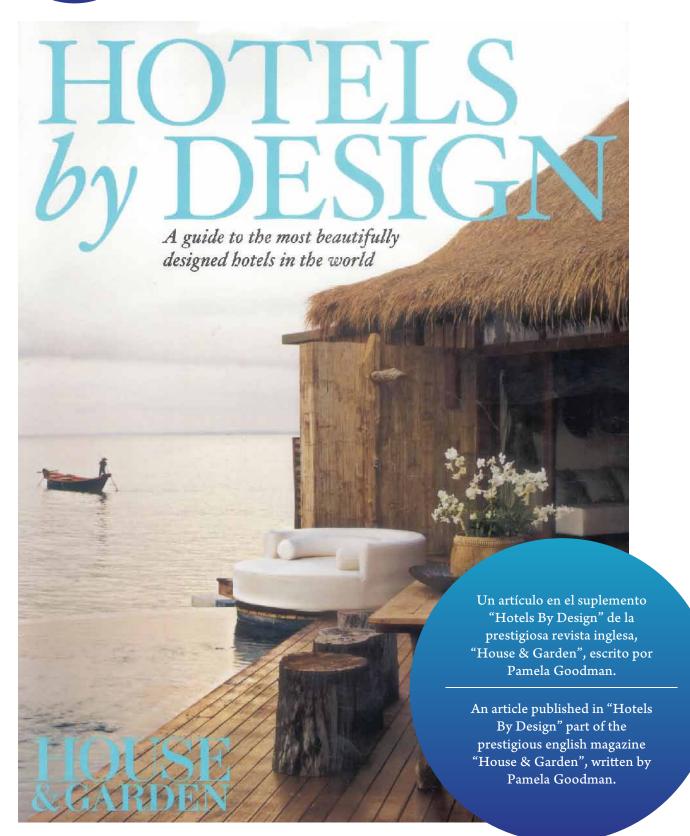


Hotels by Design

30.03.2012



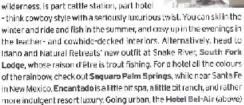
BOP

HOTELS BY DESIGN

THE AMERICAS

IJS West

The Ranch at Rock Creek, set in nearly 7,000 acres of quintessential Montana wilderness, is part cattle station, part hotel

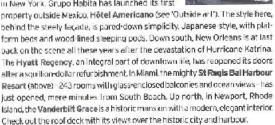


in Los Angeles is fresh as a daisy after a top-to-toe redesign, while

sister-hotel The Beverly Hills celebrates its centenary this year.

IIS Fast

In Chicago, Ian Schrager has unveiled his latest hotel venture - Public (see 'Public service') - while in New York, Grupo Habita has launched its first



Caribbean

Step back in time to the Fifties at Hotel La Banana on St Barths, where simple white bungalows have been lavished with an impressive collection of furniture from the likes of Le-Corbusier, Serge Mouille and Jean Royère. There's a beautiful tropical garden, too. In St Lucia, the destination spa The Body Holiday has recently undergone a \$30 million renovation and is back with a spring in its step. Likewise. Petit St Vincent (left) in the Grenadines has reopened under new ownership. Its 22 bungalows have been revamped and there's a new beach bar and restaurant, and hillside spa. The island can also be rented as a whole. Familyowned, all-inclusive Curtain Bluff in Antiqua. has an abiding reputation for impeccable service and a client list straight out of Hollywood. The hotel has completed the final phase of refurbishment. In Jamaica, Strawberry HIII, with its 12 Georgian-style cottages, has also had a dose of TLC. For rustic, back-to-nature Caribbean, go to Secret Bay in Dominica.



Mexico

Grupo Habita - better known for its urban hotels in Mexico and more recently in New York - is due to launch Eco Hotel Endémico Resguardo Silvestre (above) in the rugged terrain of Valle de Guadatupe, Mexico's emerging wine region just south of the US border. Each of the 20 free-standing, ultramodern bungalows comes with its own terrace and clay chiminea. San Miguel de Allende, Mexico's picture-perfect colonial outpost, has a rich, historical past, but Hotel Matilda is all about the cutting-edge design of the present. It's young and quirky and full of contemporary Mexican art.

Chile/Argentina

Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Parkhas welcomed two new lodges, both with fewer than 60 rooms. Singular Patagonia (above), on Last Hope Sound, Is Industrial on the outside – it was formerly a meat-packing plant – but lavish and comfortable on the inside. Tierre Patagonia Hotel & Spa (see 'Outside art') has spectacular views of Lake Sarmlento and the soaring grantee pires of the Paine Massif, Meanwhile, Explora's Hotel Salto Chico, also in the Torres del Paine National Park, has had a facelift, including the opening of a new wine bar which stocks the best Chilean wines. In Argentina, La Bamba de Areco, one of the oldest colonial-style estancias, not far from Buerus Aires, has been transformed into an Il-room hotel. This is serious riding and polo country.

For hotel details, see 'Web facts'

Ecuador/Peru

At last, for the well-heeled traveller, there's a chance to go Jungle-crazy in Ecuador with the opening of Mashpi Lodge (below). There are 22 modern rooms, some in the trees, in a 2,600-acre reserve of full-on flora and fauna, plus a Lwo-kilometre 'aerial tram' - a bit like a cable car - which trundles guests through the tree canopy. For a Peruvian Jungle experi-

ence, the Inkaterra group has opened Hacienda Concepción, a carbon-zero jungle-lodge on the banks of the Madre do Dios River, where guests can choose between the eight rooms of the lodge or seven individual thatched cabanas.



RER, LUIS DARROLA, SEBASTIA

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