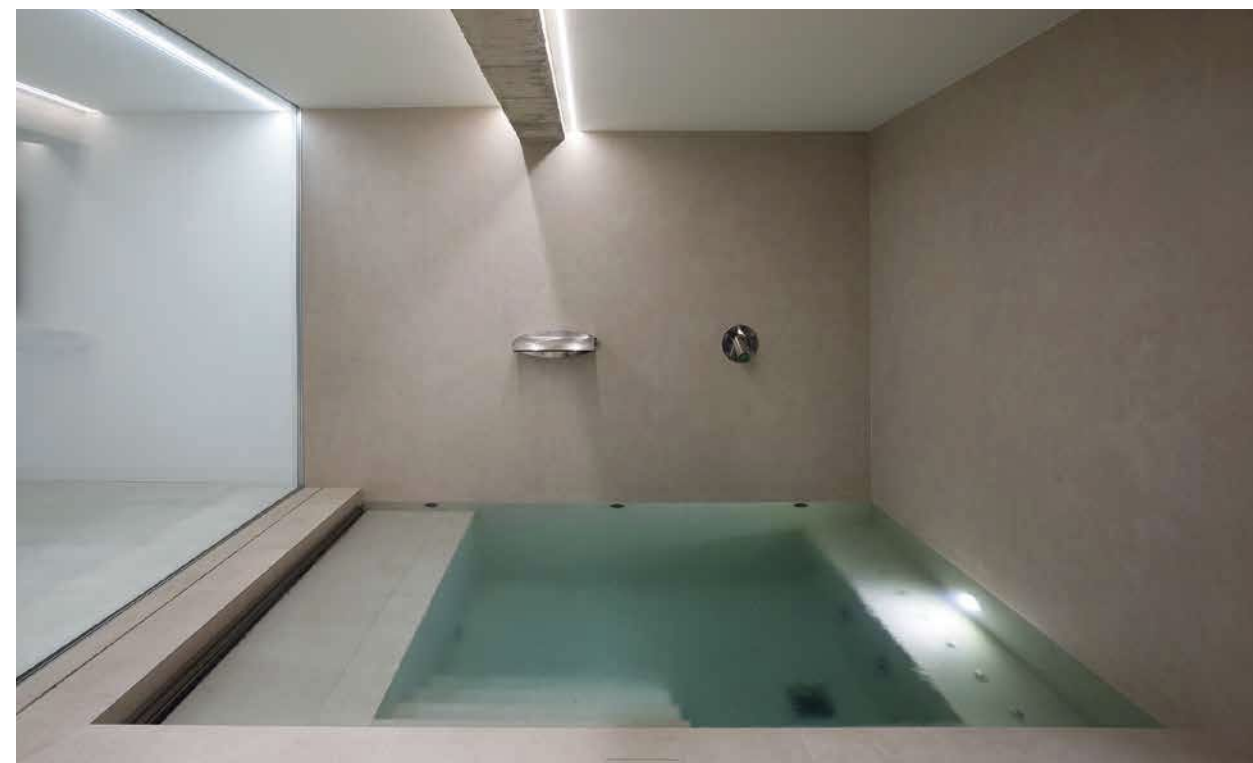
slip format in the pool area and spa, for the bathroom finishes and in the indoor pool – which allowed us to eliminate joints – and even for the kitchen island. It is also a very visually pleasing product. Its limestone finish provides chromatic harmony both outdoors and in the interiors, where, for example, we have combined it with the furniture. These are details that, just like the brushed copper finish of the bathroom fittings, doorknobs and window frames, provide soothing tones that exude tranquility. The material qualities of the porcelain have created a neutral backdrop, allowing us to work on it without altering its essence, giving each area of the home the prominence it deserves. Because when well designed and distributed, it's the spaces that make all the difference”.

ABOVE: the kitchen is fitted with units in **Roble Alba** wood veneer from the **emotions®** collection by **Gamadecor**. The spacious island countertop is made of **Bottega Caliza XTONE Nature** ceramic, a versatile and easy-to-maintain material that creates chromatic harmony with the flooring and furniture. The stools with backrests are from the **Seven** collection by **Gamadecor**.



ABOVE: the continuous coverage of the bathroom cladding is created from the **XLIGHT** series. In the shower, built using the **Standard Imperband Kit** and **Linear Ceramic** grate, both by **Butech**, **Bottega Caliza** anti-slip flooring is used. The washbasin on the wall-hung vanity in a **Roble Alba** finish by **Gamadecor** is made of **Bottega Caliza XTONE Nature**. The **Square** shower head, **Rondo N** single-lever faucet and the **Lignage** shower outlet and bracket, all in a brushed copper finish, are by **Noken**.

BELOW: the flooring and pool basin in the spa are crafted from **Bottega Caliza** by **Porcelanosa** with an anti-slip finish, while the wall cladding in the same material is provided by **XLIGHT**.





Porcelanosa International Project Award

THE MAJESTIC CASTELLO SFORZESCO IN MILAN BECAME THE EPICENTER OF CONTEMPORARY DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE DURING THE **2024 PIPA AWARDS** GALA. INVITING PROPOSALS DEVELOPED UNDER THE SLOGAN OF "EARTHCRAFTED DESIGNS", **PORCELANOSA GROUP** PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PERFECT SYMBIOSIS BETWEEN NATURE AND HUMAN CREATMITY, SELECTING FIVE OUTSTANDING PROJECTS AND TWO SPECIAL MENTIONS FROM MORE THAN 200 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED GLOBALLY. THE CEREMONY MARKED THE CULMINATION OF A WEEK THAT BEGAN AT THE **PORCELANOSA GROUP** HEADQUARTERS IN SPAIN, WHERE PARTICIPANTS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS OF RAW MATERIALS BEFORE TRAVELLING TO MILAN. IN THIS ITALIAN CITY, THE FINALISTS SHOWCASED THEIR PROJECTS AT THE **PORCELANOSA** SHOWROOM, IMPRESSING THE JURY WITH INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE PROPOSALS RICH IN NATURAL MATERIALS.



FAMILY VILLA

Architect & designer: de.fakto **Date:** 2023

Location: Trnávý Ujezd, Czech Republic **Photos:** de.fakto

Winner of the **Single-Family Residential** category, this home is located on a 4,000 m² plot on the top of a hill, seamlessly blending traditional architecture with contemporary design. Built upon the foundations of five former farmhouses, it combines a rustic aesthetic with modern functionality. The studio was recognized for its innovative approach, envisioning a smart home "as a collection of exquisite and playful innovations".

The project consists of three interconnected buildings with traditionally styled gable roofs that integrate with the rural surroundings. The façade and roof of the main villa are covered with large-format ceramic tiles arranged in an elegant parquet pattern. Inside, the space is defined by its high, sloped ceilings, especially in the bathrooms, where the wood-effect **PAR-KER® Devon Bone** porcelain tiles by **Porcelanosa** – featuring a refined matte finish and neutral tones – harmonize with the bathroom suite provided by **Noken and Krion®**. The result is a distinctive, authentic property that strikes a perfect balance between tradition and modernity.



MUSA

Architect & designer: Andrés Saavedra Design

Date: 2022 **Location:** Zihuatanejo, Mexico

Photos: Andrés Saavedra Design

The Modern Utopian Society of Adventurers (MUSA) is a large-scale project located on diligently reforested land along the coast of the Mexican state of Guerrero. This complex, winner of the **Hotels** category, boasts 13 exclusive rooms and 27 hideaways seamlessly integrated into nature, designed to foster wellness and relaxation in a sustainable and contemplative environment.

Built with neutral, natural materials, its design combines Mexican modernism with the Japanese concept of *wabi-sabi*. In the outdoor spaces, the paving consists of natural stone from **L'Antic Colonial**, that seamlessly blends with the concrete, hand-carved stone, and warm, locally sourced wood.

Its architecture is perfectly attuned to the surrounding ecosystem, to minimize environmental impact. The project also incorporates sustainable landscaping, waste management systems, and roof gardens that help to maintain a cool interior.

To enhance energy efficiency, the complex features a range of low-consumption fixtures and fittings in the kitchens and bathrooms, such as the **Tono** faucet series, the **Rondo** shower set, and the wall-hung toilet from the **Urban C** collection by **Noken**.

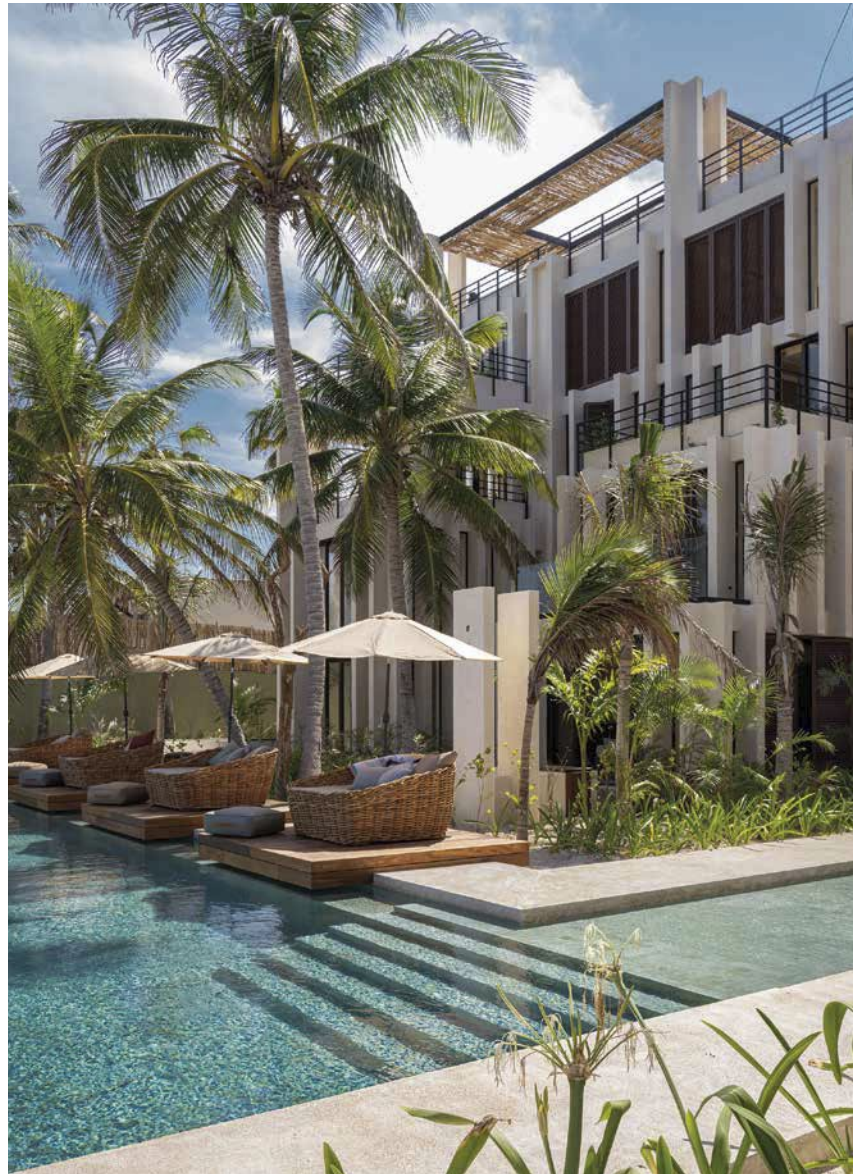
THE BESPOKE

Architect & designer: Red Wall Architecture
Date: 2023 **Location:** Tulum, Mexico
Photos: Jaime Navarro

Winner of the **Multi-Unit Residential** category, this visionary project has redefined the architecture and landscape of Tankah Bay, a Riviera Maya enclave in Tulum. Much more than just a residential and hotel complex, The Bespoke is a concept that fosters a profound dialogue with the history, culture and natural environment of the region. Located on the beachfront, this exclusive resort comprises 22 apartments spread across more than 3,800 m², blending modern architecture with native natural elements. The design is inspired by Mayan cosmology, embodying the narrative of the sacred Popol Vuh, which unites the celestial and terrestrial worldviews of the ancient Mayas. To this end, Ceibas – the sacred trees of the Mayas – symbolize the union between heaven and earth, serving as a key element of the architecture.

The layout of the complex evokes the game of Tetris, incorporating apartments of varying sizes and levels. There is also a strong emphasis on sustainability, with the use of local materials and traditional building techniques to minimize environmental impact. The project is further distinguished by its premium details, such as the faucets from **Noken Round** collection, featured in the bathrooms.

More than just a luxury development, this hotel "embodies the essence of cultural heritage, enhancing the connection between the sea and the jungle".



"PUMPA" GAS STATION

Architect & engineer: Ivan Kolář **Date:** 2022 **Location:** Prague, Czech Republic
Photos: Snímek Obrazovky

Located along a major highway in the Czech Republic, this innovative service station won the **Commercial and Public Spaces** category for "blurring the boundaries between the city and the highway and giving the gas station a civic quality". Originally conceived as a conventional gas station, the project was reimagined as an open space that connects travelers with the local community. It combines a gas station, electric vehicle charging station, and a restaurant in a multifunctional design. Inspired by automotive engineering, the project features exposed structures, glass surfaces, and wooden sunshades that allow the natural light to filter in, redefining the concept of this type of space. It also incorporates hanging plants, natural ceramics, and wood to create a relaxing atmosphere.

The wall and floor coverings are by **Porcelanosa**: the **Spiga Bottega Antracita** in a matte finish paired with the **Bottega Antracita** technical porcelain tiles, combine to create an elegant, industrial aesthetic. The bathrooms feature gray **Harlem Acero** cement-effect porcelain tiles, also in a matte finish.





Porcelanosa
International
Project
Award



THE BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Architect: VK Architects + Engineers **Designer:** Ivan Missinne
Date: 2024 **Location:** Brussels, Belgium
Photos: Aikerim Asanbekova

The strategic plan for the Brussels University Hospital, set for completion in 2030, addresses the need to expand the complex's footprint, reorganize services, and improve accessibility and visitor navigation. A major part of this plan, which won the **Façades** category, is the renovation and extension of the Medical Technical Building (MTB), in which **Butech** technical office was involved. The design focused on integrating the new structure with the existing 1970s buildings, aiming for a contemporary aesthetic with timeless architecture. Emphasizing the campus's horizontality was also a key element, to ensure visual cohesion and design integrity.

The selection of **Rodano Acero** rectified ceramic wall tiles by **Porcelanosa**, with their stone-like finish, has helped create an elegant and sophisticated façade. The black bands of the glazing contrast with the ceramic surfaces, while their layered effect is accentuated by the varying heights, adding vitality to the design. This approach establishes a seamless connection with the existing buildings, harmonizing the window heights and the variations in floor levels to form expansive, dynamic façade surfaces.



TSOOL TULUM

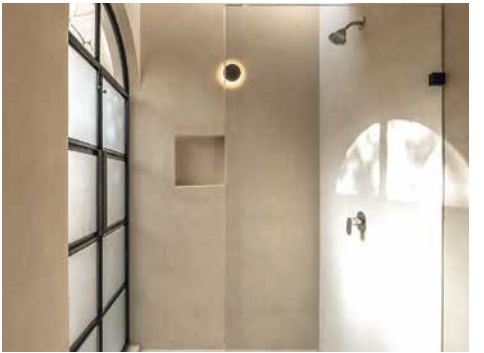
Architect & designer: Void Studio
Date: 2024 **Location:** Tulum, Mexico
Photos: Christopher Velasco

TSOOL is an exclusive boutique project located in Region 15, a new, prestigious residential neighborhood in the Mexican coastal area of Tulum, close to the beach and with easy access to the main shopping and dining establishments.

This two-story development, which received a special mention from the jury, consists of four units: two ground-floor apartments and two penthouses. Each unit features a private pool, patio or roof terrace, and independent access. The design incorporates a unified single-module structure, ensuring privacy and fostering a deep sense of well-being.

The units, ranging in size from 57 to 79 m², are designed to optimize natural light and ventilation. The interiors boast warm, earthy tones inspired by the jungle, with finishes in chukum plaster and local woods such as Jamaican dogwood and parota.

The bathrooms feature premium elements such as the **Rondo** cylindrical washbasin and **Hotels** faucets, all from **Noken**, adding elegance and functionality to the space.



UNIPOL GROUP HEADQUARTERS

Architect & designer: Mario Cucinella Architects **Date:** 2024
Location: Milan, Italy **Photos:** Duccio Malagamba

This 124-meter elliptical tower dominates the skyline of the Porta Nuova district, Milan's most vibrant urban area. Its design was informed by a comprehensive analysis of the surrounding environment, climate and social context, aiming to optimize both aesthetic appeal and functional efficiency – an approach that earned it a special mention in the **Façades** category. The entrance, striking for its glass canopy that rises upwards along the façade, leads into a spacious, light-filled central atrium that stretches all the way to the top. This atrium, along with the rooftop greenhouse and the ventilated façade system, transforms the building into a bioclimatic structure that improves energy efficiency by blocking excess sunlight and fostering natural ventilation.

The exterior façade was constructed using the **K-FIX** façade system, developed by the **Butech** façade department. The cladding comprises large-format, solid-surface panels made from **Krion®**, a high-quality, 100% recyclable compact mineral that provides both durability and uniformity.

The theme of the **2024 PIPA Awards**, "Earthcrafted Designs", is more than just a slogan – it is a philosophy that reaffirms **PORCELANOSA Group** commitment to innovation and excellence in design and architecture. This commitment celebrates projects that blend natural elements with creativity to form unique, cutting-edge spaces that address current challenges – an ethos upheld since the Awards were established in 2022.

The prize-giving ceremony offered guests and the public the chance to explore the shortlisted works in the prestigious setting of Milan's Piazza Castello: first at **PORCELANOSA Grupo** showroom, where the projects were exhibited, and then at one of Italy's most breathtaking fortified landmarks, Castello Sforzesco, where the awards ceremony took place.

Upon arriving at the Castello's Corte Ducale, over 100 guests were greeted with a live music performance. Afterwards, the formal presentation began, held amidst the walls, gardens and frescoes of this historic site. The evening was hosted by Italian journalist and presenter Valeria Ciardiello, with the distinguished members of the jury also playing a key role.



PREVIOUS PAGE, TOP: the **PIPA Awards** were introduced to the Milan public through an installation of panels in Piazza Castello, inviting both locals and visitors to explore the works of the finalists.

PREVIOUS PAGE, CENTER: the awards ceremony took place in the Castello Sforzesco's majestic Corte Ducale, where it was hosted by Italian journalist and presenter Valeria Ciardiello.

THIS PAGE, LEFT: over one hundred attendees at the prize-giving gala had the chance to explore the finalists' works in **PORCELANOSA Group** showroom, as well as the latest technological and innovative advancements from the company's brands. They then proceeded to the Castello Sforzesco, where they enjoyed a privileged setting rich in historical and cultural significance.

BELOW: in this charming image, an original Fiat 500 Spiaggina convertible, personalized by **Porcelanosa**, is showcased in front of the Duomo, Milan's most iconic monument.



The 2024 PIPA Awards jury



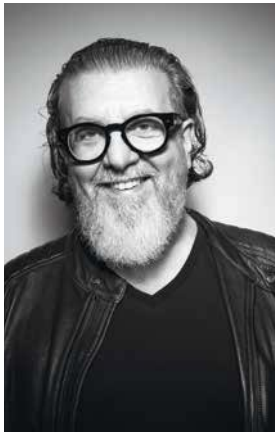
Kazi Khaleed Ashraf
Director General of the Bengal Institute of Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements.



Cristiano Benzoni
Co-director of REV Architecture.



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A journey of flavors, art and sea

The capital of the Spanish Levante boasts the perfect blend of history, tradition and modernity, with a cultural and gastronomic scene that constantly evolves to meet the demands of its ever-growing number of visitors.

Photos: DIEGO OPAZO / DAVID ROTA / PAWEL GAUL / ISTOCKPHOTO / GETTY IMAGES / VIEW PICTURES Drawing: CLAUDIA R.C.



1 The new Porcelanosa showroom
A space that invites sensory enjoyment and allows you to explore the diverse materials and products from **PORCELANOSA Group** brands has now become the capital's new "place to be", offering comprehensive architectural and interior design solutions. Located on Carrer de Jorge Juan, opposite the Colón Market, the store spans 1,250 m² divided into five areas that each evokes its own unique world: a hotel lobby, a Mediterranean villa, an ultra-modern loft, an alluring penthouse and a technical space featuring a ceramics library and water zone.

The renovation of this vibrant flagship store in Valencia was carried out by the Janfri & Ranchal studio.
Calle de Jorge Juan, 21.
<https://www.porcelanosa.com>

2 El Poblet
Boasting two Michelin stars, this restaurant is a benchmark of haute cuisine in Valencia. Owned by Quique Dacosta and helmed by Valencian head chef Luis Valls, it stands out for its commitment to quality, sustainability and the use of locally sourced produce, with a particular focus on the flavors of the sea, the Albufera freshwater lagoon and Valencian market gardens. Its goal is to transform local ingredients into masterpieces of fine dining, blending elegance and subtlety to deliver an exceptional gastronomic experience.
Calle de Correus, 8
<https://www.elpobletrestaurant.com>

3 El Gordo de Cortes
Located in the Torre Ikon – the tallest apartment building in Valencia – this is one of the most innovative gastronomic spaces in the city. Founded by brothers Salva and Pablo Martínez as part of the El Gordo y El Flaco restaurant chain, the establishment is led by Rubén Puchol, a chef with over three decades of experience in ingredient-driven cuisine, who is committed to preserving local tradition. The interior design was crafted by the studio of architect Antonio Altarriba. With a capacity of up to 160 people, this new benchmark in Valencian cuisine promises a unique dining experience in an elegant and minimalist setting.
Avenida de les Corts Valencianes, 47
<https://elgordodecortes.es>

4 Bombas Gens Centre d'Arts Digitals
This former hydraulic pump factory has been transformed into a leading contemporary arts center. Its spaces host exhibitions of modern art, photography and video art as well as a sculpture garden, offering a unique environment which merges creativity with historical heritage. In addition to its exhibitions, visitors can also explore restored architectural structures, such as an air-raid shelter, a wine cellar and the remains of an old farmhouse. The center particularly stands out for its focus



on immersive audiovisual experiences, linking art, science and technology through its cutting-edge installations.
Avenida de Burjassot, 54
<https://bombasgens.com>

5 Hortensia Herrero Art Center
Inaugurated in 2023, this ambitious initiative by the Valencian art patron Hortensia Herrero seeks to bring international contemporary art closer to the public while solidifying the city's position as a leading cultural destination. Housed in a 17th-century palace, its restoration, which took over five years, has managed to both preserve and enhance the building's historical significance. The center features 17 exhibition spaces showcasing works and interventions created especially for the venue. Visitors can also explore valuable archaeological remains, such as part of a Roman circus, an alleyway from an ancient Jewish quarter, a medieval oven and an Islamic fountain.
Calle del Mar, 31
<https://www.cahh.es>



6 The City of Arts and Sciences

Located at the end of the old Turia riverbed, this venue is one of Valencia's greatest tourist attractions and is now firmly established as a benchmark of 21st-century architecture, symbolizing the city's vision for modernity and the future. Designed by Santiago Calatrava and Félix Candela, this architectural, cultural and entertainment complex includes the Palau de les Arts, the Hemisfèric, the Museu de les Ciències, the Umbracle and the Oceanogràfic (which features a spectacular underwater restaurant). It also houses the Àgora, now transformed into the new CaixaForum València arts and cultural center. Avenida del Professor López Piñero, 7 <https://cac.es>



7 Nou Racó

Located in the Albufera Natural Park, one of the most iconic landscapes of the Valencian Community, this restaurant blends fine dining with a unique natural setting. Specializing in rice dishes and traditional Valencian cuisine, its menu features paella cooked over a traditional wood fire, garlic and peppers served with locally sourced eel, as well as a premier selection of fish, seafood and meat dishes. The establishment also offers an experience that extends further beyond gastronomy, inviting guests to admire spectacular sunsets while enjoying a boat trip on the lagoon. Carretera del Palmar, 21 <https://nouraco.com>



8 Vachata

Marta Planells is the creator of an horchatería that honors and preserves the legacy of her grandfather, Evaristo Planells, a renowned Valencian ice cream maker. Growing up surrounded by tiger nuts and family traditions, she decided to modernize this heritage with her own personal project. Four years ago she opened her own horchata store in the city's Ruzafa neighborhood, offering the traditional beverage and other typical regional products with an innovative twist, all while using sustainable and environmentally responsible materials and ingredients. The colorful, welcoming and versatile store also features an event space and a showroom designed to reimagine the art of enjoying horchata. Calle de Mossèn Femenia, 22 <https://vachatahorchata.com/>

9 Tatel

First inaugurated in 2023 by a group of partners including Rafael Nadal and Cristiano Ronaldo, Tatel has now become one of the most popular restaurants in Valencia. It forms part of a Spanish fine dining chain, with other establishments in Madrid, Ibiza, Beverly Hills and Doha. The Valencia venue combines the glamour of the 1920s with a modern twist, in a space created by the Grace Design studio. It also boasts an



exotic cocktail menu. For an even more unforgettable experience, every evening the restaurant offers live music shows, featuring everything from flamenco performers to international DJs. Calle de Pascual i Genís, 19 <https://tatelrestaurants.com/restaurante-en-valencia>

10 Central Market of Valencia

The Central Market has its origins in the street markets that have been held in the city since its early urban development. In 1839, its precursor, known as the New Market, was first opened on the same site. In 1910, a competition organized by Valencia City Council led to the selection of the design by architects Alejandro Soler and Francisco Guardia for the new building, which symbolizes the progress of a city that embraces technological and commercial progress, while also honoring its agricultural heritage. The market is still one of the most visited and compelling sites in the city, thanks in particular to its impressive architecture, which blends seamlessly with the adjacent Plaça del Mercat, where the Lonja de la Seda (Silk Exchange) and Sants Joans church are located. Plaza de la Ciutat de Bruges <https://www.mercadocentralvalencia.es>

11 Colón Market

This former market is now home to some of Valencia's finest florists and restaurants. Considered one of the city's most beautiful buildings, this 3,500 m² structure was designed by architect Francisco Mora Berenguer in the early 20th century, to meet the growing demands of the bourgeoisie of the time. Located in the Eixample district, the market is now firmly established as one of the most iconic examples of Valencian modernisme. Today it attracts countless visitors, particularly drawn to the culinary offerings of restaurants such as HABITUAL by Ricard Camarena, Ma Khin Café, and the gastronomic boutique Manglano. Calle de Jorge Juan, 19 <https://mercadocolon.es>



12 Veles e Vents

Designed by David Chipperfield, this building has become an iconic landmark of the Marina of Valencia. Located on the canal, it serves as a striking visual connection between the Mediterranean Sea and the city. The sea is an essential part of Valencia's identity, and the best place to experience this connection is the Passeig Marítim, which stretches all the way to Alboraya. This scenic pedestrian promenade allows visitors to explore the beaches of Les Arenes, La Malva-rosa and El Cabanyal – ideal spots for enjoying the sun and sand. Along the way, you can also discover the peaceful streets of El Cabanyal – the traditional fishermen's neighborhood – dive into the legacy of writer Vicente Blasco Ibáñez by visiting his House-Museum, savor an horchata at El Obrador del Bou, indulge in an exquisite rice dish at La Pepica, and end your day with a sunset dinner at La Sucursal.



SHOWROOMS

From Guangzhou to New York

In keeping with its status as a global company, **PORCELANOSA Group** has revamped the interior design of two of its most internationally renowned showrooms, enhancing the experience of seeing and interacting with the materials in each of its spaces.



A SHOW OF PURITY.
The products selected for the refurbishment enhance the original concept of showcasing the purity and simplicity of the materials. This is achieved through the use of **XLIGHT Aged Clay Nature** large-format porcelain tiles, which guide visitors through the exhibition while also highlighting the firm's latest innovations. The design is complemented by **Heritage Cognac L** flooring from the **PAR-KER®** series, **XLIGHT Montreal White**, and decorative cladding such as **Brooklyn Marquina**, **Mosaico Durango**, **Contour White**, **Stripe Berna Caliza**, **Samui Verbier Dark** and **Mosaic Prada Acero** – all geometric finishes that create a striking visual contrast. All flooring and cladding are made from **XLIGHT** by **Porcelanosa**, while surfaces such as countertops, worktops and custom pieces follow the same aesthetic as **XTONE**.

A JOURNEY BACK TO NATURE

The remodeling of the Guangzhou showroom, initially created in collaboration with local developer Wode and the Chinese studio ZHJS Design, was overseen by designer Liu Xiao, who was also responsible for the original project. The showroom's extension embodies the concept of "returning to nature through a carefully curated 'spatial box', where, upon entering, one experiences a state of primitive, serene nature, offering both visual and spiritual enjoyment in a peaceful environment". The design incorporates "a minimalist and modern aesthetic, achieved through the careful refinement and integration of this approach, which balances the square geometric pattern of the ceramic area, while fostering an open, expansive spatial atmosphere".



SHOWROOMS

A DESIGN TO FEEL AT HOME IN From its prime location in Madison Square, just across from the Flatiron Building, **PORCELANOSA Group** flagship store in Manhattan has undergone a remarkable transformation. Following an extensive renovation, the fifth floor of the historic Commodore Criterion building – dating back to 1918 – has been converted into a "ready to live in" New York apartment, where products from **PORCELANOSA Group** brands breathe new life into the floors, walls, bathrooms, and kitchens. To further enhance this 'home feel', the interior design is complemented by the "Earthcrafted Designs" exhibition, featuring works by Spanish talents based in New York, including graphic artist Amaia Gómez Marzábal, painter José Moñú from Zaragoza, Galician artist Mar Ramón Soriano, and sculptor Jorge Palacios from Madrid.



LIVABLE SPACES.
The relocation of the offices to an adjacent building on Fifth Avenue has allowed the fifth floor to be transformed into a fully equipped apartment, complete with kitchens, bathrooms, and living rooms, all bathed in natural light. These spaces are further enhanced by the presence of artworks, adding the final touches to an atmosphere of sophisticated everyday living. One of these pieces, a circular sculpture by Jorge Palacios crafted from **Krion®** solid surface, takes pride of place at the entrance to the store. The sixth floor also features a new ceramoteca ('ceramics library'), designed to resemble a bookstore, where visitors can explore and interact with hundreds of material and product samples while observing the work of the designers. The most refined kitchen collections also have their own dedicated space in the basement, which draws on the tradition of these classic New York underground spaces.



A symphony of nature and style in the Rockies

The Canadian Rockies constitute one of the most captivating landscapes in North America. It is a place where it is impossible not to feel deeply connected to nature – a sensation well known to the inhabitants of Canmore, a town situated on First Nations land. In 2023, architect Alasdair Russell, of Russell and Russell Design Studios, undertook the major renovation of the switchman's house that once controlled the toll gate across the old bridge over the Bow River, transforming it into a single-family home. The project

was honored as a finalist in the Single-Family Residential category at the PIPA Awards 2024. "Living and working in the Rockies, we are surrounded by the breathtaking drama of mountain ranges, deep rivers of blue silt, vast forests and the rugged remnants of our railroad and mining heritage", explains the architect.

All these elements have been seamlessly integrated into the design of this spectacular home. The exterior boasts large windows, solid wood, and warm natural stone finishes. Inside, an open-plan layout creates fluid and inviting spaces, with high ceilings supported by sturdy beams that enhance the sense of openness. The combination of wood, stone and raw steel adds to the welcoming atmosphere. A standout feature of the design is the selection of products from **PORCELANOSA Group** companies, offering "an inspiring array of natural materials with sophisticated finishes" that have contributed to the breathtaking final result.



- 1. The kitchen countertops are crafted from **Taj Mahal Silk** by **XTONE**, while the **Roble Puro** wood-finish furniture is from the **emotions**® collection by **Gamadecor**.
- 2. The bathroom washbasin is **Aged Clay Nature** in a stone finish by **XTONE**. The furniture is **Roble Puro emotions**® by **Gamadecor**. The wall cladding is **Gasa Topo Moka**, and the flooring is **Durango Bonel**, both by **Porcelanosa**.
- 3. In this space, **Adamantine Polished** quartzite from the **Altissima** collection by **XTONE** has been used. The built-in furniture is **Nogal Seda emotions**® by **Gamadecor**.
- 4. In the guest bathroom, the washbasin is **Pietra Sicilia Texture** from **XTONE**, complemented by **PAR-KER® Nebraska Noir** wood cladding by **Porcelanosa**.
- 5. The attic bathroom features **Boulder Black** glass mosaic flooring by **L'Antic Colonial**, and **XLIGHT Aged Dark** wall cladding by **Porcelanosa**. The washbasin is from the same series by **XTONE**.



One star, two spaces

With his newly awarded Michelin Star, the young chef from Burgos, Ricardo Temiño, has become one of the leading figures in the new wave of Spanish gastronomy. His restaurant, la fábrica, is a place of pilgrimage for all gourmets passing through the city. In 2023, the establishment was divided into two distinct spaces, each offering a unique culinary experience: la fábrica, which serves traditional dishes and international fusions, and the Ricardo Temiño Restaurant, where the chef showcases his creativity and talent – qualities that have earned him the most prestigious accolade in international cuisine. While la fábrica is a bright, open space, the Ricardo Temiño Restaurant is more intimate and reserved, allowing diners to fully immerse themselves in the chef’s creations. Both spaces form part of a comprehensive design project led by A2G Arquitectos and the interior design studio Espacio 760, with materials from **PORCELANOSA Group** taking center stage.



Photos: Belén Imaz.



The main flooring throughout the spaces is **XLIGHT Bottega Acero** from **Porcelanosa**. The more reserved area features black porcelain flooring by **XTONE**. The tiling has been installed using **Super-flex S2** high-performance adhesive from **Butech**. In the reception area, the bar is made from **XTONE** porcelain, while the column is clad in **Magma Black** by **Porcelanosa**. **Krion® Lux 6704 Navy Blue** solid surface lends personality to the bathroom, which is fitted with **Noken** faucets.



Photos: Enric Badrinas.

At CASA ISDIN, **Krion® Lux 6101 Frost White** solid surface, known for its pristine white color, has been extensively used throughout the space. This model belongs to the **Colors Series** collection by **Krion® Lux**, which is characterized by its pastel shades, highly sought after in contemporary design and architecture. With virtually no porosity, this solid surface allows for personalization through its backlighting and thermoforming properties. Durable, easy to maintain and simple to restore, **Krion® Lux** is the ideal material for cladding walls, panels, tables and displays – all of which have been incorporated into this project.

Elevating the experience

Barcelona's Passeig de Gràcia, home to the city's major luxury stores, now welcomes a new and illustrious neighbor: ISDIN, the renowned Catalan company and international leader in the dermatology and sun protection sector. CASA ISDIN is the brand's first flagship store, designed and developed by the architecture studio Lagranja Design and the design agency Lúcid. Located in Casa Malagrida – a modernista building created by the architect Joaquim Cardona between 1906 and 1908 and commissioned by an industrialist and tobacco merchant – the establishment spans two floors, covering a total area of 800 m².

At street level, the ground floor features an open-plan space with free access, divided into three sections where the brand's products are displayed. It also includes phygital areas, with large LED screens and light tables offering interactive digital content, underscoring the significance of new technologies in enhancing the shopping experience. This experience is further enriched by additional features such as a “texture bar” where visitors can explore the range of leather products and seek advice, as well as screens that provide intuitive navigation through the brand's catalog. The design is combined with a clear and minimalist aesthetic, with carefully filtered lighting that softens the visual flow through the tables and displays. The concept is crafted to meet the expectations of an increasingly discerning clientele.



Attractive and sustainable design

There are many ways in which a hotel forges its identity – whether through its excellent location, meticulous and attentive service, or spaces that create an evocative and contemporary atmosphere. All of this is offered by this Hilton establishment in Berlin's Kurfürstendamm, a district renowned for its vibrant nightlife. Through an ambitious renovation process led by Spectrum Projektmanagment GmbH, aesthetic concepts have been developed that embody both the high technical standards and the distinctive personality required for the project. The result is an attractive and sustainable design, tailored to meet the needs of guests in a hotel that prides itself on upholding the highest standards, both in the privacy of the rooms as well as in the bustling common areas.



Photos: Vision Photos.



Flooring from **PORCELANOSA Group** brands has provided flexible and innovative solutions in the hotel's renovation. In the reception lobby, **PAR-KER® Nobu Arce** flooring with a brushed wood finish is combined with **Carrara Blanco Natural** by **Porcelanosa**, creating a striking chromatic contrast. On the main staircase, **Aria White** with a marble effect by **Porcelanosa** has been used. The second-floor lobby and restaurant feature **Linkfloor Kingdom Iberia** vinyl flooring by **L'Antic Colonial**, also with a brushed wood finish. In the buffet area, the flooring is **Antique Acero** by **Porcelanosa**, with a finish that replicates the effect of a hydraulic tile.



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Set to open in spring 2026, the resort will feature 220 modern suites, each offering direct access to the pool or views of the turquoise waters of the Atlantic, along with spacious, personalized balconies and exclusive areas. It will also boast a wide range of dining options as well as the stunning Level 12 rooftop bar and lounge, and remain true to the chain's unique "Party Your Way" concept, turning every moment, every experience and every activity into a celebration and entertainment for its guests. To shape the interior design, products from **PORCELANOSA Group** will play a key role throughout the space, all with a view to creating a truly unique atmosphere.



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