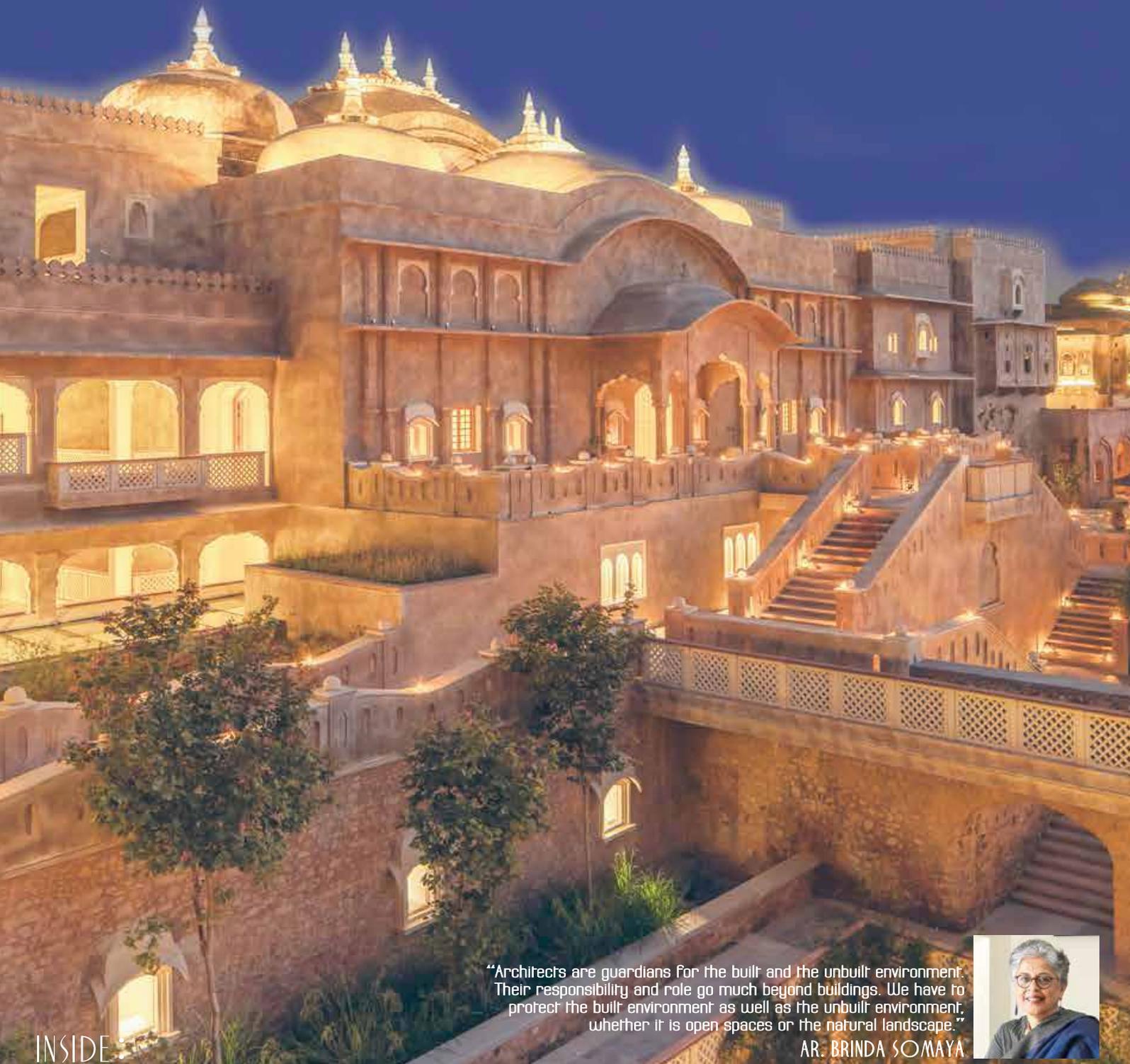




the indian review of
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102

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“Architects are guardians for the built and the unbuilt environment. Their responsibility and role go much beyond buildings. We have to protect the built environment as well as the unbuilt environment, whether it is open spaces or the natural landscape.”

AR. BRINDA SOMAYA



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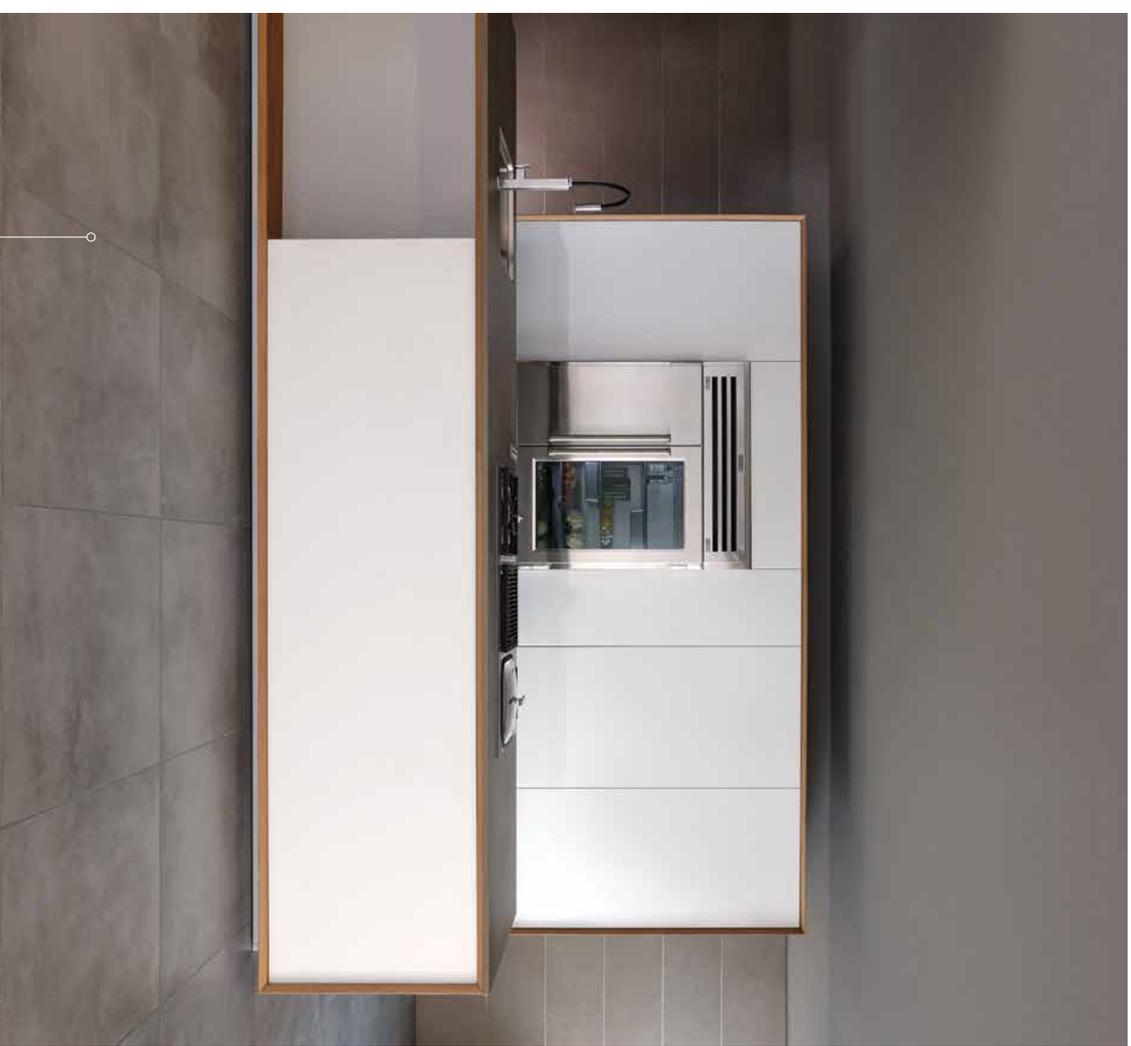
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TOWN @ HOUSE STREET, ITALY

Simone Micheli and Alessandro Rosso, Italy

Design brief and aim
To renovate a commercial space into an automated hotel suite facing the street.

How this was accomplished

The hotel does away with stereotypical elements such as a reception, lobby, stairs, lifts and corridors. The single suite looks directly onto the city street, which can be independently accessed by each room through a glazed door facing the street. This is electronically controlled by an alphanumeric keyboard, on which the guest enters the reservation code received online when checking in through the website. The rooms open out to spectacular cityscapes, and each maintains the view of different squares, streets and monuments.

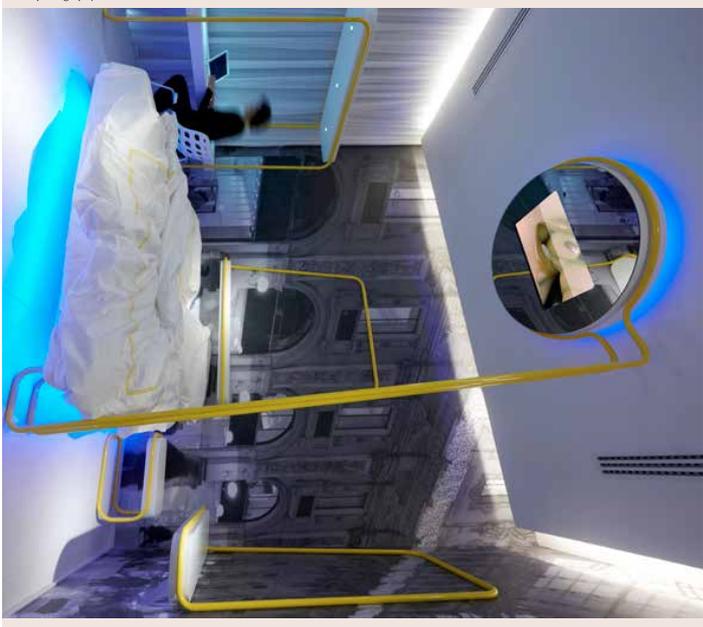
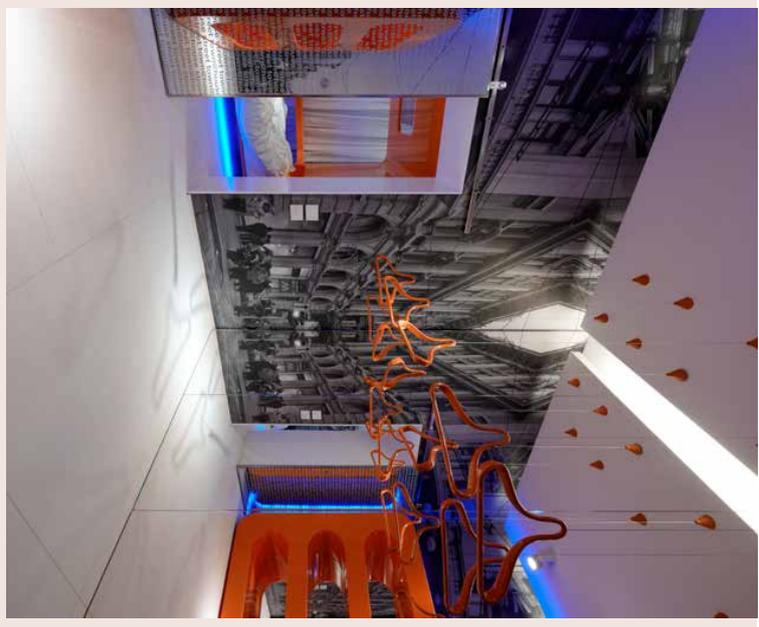
These unique views that distinguish the city inspired the name of the four suites as 'the street', with the square as the entrance hall, while the street itself is the corridor. Four four-metre-high palm trees are planted in vases designed by Micheli, which are coloured according to the suite's dominant shade. They recreate the open VIP lounge identified as the town@house street, and the interior and external borders integrate symbolically.



The external entrance windows of every suite feature 32-inch monitors suspended on shiny snow-white chain guards, which open directly into the room offered to the guest. A continuous text generated by adhesive vinyl film transfers bounces from one window to another along with the height, which filters the sunlight. Only a dark voile, or semi-transparent and thin fabric, separates the occupant from the external world.

Each of the four permanent hospitality spaces is built on a 35-sq.-m. surface, apart from the 50-sq.-m. double suite. Every suite features a ward robe, bathroom and kitchen and is distinguished with the main colour, digitally-printed images and design solutions on the furniture components. Urban travellers would have a Jaguar car at their disposal as they're on holiday.

The first suite is visible from the entrance and a long green element flows and bends along the entire wall length to become a desk. As it moves on, it integrates itself

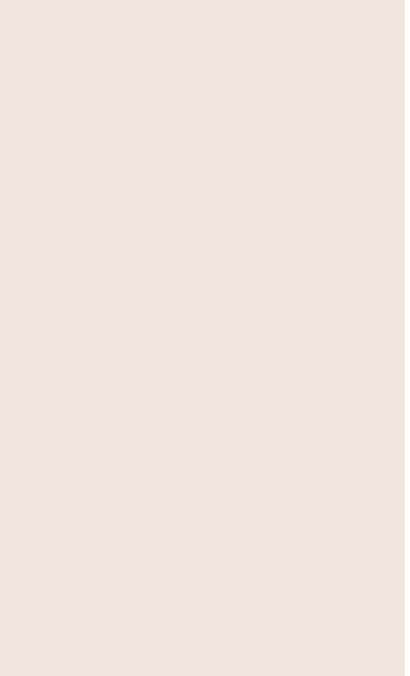


photography : maurizio marcato



into the furniture comprising the small kitchen, the mini-bar fridge and other equipment. By the lacquered desk, a huge mirror is installed on the wall protected with an extra clear sheet of glass. It is shaped as a macroscopic apostrophe fitted with linear rear lights and blue-coloured LED. A large LCD monitor is seen from the table, and the bed is properly hidden inside the mirror. The bed leans on a green sofa with a parametric blue LED light, which visually floats and blends around forming two integrated bedside tables.

The biggest bedside table close to the entrance window ends with a pillow, and combined with a stool of the same height, is designed with softer lines. An identical greencoffee table generates a comfortable corner, along with several footstool covers.



The entire suite, wardrobe, bathroom and an independent room next door, are designed for the Metropolitan contemporary traveller. A stainless steel tubular structure holds the hangers and blends into the raised platform suitcase and a series of shelves, which contains a mirror background, wardrobe and passage to the bathroom.

The bathroom design is common to the four suites, with the washbasin supporting the annular shelf and the shower protected by a crystal covering the entire height. The two wet walls are covered with white stone pottery macro-tiles, while the other walls are covered with Milanese city posters. The large mirror occupies the entire wall and is a horizontal element fitted with a linear rear light system in blue-coloured LED and an integrated LCD monitor. The double suite hosts a large round bathtub rather than a shower, which maintains both simplicity and rigour.

