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TRADEFAIR SPECIAL: MUMBAI



"Of course, great hotels have always been social ideas,
flawless mirrors to the particular societies they service."

Joan Didion

INSIDE :

FOCUS : HOTELS | PROJECTS : LIGHTING, SUSTAINABILITY | COMMUNITY

WANDERLUST | SPOTLIGHT : INDIAN DESIGN FURNITURE

FALKENSTEINER HOTEL MONTAFON, MONTAFON

vudafieri-saverino partners, milan
and shanghai

lead architects:

ar. tiziano vudafieri and

ar. claudio saverino, architects

and founding partners

architecture firm:

snøhetta studio innsbruck, innsbruck

landscape design:

snøhetta studio innsbruck, innsbruck

Design brief and aim

To design a resort reflecting the Austrian colours, traditions and atmosphere.

How this was accomplished

Nestled in the Alpine landscape, this forward-thinking five-star hotel focuses on families and sustainability. It is located among the forests and mountain peaks of Montafon, a valley in the Austrian state of Vorarlberg famous for outdoor holiday destinations. The new hotel by the Austrian Falkensteiner Michaeler Tourism Group (FMTG) is built on four levels, capitalizing on the mountains' natural slope, and comprises two structures branching off from the central communal areas.

The reception, clad in Spruce wood, and the wellness area spanning a 1400 sq. m. spa and ski room are easily accessed at the ground level. The 123 rooms and suites, all facing panoramic views from the balconies, are on the upper floors. A large central staircase leads down to the lobby, bar, restaurant, and swimming pool. It also leads to the outdoor terrace, providing views of the forests and mountains. Being family-friendly the hotel includes spaces for children.



The firm studied the rural alpine landscape and local elements to reimagine them through a contemporary lens. The largest mountain ranges meet to form the 'heart of the Alps', and forests, meadows, mountain huts, and haylofts narrate the seasonal movements of shepherds and their animals over centuries of history.

The architects referenced the fences of woven branches and wooden slats typical of local barns as decorative elements and screens in the restaurant, while local handmade rugs reproduced on customized wallpaper are used as headboards in all rooms.

Vernacular materials such as stone, Spruce and Larch wood, and white plaster pay homage to the traditional building style of the area. This is particular to the Montafoner Häus, a Spruce and stone construction that has been the local architectural archetype for centuries. Wooden shingles used on the buildings become decorative motifs in the wellness spa.



The firm chose the color palette based on the unique features of the Alpine landscape and three-phase farming, an agricultural method practiced by the rural population. The architects explain, "Based on the traditions of this ancestral technique which alternates winter, autumnal, and spring sowing, we focused on the various shades of natural colors, placing them at the center of our interior design."

The communal areas – such as the reception, lobby, wellness area, and spa – use spring and summer shades such as bright meadow green, blue, and shades of Larch and Spruce. A more autumn and winter-based palette are chosen for the rooms, featuring warm reds, oranges, and yellows combined with Larch wood.

All energy comes from the nearby Lünarseewerk, a hydroelectric power plant owned by Illwerke VKW, underscoring the Falkensteiner Michaeler Tourism Group's commitment to sustainability.





photography : paolo valentini

URBAN HIVE MILANO, MILANO

vudafieri-saverino partners, italy
lead architects: ar. rizziano vudafieri and
ar. claudio saverino, architects and
founding partners

Design brief and aim

To redesign an urban hotel and mixed-use space.

How this was accomplished

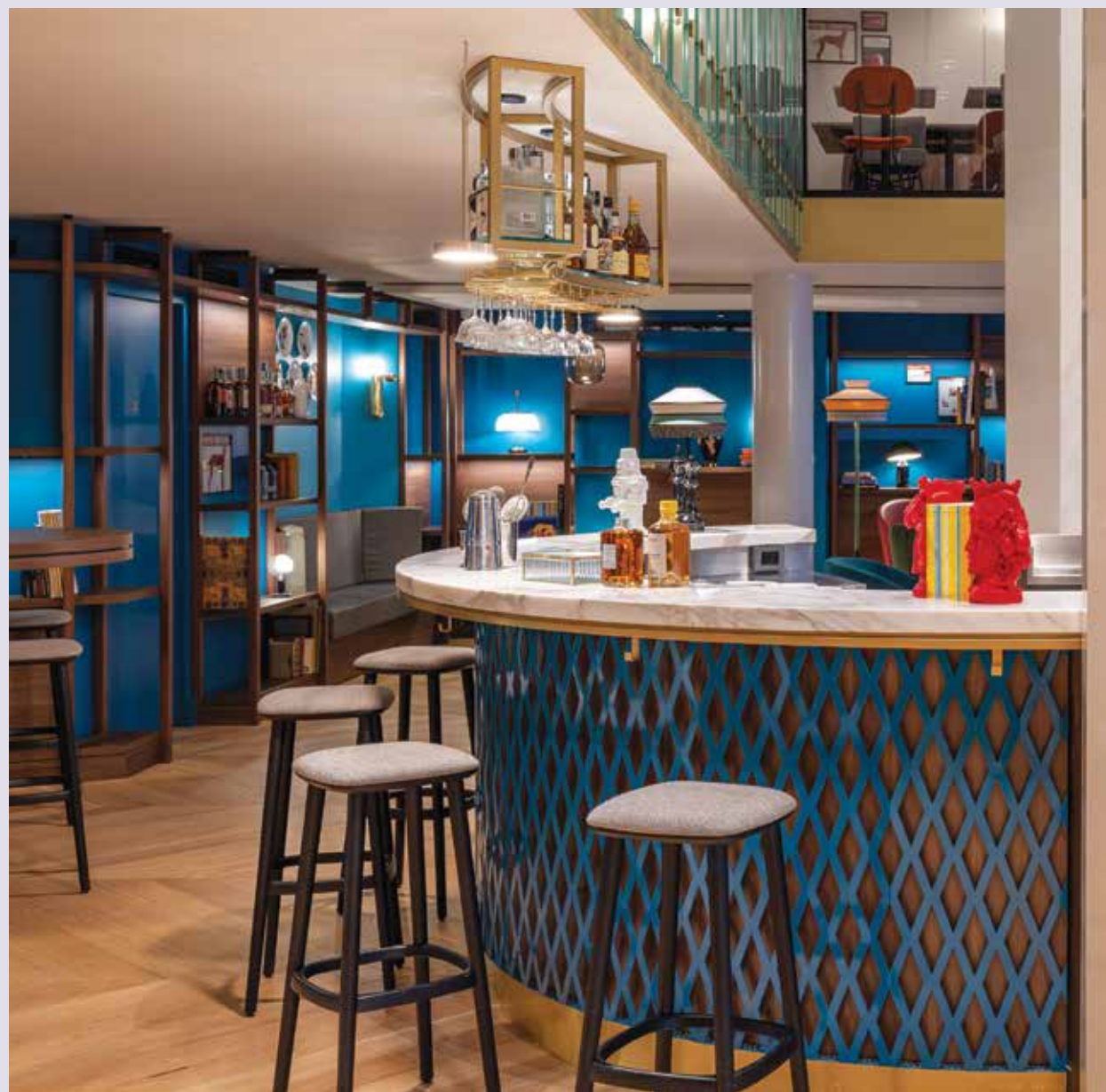
With the evolution of the hospitality model, hotels are now planned and designed as mixed-use spaces that offer the experience and the comfort of home. They blend business, co-working, leisure, fitness, and relaxation in one space. Located in the heart of the bohemian Brera District, this four-star hotel's eclectic and functional design reflects Milan's dynamic and artsy ambiance.



The concept spanning 3750 sq. m., its common areas and ninety-seven rooms and suites spread over seven floors are redesigned into an inviting space full of color and character. This design blends Milan's past with its modern spirit. Interiors and soft decoration add a contemporary edge to the traditional Milanese design, hinting at the timeless elegance of post-war maestros, legends, and symbols. These include the Madonnina and Bar Basso, which was the first-ever bar in Milan to introduce the aperitif (an alcoholic drink taken before an appetizer) to everyday people.

The Brera District is a place where artists and writers gather, including Pinacoteca and its art galleries, cafés and restaurants, cinemas, and theatres. Conceived as a dynamic yet intimate social space, the hotel wanted to welcome both guests and the public by keeping the services open to the public. Co-working spaces, meeting rooms, cultural events, and business lunches at the in-house Portico84 Café and Bar, which will also have tables under the Corso Garibaldi porticos, all speak to a new format.

Comfortable, colorful sofas, light oak wood flooring, soft lighting, wooden bookcases, and pop art elements create an elegant and relaxing atmosphere on the ground floor. All communal spaces feature a striking peacock blue, and the lobby is transformed into a welcoming reception where guests and locals can meet for business and leisure. A semi-circular Canaletto walnut bar counter with a marble countertop, brass finishes, and lozenge motifs in the same shade as the walls dominates the space. The lobby includes a lounge bar and event spaces, making the reception an integral part of the space. The underground floor houses a fitness room equipped with Nohrd & Technogym machines.



The co-working spaces have different functions throughout the day; a breakfast room on the mezzanine floor, accessed through the oak and steel heptagonal staircase, becomes a co-working space for local start-ups. Designed for people who need flexible workspaces, there are moveable walls that create modular rooms for business meetings and conference calls. Wallpaper depicting Milan's architecture and icons is designed by 150UP, the creative agency handling the project's visual identity along with designs and motifs for the interiors, lifts, windows, posters, and ceramic plates.

The ninety-seven room and suites are made over to create a sophisticated ambiance with terracotta pink, mint green, and light blue color palettes that alternate on the hotel floors. These colors are beautifully contrasted with Prussian blue, Persian orange, and amber-yellow Dedar curtains.

The firm has designed the furnishings including the beds, the wooden headboards with metal inserts, bedside tables, bookcases, and shelves. Interiors also hint at Milan's iconic symbols, geometric carpeting with a vintage flavoring in the corridors and matching surfaces and coverings. Thus the rooms' designs reflect both of Milan's sides – the world of business and one of creativity epitomized by the Brera district.