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EDITION, PRINTING AND BINDING

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SHENZHEN'S SKY

This booming Chinese city boasts a spectacular new building whose ventilated façade was done in **Krion® Solid Surface**.

Photo: Salva Méndez

EDITORIAL

A fresh look

Today's challenges have forced us to chart a path in which technology and humanism go hand in hand – in a clear synergy – towards times of global interaction: the times we live in, and which we must enjoy whenever possible.

This is the digital age, when communications are made and decisions are taken with just a click; but it is also the age of architecture applied to maximum comfort, to houses and buildings created with feeling and intelligence for both the citizens of big modern cities, and those in rural environs.

In this complex scenario, **PORCELANOSA Group** provides durability, versatility, design, and avant-garde ideas. With its façades, wall cladding, and large-size floor tiles, which are remarkably resilient and beautiful. With **Krion®**, its most innovative material, opening up a new world of possibilities for architecture and interior design. With the pure naturalness of stone, wood, and metals. With the latest-generation ceramic floors in textures and colours to suit all tastes and requirements. With kitchens and bathrooms that offer us the pleasure of experiencing life via our senses.

Thus, always pursuing excellence both in form and content, the eight **PORCELANOSA Group** brands move forwards powered by recognition from renowned professionals and the best clients from around the world.

19th-century art in the 21st century

The María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation is a Spanish public-benefit, non-profit, private cultural organisation.

Created in 2006, it was founded – in line with the tradition of patronage in the Masaveu family – with a clear vocation to promote culture, education, and scientific research both on national and international levels.



The artworks it holds are part of the Masaveu collection of 19th-century Spanish painting. One of the most important in the world, it boasts work by outstanding artists of the likes of Goya, Sorolla, Federico de Madrazo, Zuloaga, Ramón Casas, and Anglada Camarasa.

Although the Foundation's main goal is to showcase 19th-century art, it also has two works by contemporary artists, which were specifically created to inaugurate the space in Madrid. These are: *Activa*, by Blanca Muñoz, and *Silencio*, by Jaume Plensa.

THE NEW MADRID SPACE has multi-purpose rooms, an auditorium accommodating 150 people, terraces, courtyards, and administrative offices. Laid out over four floors, it was restored with the utmost respect and elegance to house the Foundation's new collection.



READY FOR ART, ART U READY

Sylvia Girón and Silvia Hengstenberg, mother and daughter, work together in great symbiosis, creating art projects in spaces, as well as projects in spaces that are based on art. Art U Ready is a platform for artists and artworks and is part of The Sibarist – a property boutique that locates and offers their clients singular spaces with personalities of their own.

They specialise in signature homes in which both architecture and interior design are paramount. Art U Ready organises artistic activities – installations, concerts, performances – in remarkable city spaces; in this case, Madrid.

The goals of its 2019-2020 projects are to encourage calls to action regarding current topics conveyed through art: sustainability, recycling in architecture, technology, and wellness.



PROTAGONISTS



Francesca Thyssen
ART COLLECTOR

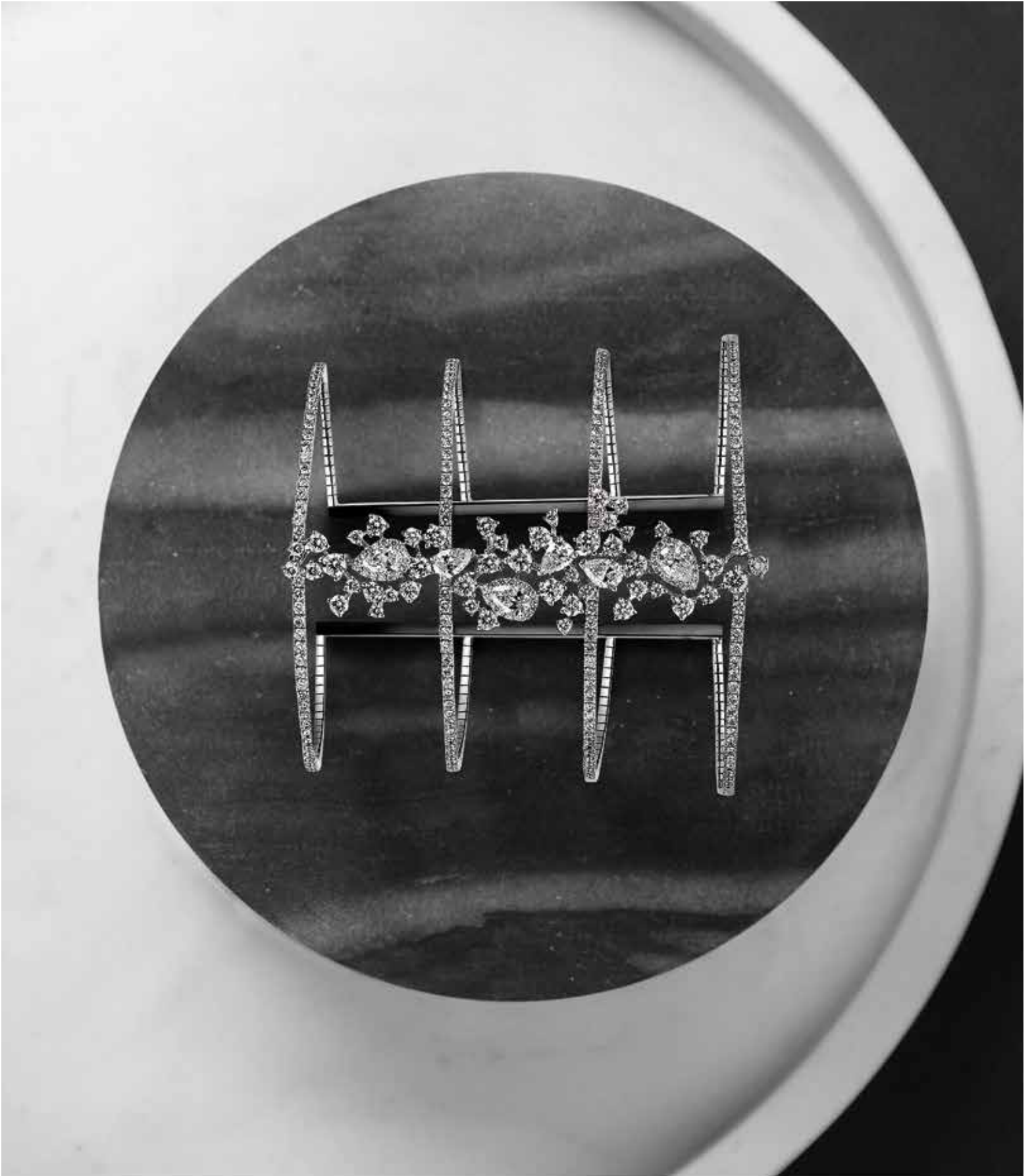
Francesca, Baron Heinrich Thyssen's daughter, has opened the Thyssen Bornemisza Art Contemporary Foundation (TBA21) in Madrid. She is one of the world's great art collectors – in the first place, for the extraordinary inheritance her father bequeathed her, and secondly, for the collection that she herself has built up over the years.

Last September, a four-year agreement was entered by the Thyssen Museum and the TBA21; every season, the Foundation will hold two exhibitions of contemporary art in the museum's Moneo rooms.

'I have dreamt of all kinds of crazy things; contemporary art must be groundbreaking, and the Foundation will have a life of its own. My goal is to achieve a different relationship with art and artists. Many things can be done from a platform like ours, since we can commission meaningful projects that are connected with whatever is happening in today's world.

The Foundation is very close to the museum that was created thanks to my father's donation to the Spanish State. It is directed by my friend Carlos Urroz, who headed ARCOMadrid until 2018, and complements the space that we created in Vienna 15 years ago – a time when we commissioned over a hundred projects by different artists.'

According to Thyssen, her objectives – both in Vienna and in Madrid – are to research, experiment and develop a very different kind of relationship with artists from the ones they usually have with art galleries. 'It's also about getting collectors involved in the entire process, from the commissioning of the works up until they are exhibited.'



Living Magic Moments

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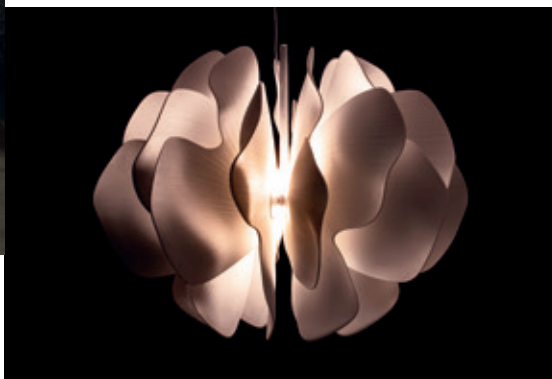
Wanders's new sensitivity



EXQUISITE AND CONTEMPORARY DESIGN, remarkable for its organic forms that are all unique, and for the effect of the light that shines from within the lamp.

Dutch designer Marcel Wanders surprises us again, this time with his most poetic and sensitive side.

From his **Nightbloom** lamp, which he presented in person in Madrid, light is emitted from within delicate porcelain petals; a lamp he created specifically for Lladró. Each piece of **Nightbloom** is arranged in a precise and specific way to optimise the lamp's LED technology, revealing a 3-D relief that emanates a gentle golden glow. 'It was an unhurried, sophisticated, and meditated project, free from pressure and rush, and this can be appreciated in very component. We have endeavoured to create something delicate and beautiful for the home,' commented Wanders for *Lifestyle*.



KARBON IS A FEATHER *The sophistication of the Karbon chair, by Actiu, lies in its lightness, which is like a feather, and the result of much complicated research. Another of its strengths is ergonomics, as each curve is designed with precision to smoothly adapt to the body. Unique, due to their artisanal finish, each chair takes 45 days to make. The Karbon chair is hollow inside and barely weighs 3 kilos. However, thanks to the carbon fibre used, this lightness does not diminish its sturdiness. This material, used in the aerospace industry and by professional sportspeople, allows for much more freedom of shape than plastic or metal do. In addition, designer Javier Cuñado has created angles and silhouettes based on a 3D-effect pattern that captures light, creating a unique visual effect.*



PROTAGONISTS



Fawn Galli
INTERIOR DESIGN

Recognised as one of the best American interior designers, she has now launched her first book, *Magical Rooms, Elements of Interior Design*, co-written with Molly FitzSimons,



and published by Rizzoli New York. It is an excellent guide for turning homes into magical places by adding details that are special and different. Fawn Galli touches on all aspects

of interior design, from construction management to the details and nuances of the decorating process.

Galli's professional path included a stint in the department of European interior design at Christie's, as well as working for Robert A. M. Stern and Peter Marino.

'For me it's important to include elements such as playfulness, festiveness, a bohemian style, and sophistication. Eclecticism and surrealism are my driving forces, along with nature, which must always be very present. I work directly and closely with my clients, but there's a common creative line in all my projects, as some features always appear – such as materials and fabrics with contrasting textures, colours and combination of patterns, a balance between contemporary and antique furniture, 20th-century vintage items, and daylight combined with adjustable lighting to design spaces with feeling. I always seek the perfect/imperfect side of every element to ultimately create a harmonious sense of wellbeing that stems from those differences. I create houses and unusual spaces to live in, homes which are filled with passion and a touch of fantasy.

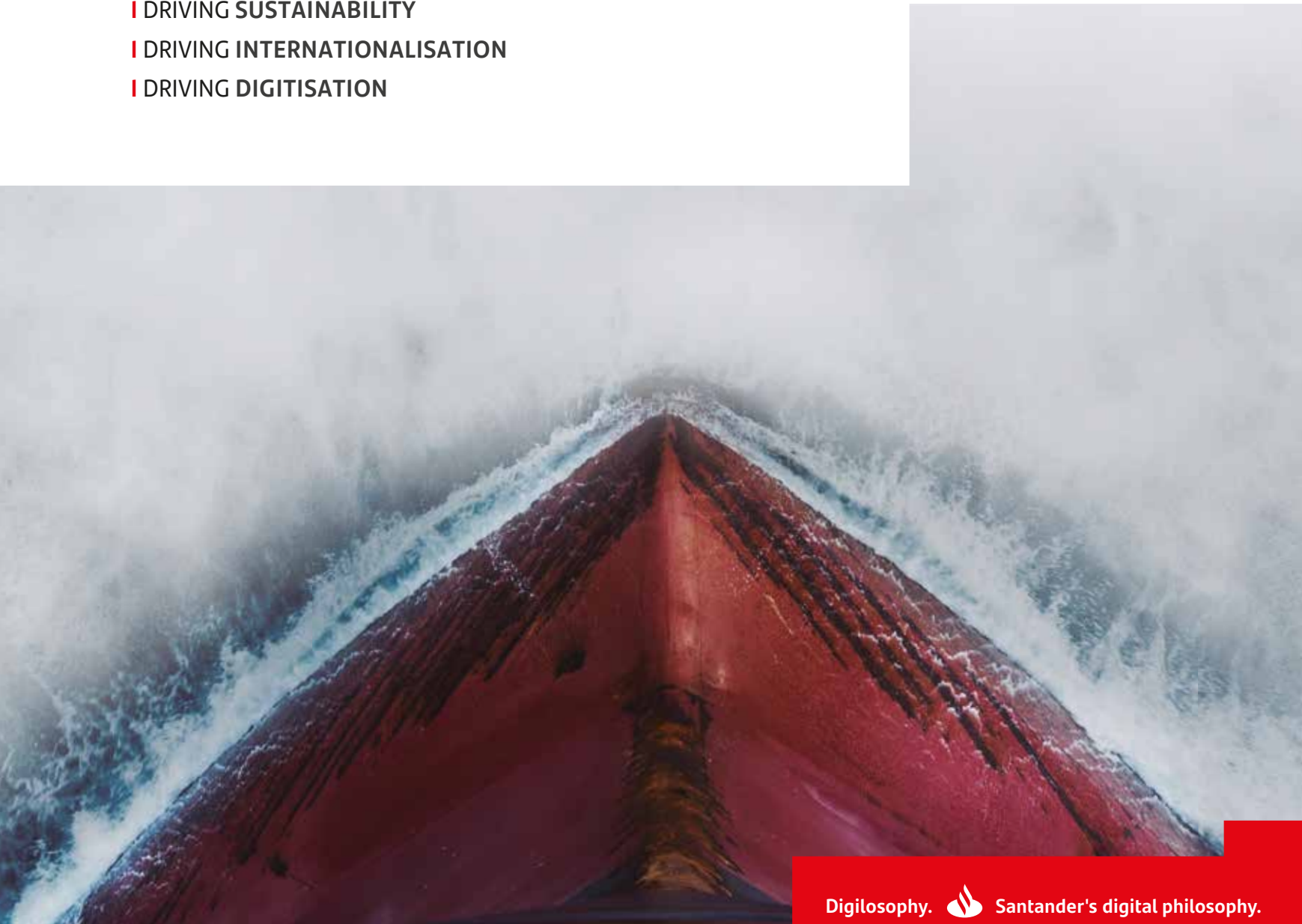
My book covers all my most important projects – in Manhattan, New Jersey, Connecticut, and The Hamptons – via the lens of my sources of inspiration, and my favourite inspirations: the unexpected, surprises, fantasy, the glow of glamour, and a balance with nature.'

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Architect of honour

Throughout the 46 years of its history, PORCELANOSA Group has collaborated with the architecture sector, and each collection addresses the ways and needs of this community. The company's ongoing evolution, reflected in its business model and its production methods, is rooted in design, innovation, and research – values that have been preserved unchanged since it was founded. It is precisely this loyalty to its principles, as well as its involvement with the professionals in the sector that were recognised by the Official Association of Architects of the Valencian Community (*Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de la Comunidad Valenciana, COACV*), which awarded Héctor Colonques, President and founder of PORCELANOSA Group, the Architect of Honour medal.

'Porcelanosa began as just a manufacturer of ceramic tiles, but over the years, it has become a company that offers integral solutions for all professionals and



end clients. This is what has made us grow as a brand, and as a company: to be able to diversify and transform that small producer of ceramic tiles into the multinational company we are today, enjoying the opportunity of collaborating with the architecture sector to reach the end client and offer them our finest materials and excellent quality. Since

our beginnings, we saw that the future lay in having an open mind, and our goal is providing an all-round service as part of the Porcelanosa quality. Our business model has always been the same, all our companies represent the soul of construction, and this is why they all complement each other. PORCELANOSA Group feels that working closely with some of the most illustrious architects – both at home and abroad – is a privilege; and I am proud to accept this award, and we will keep on supporting the architecture sector as we have done until now.'

AN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK

The Head of the Association of Architects of the Valencian Community, Luis Sendra, and other members of this organisation present the Architect of Honour medal to Héctor Colonques.



TRANSPARENT ARCHITECTURE IN MONVERDE *A connection between nature and interior spaces is the key to the architecture and interior design created by Fernando Coelho, FCC Arquitectura, and interior designer Paulo Lobo at the Quinta de Monverde Wine Experience Hotel, located in Amarante, near Porto. The remarkable new design is the result of the large windows stretching all the way across the building. Walls have turned into windows thanks to Panoramah! – a company that has, to date, worked for seven Pritzker Prize winners.*



Photo: Jose Campous Architectural Photographer

PROTAGONISTS



Soledad Berbegal
ACTIU'S ADVISOR AND AMBASSADOR

Actiu is the latest Valencian company to receive a National Design Prize. Operating from its technology park in Castalla, Alicante, it is a benchmark of sustainable architecture in Spain, and has just been awarded the esteemed Well accreditation by the Well Building Institute.

'Actiu is a factory–garden whose architecture and interior structure ensure excellence when it comes to designing and producing furniture for living spaces. Our sustainable Technology Park, which was opened in 2008 – in the midst of the



crisis – was awarded a Well v2 Platinum certificate by the Well Building Institute as the healthiest work space in Spain, and we have been the first enterprise in the world to receive it.

There is fresh fruit every morning, a gym at your disposal, and a personal trainer who encourages you and makes you work so that you can be the best version of yourself; you can arrive by bike or on foot; desks allow you to work sitting or standing up; the perfect amount of daylight comes in, there are views of the mountains and of the local historical buildings. Gardens add to the bio-friendly quality; colours, textures, and art delight the senses. Materials, and acoustic and architectural design, reconnect you with yourself and help you focus, "to feel the here and now". We have turned Actiu into a space that is caring, that cares for people.'

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PORCELANOSA Group wins the 2019 Spanish National Prize for Innovation

THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND UNIVERSITIES AWARDED THIS PRIZE TO THE SPANISH MULTINATIONAL FOR TURNING INNOVATION INTO AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF ITS BUSINESS STRATEGY AND GROWTH.

On 13 November 2019, PORCELANOSA Group was awarded the 2019 Spanish National Prize for Innovation, in its Large Company category, for its professional path based on research, quality, and design.

Awarded by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, these prizes recognise the work of all 'the people and organisations that make innovation an essential element for the development of their professional strategy and business growth,' and PORCELANOSA Group was one of the winning companies.

Out of the 79 candidacies presented (46 companies and 33 professionals), the panel of expert judges highlighted the professional effort and the advances that PORCELANOSA Group has contributed to the Spanish business fabric, with innovation, research, and technology as its major strengths. 'The panel of judges particularly valued its business model, strong commitment to innovation in technology, sustainability, and the natural environment, as well as the attention it pays to the innovative and solid growth of its own companies and teams, and its capacity for generating disruptive changes,' reads the Ministry's official communiqué.

With 46 years' of experience, PORCELANOSA Group is a benchmark multinational company made up of eight firms with a strong presence both on domestic and international markets.

Product diversification, innovation, and quality were all behind the growth of this company, which today has 1,000 shops in 150 countries all over the world. 'We are proud to receive this prize as it recognises the value of our human team, and the evolution and importance of PORCELANOSA Group in Spain. Innovating for us is synonymous with advancing, being there. This is the principle that we have applied to each of our eight companies, and the one that enabled us to turn the impossible into a reality. With it, we have reasserted our presence, support, and collaboration with Spanish businesspeople, whose worth and presence in the European Union allow us to keep on growing as a country,' say company sources.

Although when it was first set up, the company was devoted to making ceramic tiles, nowadays its business model has expanded, and its production lines also develop construction solutions, bathroom and kitchen sanitaryware and fittings, and eco-sustainable materials.



Over its 46 years' of experience, PORCELANOSA Group has successfully consolidated itself as a leading company, with a strong presence on both the domestic and international markets. Its eight companies are strongly committed to innovation, research, and technology, which are key to their business models.



XIII Architecture & Interior Design Awards 2020



PORCELANOSA Group is aware of how important architecture, interior design, and real estate professionals are in the development of any project. It is thus organising the competition for its Porcelanosa Architecture and Interior Design Prizes for the thirteenth consecutive year.

THE COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO:

DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

Candidates must create an interior design project for a hotel lobby that relates to the needs of this sector. The project must incorporate materials from the eight firms of Porcelanosa Group, and must include a café or restaurant with a kitchen, public toilets, and several common areas.

All the textures and archives needed to give shape to the project can be downloaded by filling in a form from the website: www.porcelanosa.com/3dprograms.

DESIGN OF THE YEAR

Any individual or business (architecture or interior design studio, design studio, freelancer) who/that has completed their project between January 2019 and February 2020, and regardless of their nationality, can enter the competition.

Entries must be sent by 20th April 2020.

PANEL OF JUDGES

The multidisciplinary panel of judges is made up of internationally recognised architects, interior designers, designers, hoteliers, and real estate developers. The names of the members will be published on the Prize's website once the deadline for presenting the projects has been set.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards ceremony of the 13th Porcelanosa Prizes will be held in Madrid on a date yet to be determined and which will be conveyed to all participants via a communiqué stating the place and time when the gala dinner will be held. At the event, the prizes will be awarded for both categories: Design for the Future, and Design of the Year, as well as the 2020 Special Prize. These will be announced live by the panel of judges. Some of the PORCELANOSA Group awards delivered will pay tribute to the professional path of a number of internationally renowned professionals in the sector who are committed to the Group's values.



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Kelly Hoppen

‘I grew up in a world without filters, and that will be the title of my next book.’

Text: PATRICIA ESPINOSA DE LOS MONTEROS Portraits: ALEX DEL RIO

About to turn 60, this small and wiry woman speaks with the same energy she applies to design. Immersed in a successful career, with over 40 projects underway – including appearances on TV, ten books published plus a new one coming soon, and two design studios – Hoppen is a woman with clear views. Delivering quick and to-the-point answers, she always looks openly at you, and with each thought she reflects on she then links several current topics. There is no pre-established script.

Hoppen analyses her extensive career in an interview with *Lifestyle*, a magazine that had an interesting meeting with her at Madrid’s Only You Hotel. Her transgressive design vision has earned her an **Honorary Award at the 2019 PORCELANOSA Group 12th Architecture and Interior Design Prizes**. This is an award that she particularly appreciates, as ‘Porcelanosa is a firm that is doing a great deal for interior design’.

A VERY PERSONAL VISION OF DESIGN

A member of the Order of the British Empire, and among the most influential 35 businesswomen today, Hoppen looks back to the world of yesteryear to find answers to the challenges that design faces today. Design is uppermost in her life. ‘I’ve lived surrounded by a bohemian lifestyle and by art, and my passion was visiting art galleries, as well as reading interior design magazines. While all my friends at school were playing, I was more interested in houses. I loved seeing how projects transformed from beginning to end, and I still find that fascinating,’ she quietly admits.

With an Estonian mother and an Irish father, Hoppen was born in Cape Town, but moved to London at the age of two. From her childhood in South Africa she remembers her grandparents’ beautiful house, and the aesthetic and artistic upbringing she received from her parents.

Her father died when Hoppen was 16, and she had to drop out of school to earn a living. She played in a band (hence the importance of music in her life), and she even designed a kitchen for a friend of her father’s. That’s when she realised she wanted to

‘Porcelanosa is a firm that is doing a great deal for interior design.’





become a designer. 'I always design while listening to music. I love doing this because I listen to the sounds and then I turn them into design, into shapes. I ask my clients to define a space with a song. Boy George, for instance, once mentioned *Here comes the sun* (by The Beatles). I know it sounds a bit strange, but for me, everything revolves around sound. That's what design is,' she claims.

NEW COLLABORATIVE IDEAS

Some of her clients are famous actors, singers, or designers, such as the Beckhams or Martin Shaw. As she is multi-faceted, Hoppen's work embraces a variety of areas, ranging from interior design to hotels, yachts, offices, or private jets. 'I've recently decided to

try my hand at designing luxury hotels because, as I have designed homes for the kind of people who stays at these hotels, I have lots of information about what they like and what they don't.'

Hoppen's concept of luxury is linked to a practical sense of daily life, to coherence between the object and its

surroundings. 'Luxury lies in making the most of space, and in simplicity. We have spent years studying human beings and what they need, what their basic requirements are for a trip, what essential things must be packed... The permanent challenge is to bring a lot to a small space.'

Her work methodology is rooted in the traditional empiricism of trial and error, and this gives her a starting point for finding the best solutions for each project. This is what lies behind her study called Ideation, where she finds solutions and tries out new ideas together with her creative team. 'We try different things to see the pros and cons of each space and their functionality. This is something new for me and I'm passionate about it,' she enthuses.



1 and 2. One Park Taipei, Taiwan. Two stunning towers by architect Richard Rogers. Kelly Hoppen was the interior designer of the North Tower's Ground Floor and of all the South Tower spaces. Photos: Sui Sicong
3. Culture and avant-garde interiors for these magnificent villas in Maharashtra, India. A project created entirely by Kelly Hoppen.
4. Pearl 95 Yachts. A Kelly Hoppen project for an ultra-luxury yacht. Photo: Alberto Cocchi



The photos portray the designer's style; this is an old auction house that she turned into her own home. Natural materials and fabrics, and of course, technology applied to comfort – but never letting it interfere with the beauty of the different spaces.
Photos: Mel Yates

Hoppen works constantly and tirelessly both at her two studios and at her London house; an old auction house that she converted into her home. As with Picasso, inspiration always finds her working.

This maxim endorses the 49 projects she is now involved in.

'Creativity appears at the craziest moments you can ever imagine. If you leave your comfort zone and your home, your mind opens up and you can see things with fresh eyes,' she reflects in a rather mystical way.

'If you leave your comfort zone, your mind opens up, and you can see things with fresh eyes.'

For Hoppen, one of the most important places in a home is the bedroom. In her opinion, this room 'is a natural place to relax in', and you must know how to interpret and decorate each space according to its nature. 'Each space is used differently, but without a doubt the most

difficult one to design is a children's room. Do you know why? Because it's parents who should design their children's rooms – they should get involved,' she says firmly.

ACCESSIBLE AND EASY TECHNOLOGY

Challenges and the approach to work brought about by new technologies have led to a change in the mindset of clients, but also of interior designers. In her opinion, being able to streamline time schedules and deadlines, as well as shapes, is positive, provided quality is not put at risk. 'As a designer, I like natural fabrics and materials such as wood and clay, but there's still a long way to go before we find the material of the future; one that is sustainable, gentle, and pleasing. That's why technology must become less complicated and more accessible and user-friendly,' she says.

For this designer, digital noise and fake news must be fought with more culture and empathy. 'Everything starts with education, and youngsters must learn to distinguish what is real from what is fake. I grew up in a world without filters, one that was much more real than today's. I think this will be the title of my next book,' dictating it so that the idea won't slip away.

The prologue is already underway. ✍️



The impressive 160-metre tower in the city of Shenzhen, and a general view of the building, whose ventilated façade was made of **Krion® Solid Surface**, using the **K-FIX** system. The surface area covers almost 30,000 m².

Reaching the top

Right in the lively heart of Shenzhen, an emblematic building has majestically changed the skyline of this Chinese city and its urban activity. The ventilated façade was made entirely of **Krion® Solid Surface**, and the engineering work and supervision were done by **Butech's** technical department.

Text: PAOLA ROCCA Photos: SALVA MÉNDEZ

A

large-scale project in China designed by architect Zhao Guo Xing together with Peddle Thorp Architects – an Australian studio with a strong presence in Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East – specialised in cutting-edge solutions, whose planning and work combine science, sustainability, and a respect for the environment. This building has all the necessary elements of a lively meeting point thanks to its 160-metre tower, leisure areas, green spaces, shops, and apartments – all arranged around a central point, which offers convenience and minimises traffic and noise for both residents and visitors. The spectacular façade of the main building was made entirely of **Krion® Solid Surface**, a mineral compact by **PORCELANOSA Group** that is highly resilient yet malleable, enabling the architects to realize the project in line with their original design. The specific properties of this material, such as it being non-porous, bacteriostatic, durable, easy to clean and repair, made **Krion® Solid Surface** a key element of the project. The design of the façade's slabs and structure, and the supervision of their installation were undertaken by **Butech, PORCELANOSA Group's** engineering company. //



A night view of the building; its attractiveness as a shopping and leisure centre can be appreciated. Details of the ventilated façade, an architectural project made possible thanks to **Krion® Solid Surface**, the compact mineral by **Porcelanosa**.



A spectacularly designed façade

The revamp of one of Chicago's most emblematic buildings turned an area of heavy traffic into an airy space that visually merges with the city, with a stunning façade in which **Krion® K-Life** and curved glass are the stars of this amazing metamorphosis.

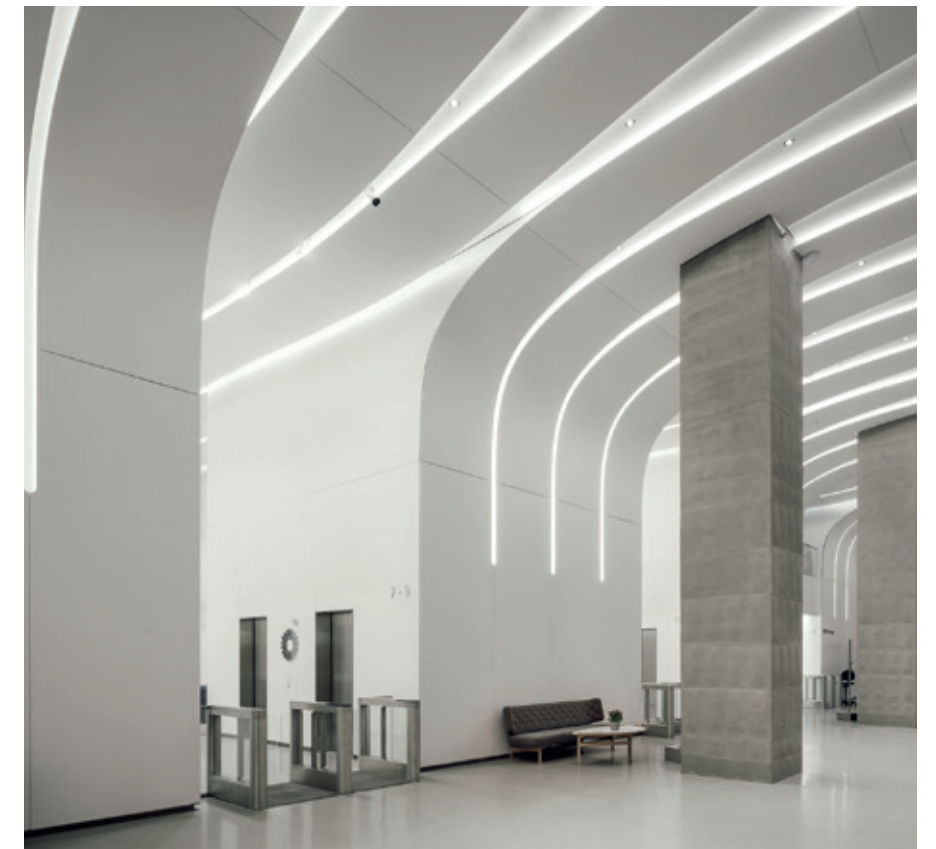




For the cladding and the ceiling, over 2,000 **Krion® K-Life** slabs were used which, in addition, support the curved glass panels of the new façade.

The CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange) moved to its current headquarters in the 1980s, and today it is one of Chicago's busiest buildings. The building had no true façade, and the multiple entrances were simply doors that just led to the lifts. The refurbishment designed by the Krueck + Sexton Architects studio completely switched the façade around to Wacker Drive and the Chicago River, integrating the building into the city.

It was a bold project. Thanks to the curved glass façade that replaces the building's original columns, a welcoming open space – over 10 metres high – has been created, for the enjoyment of both employees and visitors. It is an avant-garde space, graced with technology developed by **PORCELANOSA Group** with the participation of **Butech**, which designed and directed the process of assembling over 2,000 **K-Life Krion®** slabs to support the glass panels that give the lobby its shape, and which cover 9,300 m² of the building. This is a unique design, as slabs of **Krion®** mineral compact cover the floor, walls, and the ceiling, extending further than the façade of glass panels. A truly technical and aesthetic achievement. //



A HOME IN LA GOMERA CANARY ISLANDS

A window to the sea

This single-family home perched on a cliff was built using a range of materials from the eight **PORCELANOSA Group** firms, and won the Best Design of the Year Award, as well as the 2019 Special Award.

Photos: ADRIÁN MORA MAROTO

Natural Newport by Venis was used for the façade of 'Gom, a window to the sea'. The cladding was attached using a concealed fixing clip system by Butech.





The municipality of San Sebastián de La Gomera, in the Canary Islands, is the site where the Ángel Fito studio created the extraordinary 'Gom, a window to the sea' on a cliff. Built with a range of materials from the eight **PORCELANOSA Group** firms, it won the Best Design of the Year Award, as well as the 2019 Special Award at the 12th PORCELANOSA Architecture and Interior Design Awards ceremony.

This is a house characterised by its clean lines and volumes, and the warmth afforded by the materials used. The project, facing the sea to offer incredible views from the inside, has an infinity pool that emulates a sculpted pond. For the outdoor area, the designer opted for special STON-KER Natural Newport ceramic stone tiles by **Venis**. This material is ideal for terraces, and adds a feel of aesthetic uniformity both inside and out. Natural Newport was also installed on the façade, using a concealed fixing clip system by **Butech**.

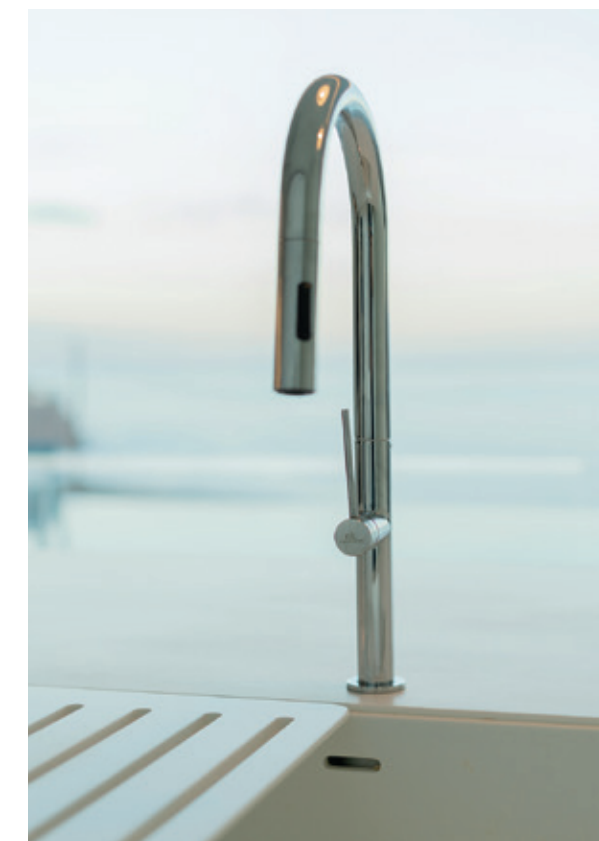
Regarding the layout, 'Gom' is on two floors, and has separate living and sleep areas. The upper floor consists of four intersecting volumes resulting from a simplification of the ground-floor layout. Inside the house, a single area connects and provides access to all the spaces. Highlights



Respecting the irregular shape of the plot, and determined to build a home facing the sea, the architects created a singular layout on two floors – with separate living and sleep areas. The façade and all other exterior walls were clad in **Natural Newport** tiles by **Venis**. The choice for the outside were the special **STON-KER Natural Newport** ceramic tiles by **Venis**, which have a cement look.



All the home's flooring was done in **PAR-KER®** parquet ceramic tiles by **Porcelanosa**. The **4.70 Emotions** kitchen furniture unit by **Gamadecor** offers ample storage space. The worktop was done in **Snow Krión® Snow White EAST**, and the taps with swivel spouts are **URBAN STICK** by **Noken**.



of its interior design are the minimalist style, pale colours, and high-end materials.

The kitchen is fitted with a 4.70 Emotions furniture unit by **Gamadecor** that offers ample storage space. **Krión® Solid Surface** was used for the worktop, specifically its most active material, **K-Life Krión®**, able to reduce air pollution thanks to its KEAST technology. The kitchen unit has an embedded sink, bevelled edges, and features a built-in LED lighting mechanism.

Most of the flooring is in the warmest shade of **PAR-KER®** ceramic parquet by **Porcelanosa**, which allows for a smooth look throughout, even in the kitchen and bathrooms. This uninterrupted flow extends to the showers thanks to **Butech's** Linear Texture grid system drain that looks like wood.

The highlight in the master bathroom is the White Persian marble wall cladding by **L'Antic Colonial**. Natural



Newport and Limestone Dover ceramic tiles by **Venis** and **Porcelanosa** were also used in this space. The **Noken** fittings bring cutting-edge technology to tapware, showers, toilets, and bathroom accessories. Regarding the furniture, the Next series by **Gamadecor**, and the **Krion® K-Life** mineral compact, were chosen for the washbasins and drawers because of their versatility and multiple properties.

In short, the entire project's layout was adapted to the irregular shape of the plot, as the architects were determined to build a house facing the sea. Outdoor and indoor areas revolve around this specific aim. This is a highly sophisticated architectural project where the importance of the choice of both the building and the decorative materials by **Butech**, were pivotal and key to an excellent end result. //



The cladding in the master bathroom was done in **White Persian** by **L'Antic Colonial (L'AC)**, and **Natural Newport** ceramic tiles by **Venis** and Limestone **Dover** by **Porcelanosa**. Tapware, showers, sanitaryware, and bathroom accessories are from the **FORMA** and **NK LOGIC** collections by **Noken**. The furniture was chosen from the Next series by **Gamadecor**, and washbasins and drawers were done in the **Krion® K-Life** mineral compact.



Ángel Fito, architect, and Carlos García, technical architect.
The Ángel Fito architecture studio is based in Almansa, Albacete, but it also has offices in Valencia and Mallorca. An enthusiasm for work imbues the atmosphere of this studio: a team of architects, designers, and specialised professionals that cover various technical specialities. Ángel says, 'we seek a combination of architecture and design in order to create spaces in which the beauty of art and technical know-how converge. We strive to transform the dreams of people into unique projects that will last forever.'



New products at the Bologna fair

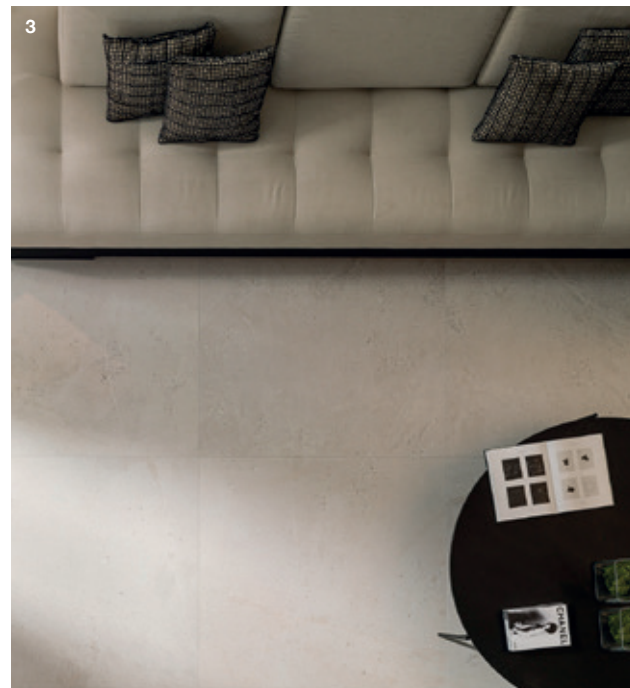
C E R S A I E

PORCELANOSA / VENIS / GAMADecOR / KRION® / L'AC / NOKEN / BUTECH / URBATEK

At Cersaie, the **PORCELANOSA Group** dazzled with its new ideas. The Group's section at the exhibition was designed as an area with different spaces based on the Group's three hallmarks: quality, comfort, and eco-awareness. The main space recreated an open-layout industrial-style shopping area with no partitions, whose construction elements played a substantial role in its interior design. The Premium Collections space was turned into a luxury hotel with an urban, rustic interior design. Finally, the Porcelanosa Projects space displayed its latest construction solutions.

Porcelanosa

Inspired by wood, stone, and cement, these materials imbue spaces with a feeling of warmth, a vintage look, and a harmonious style. A 'white wash' effect is one of the main trends for this season, and **Porcelanosa** has used it to bring back the essence of wood and natural stone.



1. Devon. A version of PAR-KER® ceramic parquet by Porcelanosa, its finish offers a 'white wash' effect. The style of this washed wood goes perfectly with vintage interiors.
2 and 3. Durango. This new cladding and flooring series is made up of tiles with four stone-inspired patterns that can be combined: Durango, Spiga Durango, Mosaic Durango and Deco Durango. Dynamic designs embodying the 'raw' touch of stone, the basic version of this material creates both a visual and tactile effect, softened by a range of nude and earthy colours, and avant-garde patterns. Wall cladding tiles: Steel Durango, 31.6 cm x 90 cm. Floor tiles: Steel Durango, 100 cm x 100 cm.

Venis

This brand – inspired by multi-coloured slate – has created the Persa collection that has an exclusive glow and surface relief. Together with it, the firm presents its Dakar wall cladding, evoking the desert. The gemstone-like sparkle of the Svan wall cladding provides a great range of nuances.



1. Persa floor tiles in **Silver**, 100 cm x 100 cm, by **Venis**. Inspired by multi-coloured slate, with a dense structure and fine grain.
2. Persa floor tiles in **Natural** colour, 100 cm x 100 cm.
3. **Dakar** wall tiles with deep surface relief, 45 cm x 120 cm, by **Venis**.
4. **Svan** wall cladding in **Black**, 45 cm x 120 cm. Inspired by the cut of gemstones.

Gamadecor

Oak is the protagonist in the latest kitchens and bathrooms by **Gamadecor**. The elements of the kitchen and bathroom furniture and fittings blend as a whole, and all meet three essential requirements: storage space, simplicity, and design.



- 1. E7 Night Oak Elements.** This kitchen is done in Night Oak worked wood combined with Dark Nature Xtone Liem. The Elements kitchen has hobs embedded in the worktop, and a VES system so that everything needed is at hand.
- 2. Copper Oak Tomo.** The furniture unit has a Copper Oak wood veneer that contrasts with the white Tomo Krion countertop, which has been milled so that the leg of the unit juts out. This comes in a Cien Sable finish, like the accessory, which is designed to simulate a beam with a side opening.
- 3. Last Roble** bathroom furniture unit. Dust Oak wood-veneered furniture unit.



Krion®

Krion PORCELANOSA Group presents Coverlux™, a new concept for a mineral-origin material whose surface is entirely covered with a nano-technological coating that meets the firm's requirements of functionality, safety, and design. In addition, back-lighting enhances the contrast of its veining.



- 1. Coverlux™** is available in mineral-origin sheets, entirely covered with a nano-technological coating that provides it with glow, protection, and exceptional properties. Its first collection, **Premium Stone**, is inspired by marble and comes in four finishes. Both the Oxide Melbourne and Onice Persa tiles can be backlit to offer a more vibrant look and more depth to their veining. The White Statuario tiles can be installed using the eye-catching book-matched or mirror-like effect.
- 2. Materia.** This is **Krion's®** latest series, inspired by the cement look of industrial style. As at least 20% of it is made from recycled materials, it is a sustainability choice and respects the environment via each of its colours: Amaro, Grigio, and Luce.

L'AC

This year at the fair, **L'AC** presented its Gravity Aluminium Dubai mosaic, flamboyant wall-cladding tiles for endowing spaces with a unique personality. Ash wood – used for guitars – and the Buonarroti collection completed the new ideas offered by this brand this year.



1. Lutier. An elegant material with a warm touch. Wood from European ash trees brings any space to life. The different browns (*in the photo, Grey*) are stunning thanks to each plank's colour variations and beautiful grain.
2. Gravity Aluminium Dubai. Hexagonal mosaic for spaces with a strong personality. The metallic finish provides luminosity and an attractive look. Gravity Aluminium Dubai is available in five colours: Rose Gold, Gold (*in the photo*), Metal, Titanium, and Copper.
3. Buonarroti. Three different shades of grey with markedly distinctive patterns make up the Buonarroti collection: Monti, Mare, and Fiume (*in the photo*).

Noken

With Liem, vintage style is reborn and reinvented. **Noken** offers a new language for bathroom interior design. Soft colours, gentle shapes, and harmonious contrasts: a perfect balance between vintage charm and contemporary design – a style that transcends time.



1. Liem. 120-cm wide unit available in two versions: suspended or with legs, and in two finishes, matt grey (*in the photo*) and matt earth. It is combined with a countertop in XTONE, whose technical properties make it highly resilient; Liem Grey Silk in matt grey finish tiles, and Ars Beige Nature in matt earth finish.
2 and 3. Essence-C is the new minimalist bathroom furniture organiser system. Graceful and visually light, functional and pared down to the essential. A suspended black metal structure, 120 cm, combined with textured glass shelves. It has a side and front towel rack and a drawer with compartments offering good storage space.

Butech

A revolution for the conservation of the environment are our new adhesives, whose composition includes different kinds of recycled plastic. Each bag of our new *one-flex reco* adhesive contains 250 grams of recycled plastic, equivalent to 50 supermarket bags.



1. one-flex reco. A spectacular innovation in the field of adhesives for installing ceramic tiles and other similar materials. One-flex reco is the first adhesive to include recycled plastic in its composition, thus helping to reduce plastic pollution in the oceans and on land.
Textured edgings. Based on pro-part edging, this collection measures 8-mm and is characterised by a subtle relief and matt finish.
2. Pro-part leather. Wood-inspired, pale-coloured edging for ceramic tiles.
3. Pro-part coal. Dark-coloured edging, perfect for creating a contrast with pale-coloured wall cladding and flooring.



Urbatek

At 2019 Cersaie, **Urbatek** showcased a new range of marble and stone tiles combining personality and supreme delicacy, via its XTONE and Xlight brands. Urbatek consolidates its commitment to large-size tiles and a 'made-to-measure' concept to adapt them to any surface with no limitations whatsoever.



1. Nylo Noir. Deep black marble crossed by vibrant, warm crackled veining.
2. Fiori di Bosco. The subtlety of forest greys combined with the lightness and warmth of richly textured fossil details.
3. Steel Berna. A statement of seduction via this very subtle natural look.

TOUZA ARQUITECTOS

The no-nonsense studio

They put their projects at the service of society. They seek to provide those who will use their buildings – either to live or work – with wellbeing and a balance with the milieu, while never forgoing one of the goals of architecture: beauty.

Text: BERNARDO FUERTES Portraits: ALEX DEL RÍO

The Touza Arquitectos studio is made up of 60 professionals who have worked on more than 2,500 projects since it first began in 1975. Julio Touza Rodríguez and Julio Touza Sacristán, father and son, are at the helm of this ship whose offices are in Madrid.

Despite the huge amount of work they have, they personally supervise each project, honing each detail with the experience and common sense that lies at the heart of their personal approach, and that is noticeable in all their designs. Julio and Julio, father and son, reply to the questions in this interview with *Lifestyle* almost in unison. Their words are thoughtful and conclusive.

How does Touza Arquitectos differentiate itself from other studios?

By our personal style, rather than the style of our work. We differentiate ourselves by the way we are, the things we do, the way we do them, and for our constant ethical commitment to architecture, and to our clients. We are a team of qualified and experienced professionals, and this is at the core of work well done.

What we do not have is a generic and identifiable style, and – as Julio Touza Rodríguez adds – I believe that architecture should not have one. Each house, each

building, is the response to a need, the response to a place, and should be in line with the economy... Architecture for social housing is different from a luxury project. Neither is high-rise architecture the same as architecture linked to the world of agriculture. For instance, we are doing a project with Philippe Starck linked to the world of olive oil – great swathes of nature which have nothing to do, for instance, with the Riverside Tower project we are just finishing by the Manzanares River, in Madrid... When we designed it, we looked at everything around, and we saw the river – not really beautiful, with hardly any flowing water – and the extraordinary Madrid Río riverside park. Our building is a vertical version of the river itself, wrapped on both sides by green plants evoking the riverside park, which the citizens of Madrid see, and which says to them, 'The river that you can't see is now vertical and elegant, and now you won't forget that the Manzanares river also exists'... It's an architectural story we can tell about this building – but other buildings will have their own origins and stories.

We are creating, for instance, a place where the economically disadvantaged families of hospitalised children with serious illness can stay. These people will have a quiet space where there is an air of hope, while doctors do their best for the children. It will be a space of tranquillity

“We are characterised by balance, but don't have a distinctive architectural imprint.”



have often worked with Siemens; we've learned a lot from them, from their concept of rationality and balance, their use of technology, their rigour and quality; and no doubt they've learned from us, too.

Are you a non-nonsense studio, one that shuns the limelight?

Both Julios answer, almost in unison, 'Yes, pretty much,' explains Julio Touza Sacristán, 'but I do not criticise it, and I respect those who approach their work differently. There are clients who demand that kind of architecture, and there are very good professionals who know how to deliver.'

Julio Touza Rodríguez said recently that the days of excessive architecture and squandering, when every city vied for its own Guggenheim, are over. At what point are we now?

When it comes to that building frenzy, those crazy days in Spain are over, although you can still see it in other places around the world, such as Asia and the Middle East. In the field of public works – in a country like Spain which has such restrictive budgets – architects have to be very aware on what that money is being spent. We must know how

and hope. Each thing has its style, but there is always an ethical commitment to the city and its citizens. Julio Touza Sacristán adds, 'What we don't have is an architectural imprint. We have a way of being, but don't seek a distinctive image, which others have. We are not against that – you must have lots of talent to stamp that identifiable imprint on your work. We see our trade as a middle ground between an architectural team offering know-how, reliability, quality, and balance, and the needs that our clients have.'

Could we say that what Touza Arquitectos seeks is to solve a need through its designs?

The thing is to solve a need, a budget. Not all clients have the same needs, or address the same public, or give the same social response. Our studio has designed a great deal of social housing and the solutions are different from when we do luxury buildings or refurbishments. Today, it's hard to invent anything. We must deliver solutions, investigate new technologies, adopt sustainable standards in order to improve our work little by little, every day.

There is no imprint on your projects that identifies you – but they all have a common attribute: they never fail to impress, are never nondescript. Is that your hallmark?

Architecture is both a social and technical response, but it has an additional value – it transcends time. No matter how limited the budget, we work in the best interest of both the developers and users. But then, we also work in the interest of the city as all projects remain. We must find a balance between the sensational and the nondescript, and our work is geared in that direction.

Julio Touza Rodríguez explains, 'Architecture can be spectacular, but it mustn't become a show. If you want a show, go to the circus, the theatre, or a football match... Firstly, you have to work out how to create the project you have been entrusted with, regardless of whether it's a house, offices, shops... Secondly, you must turn it into a recognisable object. And lastly, you have to offer it to the city as a work which, whether you like or not, will remain.'

Is it a conversation between client and society?

We are well known for being good at listening to our clients and offering them the best solutions. A developer will hardly ever say that they 'want a box', as we don't make boxes – but neither do we impose on them whatever we want. With the help of our team, we offer solutions that are satisfactory for everyone, and from which we all learn. For instance, we



Above, Julio Touza Rodríguez, founder of Touza Arquitectos. Several projects by the studio: Riverside Residential Tower, by the Manzanares River (Madrid); atrium and façade of the CPS technological company site in Getafe (Madrid); entrance hall of a rehabilitation project for luxury homes on Calle José Abascal (Madrid).

Our studio, without a doubt, has a firm commitment with society via sustainable architecture.

Concerning materials, **PORCELANOSA Group** is an exemplary company, as it's always trying to anticipate needs.



to avoid squandering, and categorically declare that doing very interesting things in an objective and cost-effective way is possible. We must be able to offer beautiful and efficient architecture whose budgets don't put further strain on the public. Spanish architects are more likely to be pretty balanced and tend to shy from the sensational. The two Spanish Pritzker winners are Rafael Moneo, and the RCR Arquitectes studio, and both are key figures of this kind of architecture that encompasses silence, abstraction, restraint... We also have great names at the other end of the spectrum, such as Miralles and Calatrava.

To stay up to date on new techniques or building materials, are training and educational activities important?

A close relationship with the industry is more important – this is the relationship that provides us with the greatest number of advanced ideas. We are in close contact with manufacturers. We have a procedure in place with companies so that they brief us on their products, and of course, their latest designs. The entire studio is up-to-the-minute, aware of all the newest products, and we learn so that we can move forward. Companies are often ahead of the needs of architects, offering materials that enable us to do new things. This is the case with **PORCELANOSA Group**, for instance, and **Krion®** – which we didn't know, but then we worked with them, and we discovered applications for it and provided a number of ideas. When they launched **Krion®**, we immediately wanted to use it for the façade of the 3M company offices – a commission we had. One of the applications we wanted to implement was very complicated; the best solution was reached




jointly by the three companies. It was a fruitful cooperation. Concerning materials, **PORCELANOSA Group** is an exemplary company as it's always trying to anticipate needs. **Krion®** is a revolution for mouldable elements both for interior design and architecture. In addition, the XLight large-format extra-thin ceramic tiles open up a world of possibilities. The Group's advances for kitchens, sanitary ware, tapware, and, more recently, prefabricated modules offer a very rich field of which architects must take advantage.

Are developers aware of the need for sustainability?

During this new real-estate cycle, it's developers who are demanding more sustainable projects. The main reason is that the more respectful building projects are with the environment, the better they sell. Developer's clients are prepared to pay a bit extra to be more sustainable. In the past, developers sought to achieve the highest profit, and clients used to buy a house based on price. Today, we're aware that houses must be as respectful with the environment as possible, as well as being reasonably priced. It's true that this effort is not widespread, but our studio has a firm commitment with society via sustainable architecture.

What is a father-son relationship like at work?

It's easy as we both have the same commitment and the same vision of architecture. We review each project, we reflect on it, and get involved with the entire team. It's very likely that if you pass by our studio late at night and see our lights on, it's because we are both working. 

Several projects by the studio: Above, Torres Skyline, a project underway in Madrid; below, offices of the 3M company, in Madrid, featuring **Krion®**; swimming pool on the Torres Skyline rooftop; gaming room at the Gran Via Hotel & Casino, in Spain's capital city.





The floors of the kitchen and dining area were done in **Steel Rodano** ceramic tiles, 80 cm x 80 cm, by **Porcelanosa**. In shades of grey, the floor is moisture and heat resistant.



A LUXURY PENTHOUSE IN MOSCOW

Just you and the city

In the city centre is this exceptional three-level penthouse, for which the well-known Decora Design architecture studio carried out a project of the highest quality using different materials from **PORCELANOSA Group**.

Text: PAOLA ROCCA Photos: ALEXANDER VOLODIN



PORCELANOSA Group was chosen for its materials that are durable and of high quality, and for its cutting-edge technology. Different products were used for the bathrooms, and for the exterior and interior flooring and walls. Some of the tiles used were **Habana Dark Classic** and **Gravity Aluminium Cubic Gold**, both by **L'Antic Colonial**; **Steel Rodano** and **Limestone Rodano** by **Porcelanosa**; and **Beige Newport Park** by **Venis**. The three levels of this penthouse reflect a style of perfect luxury, and the lines and colours have been conceived to match the personalities and needs of their owners. The goal is for the city views, the light streaming in through the large windows, and all the furniture to fuse into a high-end design. //

*This page, the terrace paving is by **Venis**.
Opposite, clockwise, the bathroom cladding is **Limestone Rodano**, 31.6 cm x 90 cm, by **Porcelanosa**. The floors are done in **Beige Newport Park**, 33.3 cm x 100 cm, by **Venis**.
In the other bathrooms, **Habana Dark Classic** tiles, 40 cm x 80 cm x 1.5 cm, were used, as were **Gravity Aluminium Cubic Gold**, 30.5 cm x 30.5 cm, both by **L'AC**.*





The façade was done in **White Basic XLight** by **Urbatek** tiles, 120 cm x 250 cm. The large white upper part of the volume has as few joins as possible to ensure a sleek, smooth surface. As for the façade of lower volume, the exterior paving was done in **Limestone Dover** tiles, from the **Ston-Ker** collection by **Porcelanosa**, as were the paving and walls of the swimming pool. **STE** (Raised Technical Floor) by **Butech** was installed for the outdoor paving.



A HOME IN JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

The best materials for a perfect finish

This home in Jerez de la Frontera is a minimalist architectural project whose design features very straight, clean lines. The different colours, textures, and sizes of the home's outdoor porcelain stoneware tiles differentiate each floor's volumes, thus creating a sense of flow for the façade and exterior walls.

Text: PAOLA ROCCA



The bathrooms were mostly clad in tiles from the **Dover**, **Belice** and **Capri** collections by **Porcelanosa**. The floors were done in **PAR-KER® Manhattan** and **Oxford** tiles, all by **Porcelanosa**.



The overall flooring in the living room, offices, and corridors is **AC4 Style 1L Calm** by **L'Antic Colonial**. The stairs were done in **Krion®**, and the solid banister in **AC4 Style 1 L**, by **L'Antic Colonial**. Kitchen floor in tiles from the **Dover** collection by **Porcelanosa**, and **Marmi China** wall cladding tiles by **Porcelanosa**. Outdoor paving in Limestone **Dover** tiles, by **Porcelanosa**, just as for the swimming pool walls and floor.

In the words of the architect Pedro Reguera, 'a truly open-plan home has been achieved, with a backyard garden around which the entire house revolves to make the most of the permitted square metres of floor area. The home is bright thanks to its large windows, and because the main rooms face outwards and enjoy many hours of sunshine.'

Different materials from **PORCELANOSA Group** were used, and Reguera summarises his choice: 'I've already worked with the company on a number of projects, and I like it for the wide range of design possibilities it opens up for your project, and because it leaves a hallmark of quality on the work. I felt really comfortable using their large-format tiles. Particularly for the façade, I sought a material that looked seamless and could also ensure a lasting exterior surface with no visible joints. With the XLight Premium format, a spectacular result has been achieved, and the surface is still in perfect condition, as good as new.'

Pedro Reguera is the sole member of his studio, although he has companies with other partners in other fields; this means that for every project he has the help of different specialists, such as structural engineers, among others. 'All my work in recent years has been for residential use. I am currently completing my second project for a residential building in Senegal for a private customer. He installed façades from **PORCELANOSA Group**, and I have just started a job involving 20 semi-detached houses and one detached home in Jerez de la Frontera, among other projects that are still at an initial stage.' //





ITALY SPECIAL

The new global 'Made in Italy' concept

The diffusion of the 'Made in Italy' concept is greatly indebted to some of today's most outstanding interior designers and architects.

Since the second half of the past century, the 'Made in Italy' label was linked to entrepreneurs and businesspeople who believed that design and architecture were at the core of change.

The underlying idea was to bring human qualities to a way of creating a distinctive style, one with a flair for lightness and authenticity.

This hallmark even ensured the solidity of the Italian economy, creating an international approach to design that, despite the successive crises, is something everyone is aware of.

Over the years, the label's initial concept has been diluted, and today it is more associated to luxury fashion and gastronomy.

In contrast, in the fields of design and architecture, this hallmark is defined by great professionals who individually reflect it in the buildings they have created all over the world, but who share a way of approaching their work and, essentially, of communicating.

Renzo Piano, Marco Casamonti, and Simone Micheli are three very individual architects as they belong to different generations, and their professional paths and work have evolved differently.

Renzo Piano is an international star of architecture and a Pritzker-Prize winner who is obsessed with beauty. Marco Casamonti collaborates with a network of professionals all over the world, and focuses on the Renaissance; on tradition rather than innovation. Simone Micheli calls himself 'an architectural hero', and designs sensorial interiors.

Does a general 'Made in Italy' concept prevail over the individual works of its advocates? My conclusion, in this article, is that the solid personal strength of these three professional creators goes far beyond this idea.

Text: MARISA SANTAMARÍA



1



2

Renzo Piano

A Pritzker-Prize winner in search of beauty



Photo: Stefano Goldberg



3

1. Palais de Justice,
Paris, France
Photo: Sergio Grazia
© RPBW - Renzo Piano
Building Workshop Architects
2. The Shard, London
Bridge Street, London, UK
Photo: Chris Martin
3. Botín Centre,
Santander, Spain
Photo: Enrico Cano
© RPBW Renzo Piano Building
Workshop Architects
© Marcelino Botín Foundation

Renzo Piano is now absorbed in the reconstruction of the bridge in Genoa which collapsed in 2018. October 2019 saw the start of this project that he has donated to his native city, which is home to the studio of this architect who won a Pritzker Prize in 1998.

The success of the Botín Foundation building in Santander in the eyes of the public and the media, and his first and only construction in Spain, has brought him to our country on many occasions.

'Sea and light were my inspiration for this project, always guided by the idea of a flow between culture and people – a channel to direct and redirect the scope of our minds and human curiosity. The key word for me is beauty, the unifying element that envelops this project.'

Very early on his career, Piano joined the architecture elite, together with Richard Rogers, as the creators of the emblematic Pompidou Centre in Paris. His professional path is geared towards technical innovation and is imbued with social sensitivity – from the Kansai airport in Osaka Bay to the headquarters of *The New York Times*, the Beyeler Foundation in Basel and the Nemo Museum in Amsterdam.

Many of his most famous works are in Italy: the San Nicola Stadium in Bari (1989); the Lingotto in Turin (1994); the Genoa underground stations of Principe, Darsena, Brin, and Dinegro (1983-2003); the Parco della Musica Auditorium in Rome (2002); the Padre Pio Church in San Giovanni Rotondo (2004); the Vulcano Buono multiservice centre, in Nola (2007).

'My father was a builder, and I see myself as a builder, too, although I never think too much about the past as nostalgia stops us from moving on. What drives people is the possibility of all that is yet to come, of their future. That's why I strive to create buildings for a better world,' says Renzo Piano.



1. Lords of Verona
32 luxury apartments in the beautiful Casa della Pietà and the medieval tower, on the Piazza dei Signori, in Verona's old city centre.
Photo: Jürgen Eheim

2. 3ddd
In Florence, the new hub of a healthy food concept.
Photo: Jürgen Eheim

3. Ausonia & Hungaria
The huge transformation of the Ausonia & Hungaria Palace in Lido, Venice.
Photo: Andrea Sarti

1

Simone Micheli

A standard-bearer of wellbeing



Photo: Alessandro Cirque

'My architecture stems from feelings, the emotions brought about by spaces and interactions among people. Today, luxury is time spent with the people we love, and spaces acquire great importance in that context. Wellbeing is the emotional sign of our times,' remarks Micheli.

He describes his architecture as sensorial and dynamic, and regards himself as a hero: 'Simone Micheli, Architectural Hero,' reads his corporate communication. The contemporary quality of the architect as a hero focuses on sustainability and on common spaces that bring people and health closer to each other.

He founded his namesake architecture studio in 1990, and the 'Simone Micheli Architectural Hero' design firm in 2003. Today, he is a professor at the Poli.Design, and at the Scuola Politecnica di Design, both in Milan.

All his creations follow a line of sustainability as they respect the natural environment, while also embodying a strong identity and singularity. He has had an exhibition at the Venice Biennale, and has been a curator of themed exhibitions at a number of international fairs.

Micheli has collaborated for years with **PORCELANOSA Group**, for which he created the Lounge line by **Noken**.

Throughout his career, he has received many international prizes, including Best Interior Design and Best Apartment Italy awarded to his Golfo Gabella Lake Resort project, the Home Overseas Award (an international prize based in London for the best residential developments), the International Design Award in Los Angeles (in the Interior Design category), just to name a few.

The areas covered by the Simone Micheli Architectural Hero studio – with studios in Florence and Milan – are many: architecture, interior design, design, visual design, and communication. Outstanding among their projects are the interior design for the Aquagranda Livigno Wellness Park integrated centre, the Arezzo Park Hotel, the i-Suite Hotel in Rimini (for AmbientHotels), the new Londra Hotel in Florence, the Exedra Spa Hotel in Nice, and the Atomic Spa Suisse in the Boscolo Exedra Hotel.



2



3



1



2

Marco Casamonti

A Renaissance man in the 21st century



Photo: Alexander Dabrovodskiy



3



4

- 1. Liling World Ceramic Art City**
Liling, Changsha, China
Liling Art City is not a regular city as it features a deep-rooted symbiosis between architecture and ceramic art.
Photo: Pietro Savorelli and Cristiano Bianchi
- 2. Antinori Winery**
Bargino, San Casciano Val di Pesa, province of Florence.
Photo: Leonardo Finotti
- 3. Colle Loreto Residential Complex**
This building located in Lugano boasts unique architecture in one single volume facing the lake and containing 16 exclusive apartments.
Photo: Pietro Savorelli
- 4. Luce di Carrara, Showroom**
Via Seravezza, Lucca, Italy. A project whose most outstanding features are its clean lines, and its overall elegance.
Constructed area, 600 m²
Photo: Neri Casamonti

Marco Casamonti is one of the founders and partners of Archea, one of the great international firms of Italian architecture.

Casamonti created Archea Associati in Florence in 1988 with Laura Andreini and Giovanni Polazzi. Since then, they have expanded and they now operate all over the world. Today, their team numbers more than a hundred people, and they have offices in several cities in Italy, China, Brazil, and Dubai.

'Our team works out of a central office, as well as from a series of spaces around the world. We all work in very close collaboration with one another, and consider ourselves to be a group of close friends and colleagues. Despite this, the particularities of the different contexts are always kept in mind,' explains Casamonti.

'This philosophy is important as it doesn't dilute the essential vision of Archea's founders – a vision filled with a sense of the past, with action as the focus of the present, and always thinking of the future, dreaming it.'

The transversal quality of Casamonti's work has seen him engaged in exhibitions, graphic design, and research. In other words, he has an integral work method whose starting point is always research – a vital process for getting to know the roots behind each project.

'Our inspiration comes from history; we shouldn't forget that we are from Florence, and the source of our ideas and resources is the Renaissance. Renaissance designers, such as Michelangelo, worked with the traditions and culture of their times while introducing innovation. The present is a changing time, flowing between the past and the future – here architects must be brave enough to envision a better horizon, and undertake its creation according to the times in which one is living,' he remarks.

A multifaceted man, Casamonti has also written essays and books, such as the highly acclaimed *Cantine: architetture 1990-2005*, in which he analyses all that a winery and wine entail. The design of one of his most recognised works emerged from this study; the Cantina Antinori, a winery that opened in 2013 in San Casciano, in the province of Florence, Italy.

'Rather than thinking vertically, we should focus on an approach that embraces all considerations and potential fields of study – and all with a respect for differences,' Casamonti states in a very clear way. //

Outside, a highlight are the spaces that are conceived as a whole. The design of the vast terrace and back garden is perfect for the owner to enjoy to the fullest.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

Unrestricted spaces

The New Zealand studio NEXTDORE designed this single-family home that opens up and merges with the outdoors thanks to a large terrace, protected from inclement weather by a floor-to-ceiling window system.

Text: BERNARDO FUERTES Photos: STEPHEN GOODENOUGH





Above, the home's terrace is totally open, but it can be closed when the weather is inclement.

Below and right, this spacious room made it possible to install a Carnival kitchen in 7.90 Rustified Dust Oak by Gamadecor, with Spring tapware by Noken. This design includes plenty of storage space, a large island, and panelled cupboards.



Located on the east coast of the South Island, Christchurch is, after Auckland and Wellington, the third biggest city in New Zealand. It is here where the Nextdore studio designed an exclusive single-family home, with **PORCELANOSA Group** contributing to the project.

Mosaics by **L'Antic Colonial**, **Noken** bathroom and kitchen fittings, and the Carnival kitchen done in 7.90 Rustified Dust Oak by **Gamadecor** with Spring tapware by **Noken**, all enhance the Premium interiors by combining minimalism and avant-garde styles. This sizeable kitchen has plenty of storage space and a large island. The big terrace and back garden are the great protagonists of this project, whose main priority was to achieve total comfort. Particular focus was placed on outdoor spaces,



on making the interiors very bright, and on a range of Premium materials. **L'Antic Colonial** was used in the bathrooms – fitted with products from the Premium series by **Noken** and **Krion**® mineral compact – and for Nextdore's choice of wood flooring throughout the home.

The bathrooms offer an ambience of comfort, and have very contrasting colours that juxtapose with the overall interior design of the house where minimalism and a prevailing use of light colours have been used. The highlight of one of the bathrooms is the wall done in the eye-catching and stylish Metal Bronze 3D Cubes mosaic, contrasting with flooring done in Dark Classic Habana natural stone, both by **L'Antic Colonial**. The space is topped off by a black Dark Vintage S Habana



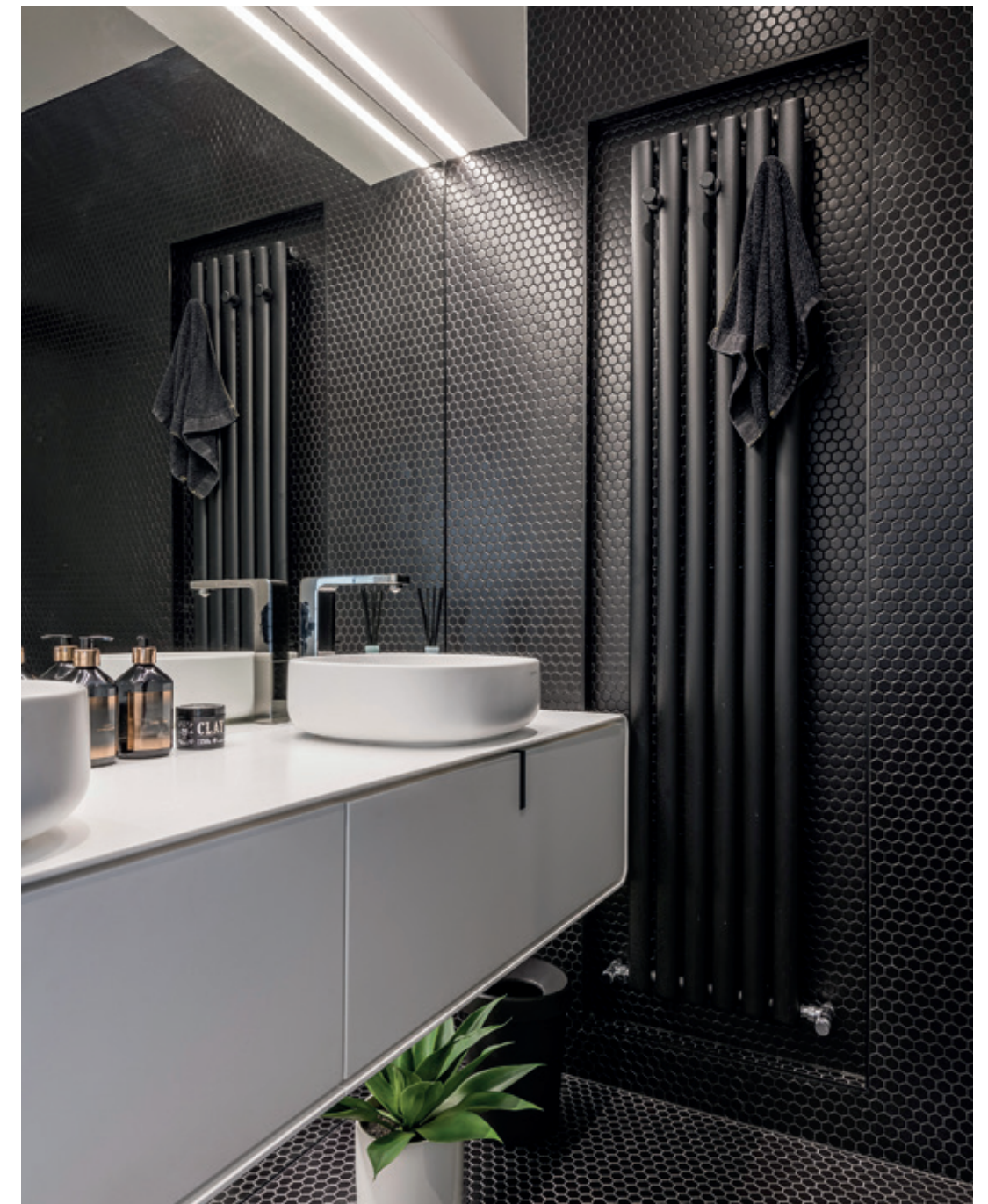
Inside, the New Zealand studio Nextdore opted for wood flooring by **L'Antic Colonial** throughout to achieve a very warm and comfortable interior.



Above, Metal Bronze 3D Cubes mosaic wall cladding in one of the bathrooms, combined with Dark Classic Habana natural stone flooring, both by **L'Antic Colonial**. Dark Black Habana Vintage S washbasin, Lounge embedded tapware by **Noken** in a copper finish, and a Unique washbasin by **Krion**®. Right, the flooring and walls of this bathroom were done in Black Matt Air Hexagon mosaic. Lounge tapware in chrome finish, an Arquitect wall-hung toilet, and an Essence-C heated towel rail in matt black, all by **Noken**. Below, Persian White Essential Hexagon mosaic tiles by **L'Antic Colonial**, and Almond fittings, by **Krion**®.

washbasin, Lounge embedded tapware by Noken in copper finish, and a Unique basin by **Krion**®.

In turn, the second bathroom goes for a balanced combination in black and white to offer an elegant and state-of-the-art design, with a Ciclo bathroom unit by **Gamadecor** in white matt finish, and Black Matt Air Hexagon mosaic tiles on floors and walls, including the shower area. This bathroom boasts Lounge tapware in a chrome finish, a wall-hung Arquitect toilet, and an Essence-C heated towel rail in black matt, all by **Noken**. The design of the third bathroom uses Persian White Essential Hexagon mosaics by **L'Antic Colonial**, and **Krion**® furniture, with bathtub and washbasins from the Almond collection. **///**





The outside spaces of the house are perfectly adapted to the terrain that gently slopes down to the Binibeca coast. The swimming pool was done in **Taupe Soho**, 80 cm x 80 cm, by **Porcelanosa**.

Between land and sky

Architects Guillermo Carreras and Cristóbal Torrent chose dry stone, locally known as *pedra seca* – a traditional building technique in Menorca – as their inspiration for this house from where the Mediterranean can be seen, felt and breathed. The home boasts modern elegant interiors featuring materials from the different **PORCELANOSA Group** brands.





Menorcan *pedra seca* is the leitmotiv of the architecture of this home. To top off their design, the architects used **Starwood Minnesota Ash** floor tiles, 25 cm x 150 cm in different spaces, like the terrace area and the chill-out space and solarium. The Greenbridge house has an **Emotions E5.70** kitchen by **Gamadecor**. The kitchen worktop was done in **Snow White EAST 1100 Krion®**. It boasts **SPRING** kitchen tapware with a faucet, high swivel spout, and pull-out tube by **Noken**.

As both architects agree, if a text could define a house like Greenbridge, located in Binibeca, Menorca, it must surely be that written by professor and poet Antonio Pereira Apon, referring to the island's traditional stone, 'An inattentive man will trip over it. A violent man will use it as a projectile. An entrepreneur uses it for building. A tired peasant uses it to sit on. For children, it is a toy. With it, David killed Goliath, and Michelangelo created the most beautiful sculptures from it. In all these cases, the difference didn't lie in the stone, but in the man. There is no stone that you cannot use for your own growth.' Stone, or *pedra*, is the basic element of this house, nestled in a continuous sloping piece of land that gently descends down to the coast. A Mediterranean home with panoramic views, adapted to the island's geography. The ground floor has five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a kitchen/dining room, and a splendid living room. Light and shade play a significant role on the large, landscaped terrace. And the solarium and chill-out areas on the rooftop are a vantage point for amazing sunset views. According to the architects, the possibility of working the stone from the outside in



Simple lines, with stone as an inspiration and as a differentiating element to give a feel of continuity. On the floors, **Starwood Minnesota Ash** tiles. For the bathrooms, a combination of fittings was chosen: **TONO** washbasin, **ROUND** taps, **NK CONCEPT** toilet, and the shower set by **Noken**.



Guillermo Carreras and **Cristóbal Torrent**, who have been friends since they were children, and architects since 1990, when they earned their degrees at the ETSAB (Barcelona School of Architecture). Since then, they have shared a work space in Mahón (Menorca). Their design for this private home is an example of respect for Menorca's local architecture and dry-stone walls, adapting them to today's needs of comfort and state-of-the-art technology.

endowed the house with a distinctive look – a unique personality enhanced by the interior design. This was inspired by the Menorcan landscape to achieve a seamless and contemporary elegance.

PORCELANOSA Group materials were used outside and inside, with a view to keeping a balance between beauty and a respect for the environment both within the house and the structure itself. The Group's excellent materials, such as the Soho Taupe tiles around the swimming pool, or Starwood Minnesota Ash flooring, provide the levels of sophistication and resilience needed to achieve the standards of quality demanded by this singular project.

The end result conveys a type of architecture rooted in the traditions of the island, a kind of interior design that pays careful attention to detail, and, in addition, uses cutting-edge materials that embrace both luxury and comfort – which complement each other in such a way that both achieve excellence. //



Old roots, new materials

Bringing into the 21st century a construction that dates back 150 years was a veritable challenge for the Bilbao Architecture Team studio. It was achieved using materials by **PORCELANOSA Group**.

Photos: AITOR ESTÉVEZ OLAIZOLA



When the Bilbao Architecture Team studio was commissioned to rehabilitate this *caserío* or rural home, they never forgot the significance of working on a traditional Basque *baserri* (farmhouse). In this case, it was the Goizko *caserío* (Omagoieaskoa house) in the leafy valley of Oma (Vizcaya). An essential requirement for this project located in Urdaibai was to respect the essence of a building whose thick walls embrace over 150 years of history.

The most important change was creating a new living area, achieved by modifying the original timber frame to connect the ground floor (the former stable) and the first floor, resulting in a double-height room. This large space is visible through a side wall where an aperture was made to the same size as one of the original load-bearing walls. Thanks to this new large window, the Basque landscape is beautifully brought into the daily life of this home in a contemporary way.





One of the most important changes was the modification of the house's original timber frame to connect the ground floor (the former stable) and the first floor, to create a double-height room. In the living room, **PAR-KER®** Steel Oxford wall cladding strips, 31.6 cm x 90 cm, by **Porcelanosa** were used. The floor was done in Hampton Grey, 22 cm x 90 cm, by **Venis**.



A modern staircase was created to connect the ground floor – the new living area – with the first floor, where the bedrooms are. The top floor, once the house's original drying room, is now an open-plan space. The Bilbao Architecture Team studio reinforced the original stone and oak structure, and at the same time, made it visually lighter by installing **PAR-KER®** Steel Oxford ceramic parquet by **Porcelanosa** and other ceramic flooring by **Venis**.

The **Venis** materials chosen are exceptional due to their pale shade of grey and rustic character, which in turn unify the aesthetic style of the ground and first floors. The sustainable materials used to make **PAR-KER** and the warmth lent by the tiles harmonise perfectly with the natural surroundings of the house, and increase its feel as a 'countryside haven' whose old load-bearing walls are still very much a part of it. //



Much of this singular house by CSO Arquitectura and Commuty gives onto the garden, endowing it with a fresh and airy feel and allowing all the daylight in. Its Mallorcan shutters add an avant-garde eco-friendly appearance and architectural uniqueness.



SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN LA MORALEJA MADRID

With an exclusive character

CSO Arquitectura and Commuty entrusted **PORCELANOSA Group** to bring elegance and personality to the refurbishment of the different areas of this singular house.

Photos: DAVID FRUTOS

La Moraleja – a residential area in the municipality of Alcobendas – is one of the most exclusive in Madrid and is where this Levitt house is located, whose refurbishment and extension were carried out by the CSO Arquitectura and Commuty studios: a single-family house mainly facing the outdoors, and enjoying incredible views of the swimming pool and the garden.

Only three exterior walls and part of the first-floor structure were preserved from the previous construction, which was extended by 108 m². Regarding the interior,

the floorplan was entirely revamped, with a triple-height staircase created at the heart of the house. The stairs provide spatial continuity for the different spaces and give the project a distinctive touch.

Another particularity of this Levitt house is the extraordinary amount of daylight it receives, enhanced by the large Mallorcan shutters. The rooms are generous in size, and their interior design is minimalist; and the flow throughout the house was improved by eliminating a number of partitions.



The flooring in the living room, bedrooms, kitchen, study, and sitting room was done in Advance 1L Natural parquet, 18 cm x 220 cm x 1.1 cm, by **L'Antic Colonial (L'AC)**. Residence kitchen by **Gamadecor**, with fronts in White Núbol and Niebla finish inside. The worktop was done in **Snow White Krypton®**. The tapware is from the Hotels range by **Noken**. The ceramic wall cladding is White Carrara, 33.3 cm x 100 cm, by **Venis**.

CSO Arquitectura and Commuty turned to materials by **PORCELANOSA Group** to fill this house with personality, which can now be described as an elegant and singular construction.

The flooring of the living room, kitchen, study, bedrooms, and the attic sitting room was done in Advance natural oak wood parquet by **L'Antic Colonial**. This material, together with exposed bricks and the roof tiles, is a highlight of the project, both for the inside and outside of the house.

The bathroom fittings also have the **Porcelanosa** hallmark of quality. Thanks to the effect of their marble veining, White Carrara ceramic tiles by **Venis** offer a classical touch to the walls.

The Pure Line Wood furniture unit with a big storage drawer, and a Pure Line suspended washbasin were installed along with Hotels tapware and wall-hung toilet, all by **Noken**, as was a **Krypton®** shower tray made of the latest-generation mineral compact. Other products used in the bathrooms, and also by **PORCELANOSA Group**,



The wardrobes throughout the house are Residence wardrobes by **Gamadecor** in a white, leather-look laminated finish. The bathrooms were clad in White Carrara ceramic tiles, 33.3 cm x 100 cm, by **Venis**, with a marble veining effect. **Noken** tapware, Architect shower, Urban furniture by **Noken**, **Krion**® shower tray, and Ecolite bathtub.



were the Urban furniture unit by **Noken**, the Architect shower trays, and the Ecolite bathtub with surround in Basic Snow Nature.

A highlight is the Residence kitchen by **Gamadecor**, with fronts in White Núbol finish and Niebla finish inside. The kitchen also boasts a **Krion**® Solid Surface easy-to-clean worktop that is antibacterial. The room is topped off by Hotels kitchen tapware by **Noken** and wall cladding in White Carrara ceramic tiles by **Venis**. Also by **Gamadecor** are the wardrobes throughout the

house that are in a white, leather-look laminated finish.

Very high standards of sustainability and energy efficiency were followed for the refurbishment of this house. An extra layer of insulation was added for total thermal control and to minimise energy consumption.

In addition, radiant heating/cooling was installed for extra comfort in winter and summer. The hot water for the bathrooms is provided by thermal solar panels that use the most cutting-edge aérothermal technology. //



Luxury homes in unique surroundings

Between the towns of Gandía and Denia, in the south of the province of Valencia, is one of the most complete resorts in the Mediterranean: Oliva Nova Beach & Golf Resort. A tourist complex in an area where the mild climate offers fine weather all year round. It has facilities for enjoying sports like golf, tennis, paddle tennis, football, cycling, rugby, horse riding, and water sports. The developer, Construcciones Hispano Germanas, built Residential Green 12 right on front of the golf course, by the equestrian centre, and near the beach: two buildings

each with 20 luxury homes, where top-quality materials were a must. To reach levels of excellence, the bathrooms and kitchens walls were done in **Old Beige**, and **Newport Beige** tiles, both by **Venis**. Terraces and outdoor paving were done in **Grey Deep Light** non-slip tiles by **Urbatek**, and on the roof-solarium, **Steel Bottega** non-slip paving tiles, by **Porcelanosa**, were used.

The bathrooms' fittings, sanitary ware, tapware and accessories are by **Noken**. The hydro-massage bathtubs and shower trays are by the firm **Krion**. The furniture chosen for the kitchens are from **Gamadecor**, with mixer taps by **Noken**. The sum of all these materials has culminated in a quality luxury residential complex in unique surroundings, plus facilities that are often chosen by the best sport teams from all over the world for their pre-match training sessions. //



1. Golf course designed by Severiano Ballesteros.
2. Both the swimming pool and the surrounding terrace are highly durable thanks to non-slip Deep Light Grey paving tiles, 29.7 cm x 59.6 cm, by **Urbatek**.
3. The rooms are provided with a feel of continuity thanks to Beige Newport floor tiles, by **Venis**, used both in the kitchen-dining room, and in the bedrooms and bathrooms.
4. The kitchen features a Snow White E5.70 furniture unit, by **Gamadecor**, and tapware by **Noken**.
5. The Old Beige cladding, by **Venis**, and Par-ker® floor tiles, by **Porcelanosa**, endow the bathrooms with a feeling of warmth.





Efficient solutions for work environments

The Binter Canarias airline is a 100% Canary Island company that has seen extraordinary growth in turnover and, consequently, in staff. In order to accommodate this larger number of employees, it opened new offices in Telde, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. This building, which covers over 13,000 m², has been designed mainly in shades of white, and has open spaces with a minimalist look that favour a good work environment.

The raised technical floor for interiors by **Butech** was installed in 3,500 m² of office space, along with tiles from the City Cube Nature collection, by **Urbatek**. These are unglazed technical porcelain stoneware tiles, which have a timeless design. The distinctive durability of this brand's flooring is a practical choice for workspaces.

Raised technical floors by **Butech** allow all types of systems and installations to be hidden underfoot. The cables of the workspaces are undetected thanks to the floor's general structure, resulting in a more streamlined and functional environment that harmonises with the different elements of an office.

The anodised aluminium Pro-Skirting edge in Silver finish, by **Butech**, hides the floor's perimeter and unifies the Nordic style of the facilities. It was chosen for its high shock- and moisture-resistant properties. A technical and elegant solution that combines perfectly with the ceramic tiles installed on the raised technical floor. These solutions by **PORCELANOSA Group** offer a practical, durable, and modern ambience. 



The building's indoor spaces have 3,500 m² of raised technical floor, by **Butech**, with tiles from the City Cube Nature collection, 59.6 cm x 59.6 cm, by **Urbatek**. Aluminium edge in Silver finish: anodised aluminium Pro-Skirting, 60 cm x 10 cm, by **Butech**.





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A port in the centre of Spain



The Madrid town of Alcorcón – in the middle of the Iberian Peninsula – boasts a true port. The Bálamo restaurant is a gem of a design created with the help of Portuguese architect Rui Costa, who was the project's consultant. It covers 4,200 m², and has a lush vertical garden in the centre. Costa opted for sustainable architecture and a healthy environment, incorporating several green spaces to separate the different areas.

The venue specialises in seafood and fish, and, from the very beginning, the Portuguese architect chose materials by **Porcelanosa**, **Venis**, **L'AC**, **Noken**, and **Butech** – all of which are **PORCELANOSA Group** firms – to give shape to the project.

The cladding is from the Oxo Deco XL collection, and Anthracite Samoa by **Porcelanosa** provides warmth and calmness to the space thanks to its textures and colours.

Ceramic wood by **Starwood** enhances the feeling of warmth and familiarity, and Nature is evoked by the relationship with the sea and the vertical garden. This can be particularly noticed by the use of the colours Coffee Nebraska and Almond Tanzania, which prevail in the main dining room, and which contrast with the Ferroker collection by **Venis**. Other remarkable tiles are the Silver Sea metallic cladding, which adds volume to spaces. Colorstuk Rapid N sealing in white, grey, anthracite, and black, and Colorstuk Rapid N sealing in Oak, Doussie, Anthracite, and Graphite, were used. In addition to these products by the firm **Butech**, adhesives and a clip system for the Silver Sea tiles by **Venis** were used, as were self-levelling spacers that guarantee perfect flatness for floors and walls. ✂



1 and 2. Ceramic wood by **Starwood** in the colours Nebraska Coffee and Tanzania Almond, which prevail in the main dining room, and which contrast with the Ferroker collection by **Venis**; and Samoa Anthracite floor, by **Porcelanosa**.

3. The indoor vertical garden is one of the largest in Europe. The flooring is by **Starwood**.

4. **L'AC** Grey Polished Stone Zeno and Persian White Polished Zeno stone handbasins were used in the bathrooms. The tapware is from the Urban series, by **Noken**. Both flooring and cladding were done in Samoa Anthracite tiles, by **Porcelanosa**.

5. Silver Sea cladding, by **Venis**, 33.3 cm x 100 cm.
6. Bronze Artis cladding, by **Venis**, 33.3 cm x 100 cm.





Where next?

Deloitte.

PORCELANOSA IN THE WORLD

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PORCELANOSA Group takes part in the first edition of Expo Obra Blanca, in Mexico

The first edition of Expo Obra Blanca, which took place from 15 to 17 October 2019 at Expo Santa Fe in Mexico City, was a meeting point for professionals specialised in the final stage of the design and execution of projects: finishes. The exhibition was organised by Tradex with the backing of the *Tile Council of North America (TCNA)*.

PORCELANOSA Group showcased over 400 m² of solutions in the fields of architecture and interior design. The stand evoked everyday home ambiances: kitchens, sitting rooms, and bathrooms. In addition, several areas were specifically created for some of the group's firms.



The hall's *pièce de résistance* was a furniture unit made in XTONE, by **Urbatek**, which pointed the way to all the other specific areas of each brand, such as bathrooms by **Noken** and **Gamadecor** kitchen furniture, plus a sitting room whose cladding was inspired by Ceppo Stone terrazzo tiles by **Porcelanosa**. The **Krion®** box showed the versatility and practicality of the firm's surfaces. **Butech** brought its latest innovations in construction systems, and **L'AC** showed its flooring and cladding in wood, marble, and natural stone; **Venis** presented its Magma, Persa, and Urban collections, among others.

The Urbatek XTONE experience, up close and personal

Throughout the year, **Urbatek** sets up exhibitions showing the technical properties of XTONE, the raw material with which the company aims to break format barriers, and give free rein to the imagination to see how far the professional fields of architecture and design can take this material when used in a large format. In Spain, **XTONEXperience** has already been held in cities such as Málaga, Palma de Mallorca, Seville, Madrid, Santander, Zaragoza, and Bilbao, and in other European cities, Nantes, Manchester, Glasgow, and London.

During these demos on XTONE, both technical and cooking demonstrations are given in which famous international chefs and influencers from the world of gastronomy reveal the extraordinary properties and possibilities offered by this material. Moisés Royo, professor at the Architecture School at Madrid's Polytechnic University, is responsible for introducing the material to the world of architecture.



1 and 2 Demonstration of the properties of XTONE, by **Urbatek**, in Glasgow. An enormous tile (150 cm x 300 cm) is the room's highlight. Below, cooking show highlighting the material's properties.
3 Foodie Olga Vila at the cooking show held in Zaragoza.



4 Olga Vila, protagonist of cooking talks in Zaragoza.
5 Three-star Michelin chef Dani García, demonstrates the resistance to high temperatures of XTONE, by **Urbatek**.
6 Moisés Royo, professor at the Architecture School of Madrid's Polytechnic University, was responsible for presenting the XTONEXperiences.
7 and **8** XTONE presentation at the Hispania restaurant in London, supervised by chef Marcos Morán.
9 and **10** XTONEXperience at the Ibérica restaurant in Manchester, whose gastronomic consultant is Nacho Manzano.

TALKING ABOUT...

OPEN SKY



The Open Sky shopping centre project, with its 18,000-m² double roof in **K-Life Krion®**. The versatility of this material, its properties that help reduce pollution, and its ability to be formed into double-curved surfaces make it possible to create this extremely complex architectural design.



Renders: © Compagnie de Phalsbourg

Madrid excitedly awaits the new Open Sky leisure centre that will revolutionise city life in the capital. Compagnie de Phalsbourg chose Torrejón de Ardoz for this spectacular project, and commissioned it to the acclaimed Italian architect Gianni Ranalo. This very ambitious project covering over 60,000 m² will house shops, more than 30 eateries, landscaped areas, fountains, pools, a beach club, electric minibuses to move around the place, and everything needed by a city like Madrid to meet its high standards.

PORCELANOSA Group is part of this big challenge as it will create an amazing 18,000-m² double roof designed in **K-Life Krion®** by **Butech's** Technical Department, thus successfully redefining the concept of combining luxury and cutting-edge technology. **///**



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SHOWER: TONO SHOWER COLUMN · **SHOWER TRAY:** ZEN 90 cm x 140 cm
WORKTOP: PROJECT WOOD · **BRASSWARE:** TONO BASIN MIXER · **BASIN:** FORMA RONDO
FLOOR TILES: URBAN BLACK 80 cm x 80 cm · **WALL TILES:** URBAN BLACK 45 cm x 120 cm / URBAN CALIZA 45 cm x 120 cm

customer service (+34) 901 100 201
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HIGHKER
premium ceramic



PORCELANOSA Grupo

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FLOOR TILE/WALL TILE: BOSTON STONE 59,6 cm x 180 cm

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