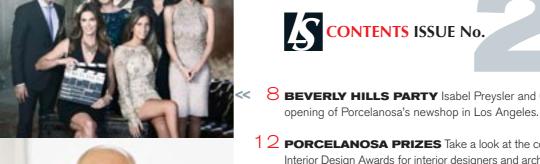


ROGERS STIRK HARBOUR AND LUIS VIDAL DESIGNTHE NEW NOKEN COLLECTION/FRAN SILVESTRE DAZZLES US WITH HIS 'CASA DEL ACANTILADO/HBA CONTRIBUTES ITS VISION TO HOTEL EXCELLENCE/PORCELANOSA GROUP SHINES AT CERSAIE.











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## **COVER PHOTO:**

A CG image showing the interior of the new Porcelanosa headquarters in New York, designed by the Foster and Partners architecture studio.

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# Creativity, experience and precision

Talent, experience, a forward-looking approach and a visionary attitude are the keys to the doors of professional success. The architects and interior designers included in this LIFESTYLE issue are a reflection of the great expectations for 2013, a year when the eight brands of **Porcelanosa Group** present their innovations resulting from company product research and technological development.

Foster and Partners was the architecture studio chosen by **Porcelanosa Group** to design and renovate the Group's new headquarters in New York, a historical building dating from 1919 that is now the company's flagship store for the American market. In collaboration with Foster and Partners, an iconic project with global media impact is being undertaken.

Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and Luis Vidal + Architects are the designers of MOOD, the new bathroom collection for Noken. Young Spanish architect Fran Silvestre demonstrates that creativity is limitless with his very beautiful project House over a Cliff. HBA, a group of interior designers who have carried out important work all over the world, verify that quality should be combined with the sensibility and synergy of spaces, the environs and energies.

All of them work with **Porcelanosa Group**, who thus consolidates its ability to accept new challenges with the realiability and self-confidence of a leader.



# NOW IN BEVERLY HILLS

This past 5th of October, **Porcelanosa** opened its first shop in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, throwing a party whose guests included actor George Clooney, top model Cindy Crawford and Isabel Preysler.



# In the purest Hollywood style

actor George Clooney (opposite), top model Cindy Crawford and Isabel Preysler (above) – accompanied by her children Julio, Chábeli and Ana (left below) – posed for Porcelanosa. On the occasion of the opening of **the group's** 

of the opening of **the group's new shop in the USA**, Manuel

Colonques posed for the photograph with the American actor.

he presentation – red carpet and all
– of the new **Porcelanosa** shop in
Beverly Hills took place in L.A.'s most
exclusive neighbourhood. The showroom, with

a surface of 850 square metres, is located in a new building on Beverly Boulevard, in the district where the most exclusive interior design shops in the city are concentrated, in addition to many haute couture shops.

The launch was attended by actor George Clooney, top model Cindy Crawford

and Isabel Preysler who was accompanied by her children Julio, Chábeli and Ana. An event that **Porcelanosa Group** took advantage of to show its commitment to solidarity and active collaboration by making an important contribution to the project led by George Clooney in the Sudan. The country's areas of

conflict are monitored via the Satellite Sentinel Project which ensures that the attacks and atrocities perpetrated there come to light for the authorities in charge of the protection of human rights (www.satsentinel. org) to intervene as quickly as possible. A reciprocal collaboration if we take into account

that the actor's regular involvement with **Porcelanosa Group** has been going strong for seven years already.



Luxury guests were accompanied by representatives of the Spanish ceramics company like Silvestre Segarra and Manuel Colonques, for whom Isabel had words of praise for their entrepreneurial work and for putting the name of **Porcelanosa** "on such a high level in the international sphere". In fact, the Group has been present in the United States since 1986 and today has 18 shops and five logistical centres, modern facilities with more than 300 professional employees. In addition, it is present in America through a network of



over 600 authorised distributors. The firm is a benchmark in the country, with products valued for their high standards of quality, and it is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Interior Designers and the US Green Building Council.

Continuing with its expansion in the USA, **Porcelanosa Group** has just acquired a sixfloor building on NY's Fifth Avenue whose redesign is in the hands of the Foster + Partners architecture studio. Its completion is expected by the end of next year.



# Solidarity and collaboration

During the event, Isabel Preysler gave a donation on behalf of **Porcelanosa** for one of the projects of solidarity led by the actor.

Family photo George Clooney and Cindy Crawford posed next to Isabel and her children Julio, Chábeli and Ana. Luxury guests (left below) Vigen Amirian (Glendale Tile Company), Isabel Preysler, Todd Amirian (Glendale Tile Company), Aaron Henkle. And (right below) Stacey Keibler, Chábeli Preysler, Julio Iglesias, Jr., Ana Boyer, Isabel Preysler, George Clooney, Silvestre Segarra, Manuel Colonques, Cindy Crawford, Rande Gerbe.





# THE **PORCELANOSA** COMPETITION

he 6th edition of the Porcelanosa Awards is already looking ahead to next May 30th when one of the most important prizes in the sector will be given. Registration began last 22nd November, and this firm from Castellón hopes to have the same success as last year with over 250 entries. The registration deadline is next 8th April, and comprises its two usual categories:

- Executed Projects; which gives awards for the best work done between January 2011 and February 2013 with materials from any of Porcelanosa Group's firms.
- Projects for the Future; which outlines an interior architecture problem in the design of a restaurant and its different spaces. This category is divided into two subcategories: students and professionals.

Prior registration should be done via the competition website (www.porcelanosainteriorismo.com), and it allows participants to download the textures and 3D blocks that must be used for the project. In addition, and as in previous editions, Porcelanosa Group will award a prize to honour the most outstanding professionals in the sector - a prize that has already been received by people such as Carlos Ferrater, Patricia Urquiola and Álvaro Siza.

For further information, download the rules of the 6th Architecture and Interior Design from: www.porcelanosa-interiorismo.com/ certamen/bases.html.



30th May 2013 in Madrid.

For Interior Designers & Architects. **Categories for Professionals and Students.** Designs to be submitted by 8th April 2013. More information available in PORCELANOSA showrooms or www.porcelanosa-interiorismo.com

2013

PORCELANOSA Grupo







# FIRST SHOP IN PANAMA

ith a new shop in Panama City, **Porcelanosa Group** continues its commercial expansion in Latin America. The new showroom, which opened last summer, is located in the modern PH Oceanía Business Plaza Torre 1000 building in Pacific Point, one of the most popular areas in the Panamanian capital.

The Argentinean top model Valeria Mazza and Venezuelan singer Carlos Baute, accompanied by his wife Astrid Klisans, attended the opening of this new showroom, as did many people from the national and international media. Among the public at this event, which brought together almost 800 guests, were **Porcelanosa Group's** directors and VIPs as well as many big names from the business and social worlds and well-known Panamanian architecture and design firms.







# PH Oceanía Business Plaza Torre 1000 in Pacific Point,

a building with a contemporary design located in one of the most popular areas of the Panamanian capital, was the place chosen by the company to install its new headquarters and where the group's brands are already exhibiting their products.

A 700 square metre point of sale that also has an area devoted to professionals.



(Right) Antonio García, the Spanish consul in Panama and his wife Claudia Gurisatti next to Astrid Klisans, Silvestre Segarra, Valeria Mazza and Alejandro Gravier.
(Below) Architect Alfonso Pinzón Lozano, Eliana Bartulessi, Marco di Nicola (the new showroom's Managing Director) with his daugther Stefanía, Pablo Ruiz (Urbatek), Diane Segura and Alan Pinzón.

An elite photocall (Far right) Alejandro Gravier, Valeria Mazza, Astrid Klisans and Carlos Baute.











# **MAGNIFICENT AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES**

n the occasion of the opening of Porcelanosa Group's first shop in the Phillipines, Isabel Preysler returned to her homeland to act as ambassador for the brand she has represented for 30 years. An opening she attended with her daughter Tamara Falcó, for whom it was her second visit to the town where her mother grew up, and was surprised by the spectacular change undergone in the capital since her previous visit. Also accompanying her was Cayetano Rivera, who is taking advantage of his temporary retirement from the bullring to travel and discover new places, as well as to devote his time and effort to a philantropic project to help very underprivileged children.

At the official event of the opening of the

new Porcelanosa shop in the Infinity Tower, an imposing skyscraper in the financial and shopping centre of the city of Manila, Isabel was surrounded by her family and friends, and by the Directors of the Spanish company with this opening, they expand their presence in Asia, where they already have shops in 30

Porcelanosa's new showroom is in a modern location in the Fort Bonifacio area, a very frequented district in the city of Manila that in recent years has experienced an extraordinary retail boom. It comprises around 1,000 square metres showcasing the firm's most exclusive creations in ceramic, stone and wood flooring and cladding, and kitchen and bathroom fittings. 🖊







Isabel (above right) was a perfect hostess at the event, and was accompanied by Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Honorary President of the Ayala Corporation, and his wife Beatriz Miranda Barcon Zobel de Ayala (on the right).







Above, Isabel, Tamara and Cayetano at the event. The previous evening,

Porcelanosa offered a dinner (left) to celebrate the launch of the company in the Philippines and which was attended by the Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines, Jorge Domecq. At the dinner Isabel met her family and old friends again, as well as some of the country's most important businessmen. Clockwise, James Ong and his wife Carmen Jiménez Ong, Cayetano Rivera, Raúl Martínez Isabel Preysler, Silvestre Segarra, Tamara Falcó and Menardo Jiménez.



The Foster & Partners
architecture studio has
undertaken the redesign
of Porcelanosa
Group's flagship
headquarters in New York

ext: ENRIC PASTOR

With thanks to architects TABA RASTI and PABLO URANGO LILLO

# GREATIONS EXPECTATIONS

ehind the neoclassical façade dating from the early 20th century, work has begun at NY's 202 Fifth Avenue to convert a historical building, the former Commodore Criterion, into the new Porcelanosa Group's headquarters in the United States. In charge of the work is the Foster + Partners studio, headed by Norman Foster (Manchester, 1935), a global, ambitious and punctilious architect who works on all scales and on all continents, designing everything from glass office desks or the new London buses to wineries in Alava, Spain and gigantic airports like Beijing's or futuristic cities like Masdar in Abu Dhabi which he has planned. Ever since the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank building - the skyscraper that launched him to fame - his projects span the entire world (in over 20 countries) and are built with masterstrokes, no ornamentation and high-tech materials. "The projects of which I am fondest are those on which I am working at each particular moment," he says. The new Porcelanosa Group's American headquarters, on six floors and measuring 2,000 square metres, in front of the iconic Flatiron Building, will be an ecological, flexible and innovative structure. The project, by Foster & Partners, will preserve the neoclassical original façade which is on the listed buildings register of New York City, and will be gutted in order to create a more dramatic and dynamic layout. It will hold not just display

and shop areas, but also social-event and office spaces and will be completed by the end of 2013. The architect himself tells us about the key things of this transformation.

The building is located in an iconic area of New York and in front of the Flatiron. Does this site pose a particular difficulty or is it an incentive? We have worked on several high-profile sites in New York City, and each offered its own possibilities. This building is in a fantastic location, close to the junction of Fifth Avenue and Broadway, and in front of the Flatiron.

What is the greatest challenge posed by



Porcelarosa

Porcelanosa's headquarters? In the same way that many other New York buildings from the same period, the old Commodore Criterion has a repeated stack of identical floors, up to six — which is not the ideal layout for a showroom. Our main challenge was to work within the structure of this listed building and to alter its interior. The design will create new visual connections between the layers that form the floors and also a great variety of spaces, with a succession of dramatically interconnected levels.

Is it related in some way to any of your previous projects – for instance, the interior



The interior of the new

Porcelanosa headquarters in

New York (opposite) will be laid out
in spaces and on different levels
interconnected in such a way
that a visual link among them is
achieved. The different heights will
be visible through the conserved
terracotta façade.

The project includes an events

The project includes an events area on the ground floor, while another one with a more public function will be on the top of the building with views of Madison Square Park and the Flatiron Building (left). Foster

and Partners will conserve the neoclassical proportions of this listed building dating from 1919 (below), but they will drastically alter its interior with an innovative design of different heights – ideal to showcase the products of **Porcelanosa Group's** eight brands.





"The projects of which I am fondest are those that I am working on at each particular moment. All pose demanding challenges and also opportunities for innovation."

design of the Asprey shops? Our designs for the Asprey boutiques in New York and London integrated a contemporary interior within an existing building. The shop windows reflect both the Asprey brand and its location on Bond Street and Fifth Avenue. It is an interesting reference, but each job is special for its location and purpose. In this sense, **Porcelanosa** is nothing like these projects.

What is the key to this project? Its transverse section. By preserving the existing framework and disrupting the vertical recurrence of floors, the design will create a new and dynamic sequence of spaces of different heights. These will be evident through the conserved terracotta façade, bringing life to its exterior.

Does the redesign of an existing building limit creativity? Have you had many limitations due to it being a listed building from 1919? Architecture is always a response to restrictions and challenges, and the more defined these parameters are the better the result often is. Our starting point was the restoration of its exterior, restoring it to the original design. The interior redesign will be a contemporary, light and bright counterbalance.

In a sense, you have always been concerned about the people using your buildings enjoying natural light and recreational areas, like in the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank and Berlin's Reichstag. How is this principle achieved at Porcelanosa's flagship headquarters? Recovering the original façade has allowed us to create new openings so that natural light floods into the two new and important public spaces. Our design includes a flexible events area on the ground floor and another, even more public area, on the top of the building with views of Madison Square Park and the Flatiron.

What do the building's neoclassical style and the clean lines of the façade suggest to you? Have you used them as patterns for your redesign? Our approach stresses the neoclassical proportions of this listed building. The interior alteration is spatially important, creating a seamless, open layout, and also important from an ecological point of view as it affords us the opportunity to radically improve the energy performance of this 1919 structure. A highly insulating cover will reduce carbon emissions by 50% and new systems will generate natural cooling and 40% savings in water. Half of the construction waste will be recycled. The sum of these measures will give this building a Gold LEED rating and certification of sustainability. The ECO tap range by Noken (Porcelanosa Group) will help maximise the efficient use of water.

Your style is always faithful to high-tech and to a technological manner of viewing architecture. How will this be reflected in this project? I have always disowned styles.



Labels such as 'high-tech' are fabrications used by journalists. Rather, my work focuses on research, on meeting people's needs, on a commitment to quality and on finding the best solution. With **Porcelanosa** there have been two exploratory paths: learning about the building, its surroundings and urban context, and learning about the company's organisation and goals.

How will you integrate Porcelanosa's materials and products into the building's spaces? This is a very flexible layout. Each floor will hold a wide range of exhibition systems in order to show the different uses of Porcelanosa Group's materials, accessories and furniture. We have also tried to integrate these materials into the construction of the building.

Please tell us about your relationship with Porcelanosa. I know Porcelanosa from several previous projects in Spain, but undertaking this project has given us an in-depth knowledge of the company, its brands, materials and products.

How do you begin each project? We always start by doing lots of research and exploration. We visit the place, analyse the weather and study the culture and traditional architecture of the area. We talk with many different people who will use the building so as to fully understand their needs and objectives. In order to be a good architect you have to be able to listen and to ask the proper questions. Architecture is always a response to a series of needs; the clearer they are formulated, the better the result will be.

Do you feel more comfortable when redesigning or when building from scratch? I do not establish differences between these two branches of our work. Both involve a combination of architecture and design.

What can architecture offer to our societies beyond plans and buildings? I passionately believe that architecture is a social art, a need and not a luxury; that its concerns are quality of life and contributing to people's wellbeing. This search for quality also encompasses infrastructures: train stations, airports, certain places that we often underrate but that have a big impact on our lives. Great architecture can be edifying and transform our daily lives.

What would be your advice to architecture students? They should be passionate and fully committed.

How many projects are you involved in right now? As the Chairman of the Design Board, I work on each and every one of my office's projects.

How are your London and Madrid studios organised – the latter, directed by your partners Taba Rasti and Pablo Urango Lillo? They are based on excellent people and teams. There are many mobility options within our global work network, and our team is equally

international. Our studios guarantee that we can be working on each project "on site", no matter where it is.

Has today's crisis changed the way of creating architecture? The phrase "doing more with less" has never been more relevant whether from an environmental or an economic point of view. My own experience is that hardship and difficulties sharpen one's skills and drive. Some of the best buildings have emerged from the harshest economic conditions.

Has your style evolved over the years? My work is still evolving and in this sense I still consider myself a student. When I travel I keep on learning about old and local building traditions, about "architecture without architects" that has fascinated me for as long as I can remember.

Is the same care given to all projects now that you have hundreds of employees and you do not have to stay awake all night? Yes, they are all equally taken care of. Fortunately, I sleep peacefully.

You keep receiving assignments and awards at a time when showpiece architecture is being questioned. How do you explain this? I think that the answer is in your question: we do not make architecture to show ourselves off. Rather, we are motivated by people and their needs. We also want to understand and reinforce the culture, history, traditions and identities of the different places. It's right to question any kind of architecture that ignores its context.



Some of his most representative works: 1. The Reichstag Dome for the new German Parliament, Berlin Germany 1992-1999 (Photo: Rudi Meisel). 2. Swiss Re HQ, 30 St Mary Axe, London, United Kingdom, 1997-2004 (Photo: Nigel Young / Foster + Partners). 3. Portia Winery, of Faustino Group, Burgos, Spain, 2007-2010 (Photo: All rights reserved). 4. Beijing Airport, Beijing, China, 2003-2008 (Photo: Nigel Young / Foster + Partners). 5. Millau Viaduct, Millau, France, 1993-2004 (Photo: Nigel Young / Foster + Partners). **6.** 'Camp Nou' Stadium of Football Club Barcelona, Barcelona, 2007 (Photo: Foster + Partners).



# THE GLOBAL ARCHITECT

From La Rioja to Boston, from Kuala Lumpur to Abu Dhabi, the sun never sets on Foster's empire: he works in 150 cities in 15 countries opening offices wherever his works are erected. "I believe that the quality of our surroundings can improve our quality of life," Norman says. This is reflected in his bright Riverside studio in London where 40 languages are spoken and which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. His work comprises infrastructures, buildings and products, from airports to a small door knob. This year he finished, among other projects, the Aldar Central Market in Abu Dhabi, a modern Arab souk crowned by three towers: the Anfa Place resort and business centre that links the city of Casablanca with the Atlantic coast, the Cathay Pacific airlines VIP Lounge in the Hong Kong terminal - reinventing the glamour of travelling - and the ultra-sophisticated The Aleph residential development in Puerto Madero (Buenos Aires). He will start 2013 with two lofty projects: the expansion of the Queen Alia airport in Amman and the Spaceport America in New Mexico, the first spaceport from which commercial flights to space will take off (who knows whether Foster, an expert pilot, will be among the first to travel). Later on he will open the Datong Art Museum with a pyramidal roof, in China. Meanwhile, on the drawing board for the next few years are the Apple Campus in California, Bloomberg's headquarters in London and the master plan for Kowloon East's Cultural District in Hong Kong. Foster's global realm is boundless.



# The pleasure of eating in a park

The Al Punto restaurant is located in an exceptional area of Madrid, the Conde de Orgaz Park, where houses are hidden among the foliage. The venue could therefore not be designed otherwise and architect Mariano Martín always kept in mind the idea of "eating in a park". The project does away with barriers between the inside and outside, closing itself off to noise and opening onto the garden. The space is

dominated by a bar made of Krion®, a resilient and flexible material from the Porcelanosa Group. Black was chosen as backdrop, and the interior design is a journey through all the five senses, as explained by the architect: "Smell by the garden, sight by the wicker turned into gold by the light, touch by everything which is within reach and, finally, the most important for a restaurant: taste. And of course, hearing for good conversation..."



# **ART UNDER YOUR FEET** The Chillida collection, by the Catalonian firm Nani Marquina, brings together

in a series of carpets a number of designs by the renowned sculptor. Based on a chronological selection of

pictorial work by Eduardo Chillida (1924-2002), the collection includes, among others, work from the 1948 Human Figure to the 1957 drawing Ink as well as the 1966 Collage, which reflect his working process prior to his bestknown work, Comb of the Wind in San Sebastián. All these pieces have been transferred to carpet designs with the utmost precision.

# MARIANO MARTÍN

# **Beyond pure** construction



A small exhibition, the renovation of a friend's home, a bar, a house, a residential building, a hotel, a chair, a bottle for oil ... It doesn't matter, for us the point is to keep on opening up new paths that make us think and ask new questions, nourishing our curiosity. An architect, for us, is a way of looking at things which is useful way beyond construction... And I believe that these days we should be the first to see and explain this! The new generation already knows, and is showing it to us...





# **Design on the streets of Milan**





The Brera Outdoor Village is an exclusive event that took place during the latest Milan Furniture Fair where the most interesting outdoor furniture and design ideas were presented.

Unusually for this event, the fair opened the doors of the Palazzo Cusani to the public. This 17th century Palazzo in the historical heart of Milan is the current site of the city's Territorial Army Command Headquarters and was transformed into a venue where the most avant-garde design could be appreciated. During the Fair it housed the installation created by the Milanese architects and designers Roberto Palomba and Ludovica Serafini. "With natural materials, fully adapted for outdoor life, we wanted to create a relaxing island in the heart of Milan during the Furniture Salon, the most exciting and hectic time of the year," said the architects. Their outdoor solutions thus managed to transform a solemn military square into a suggestive space of refined modernity.

# **VENIS, THE STAR AT CASACOR CHILE**

The 2012 Casacor Prize for the Best Space considered the most important architecture, interior design and decoration show in Latin America and the second on a world level - was given, at this second edition in Chile, to Javier Pinochet and his project 'La Otra Casa' [The Other Home]. He used Beige Ona cladding on one of the main walls.



JESÚS ÁNGEL MIRANDA PHOTOGRAPHER AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

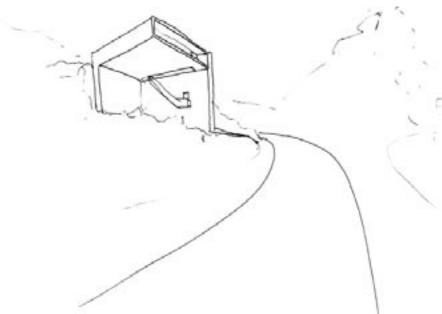
# Two paragraphs to define a concept



Finding the functionality of a space and its bonds with its inhabitants within a given aesthetic-cultural context with a future "interior design" in mind.

Taking the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao-Tse's quote as a reference, "Architecture is not ceilings or walls, but the air inside them", my job consists of making that air the most breathable possible. I undertake each project with that premise, trying not to fall into decorative visual traps: fashions, trends... polluting particles that lessen the credibility of the product. Providing personal experiences, searching for coherence in the treatment of spaces, a thorough study of the smallest details... all this is essential: a visual approach, a spatial consciousness (Oteiza).

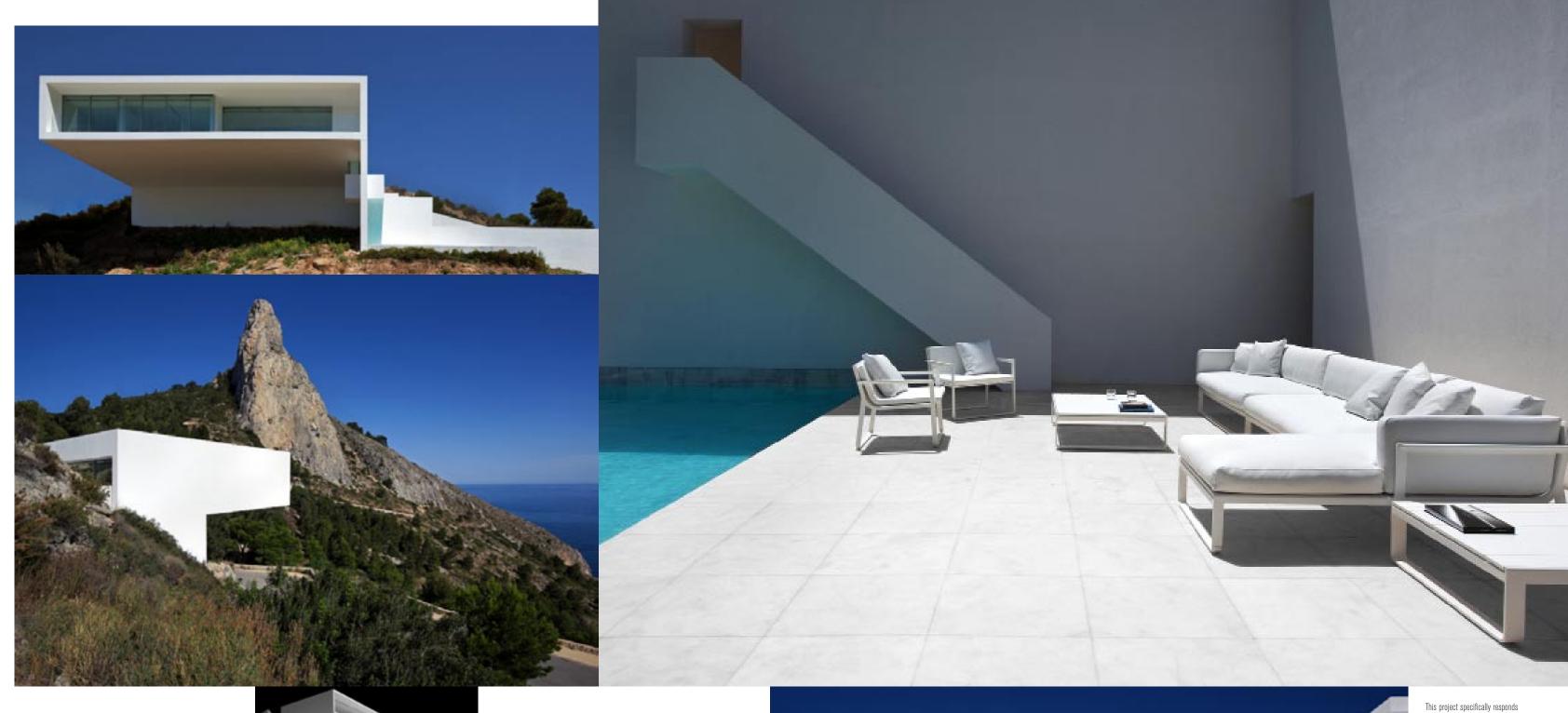
And after four decades working in different areas (industry, engineering, journalism and publishing ...), interior design is the realisation of an idea, being lucky enough to materialise all that has been experienced, to explore all areas of creativity. In short, it is the red cherry in a daiquiri.



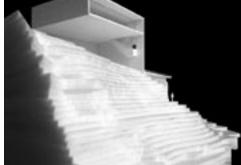
# A PERFECT HOUSE

'Casa del Acantilado' [House over a Cliff] is a project by architect Fran Silvestre in Altea, Alicante. A design determined by its natural surroundings, it has been brilliantly solved by the technical team of Fran Silvestre Arquitectos. The house looks as if it were suspended in the air, its silhouette overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The Valencian architect, who undertakes each project as a new challenge to make the impossible possible, collaborates in his projects with **Porcelanosa Group.** 





n abrupt plot with an 80-per cent slope was the first difficulty that the team of architects had to face. In addition, there was the initial requirement of designing a one-level dwelling. Constant discussion with the customer was necessary so that the house could faithfully reflect the personalities of those who were to live in it, becoming an unmistakable expression of their individuality. This discussion also included comfort and functionality. In short, a combination of all these elements brought about a unique project unlike any other, as is always the case with each of the projects tackled by this architecture studio. Lifestyle talked with



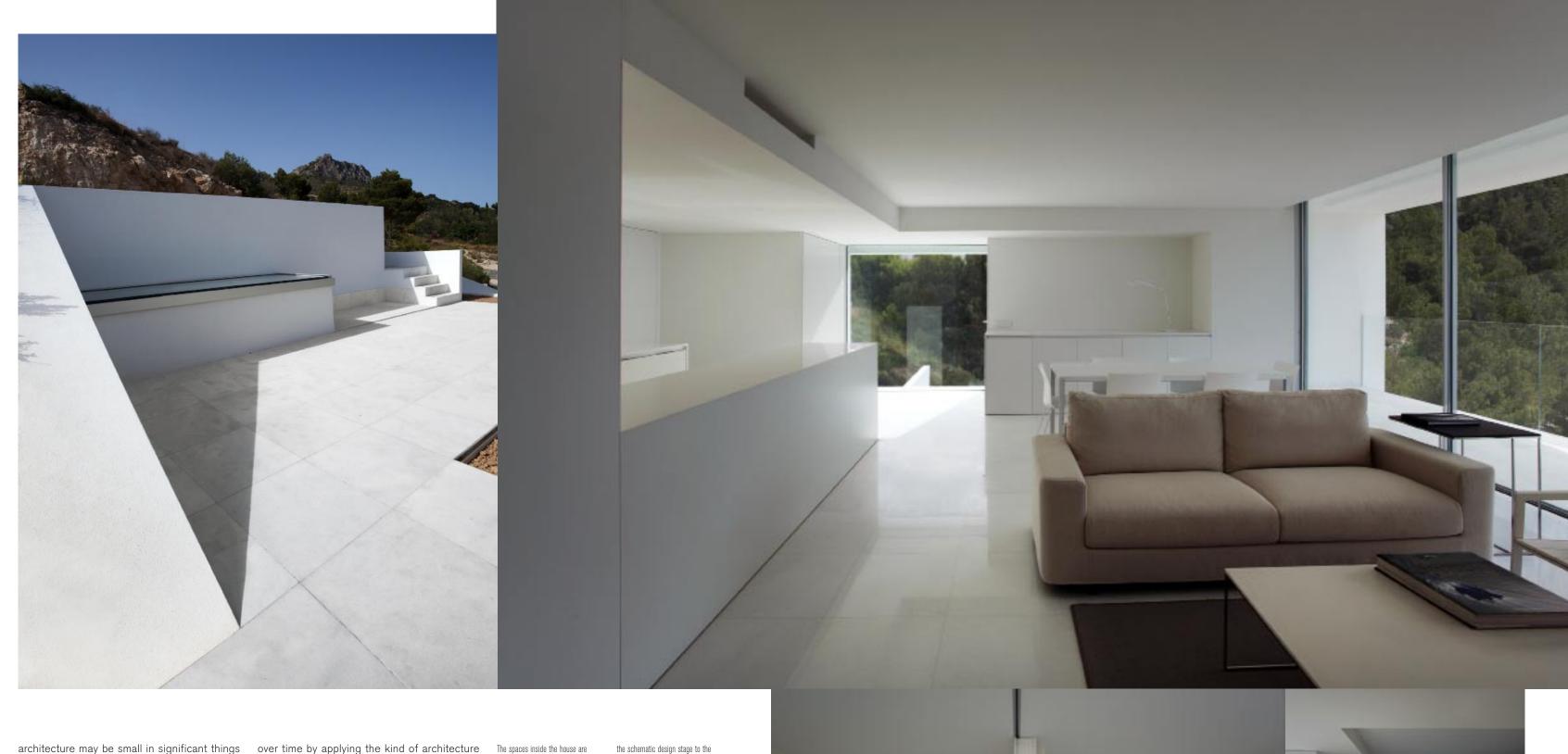
The house stands over rough terrain. The white colour, in harmony with traditional Mediterranean architecture, stands out.

Fran Silvestre, the designer of this house, with the aim of delving into his understanding of architecture. Among other questions, he told us about this specific project, his collaboration with international studios like Álvaro Siza's, his views on single-family homes, and finally, he revealed to us what we can see if we visit the Wind-Power exhibition in which he is involved along with Alfaro Hofmann's studio.

You admire the kind of architecture that makes the impossible possible. With this in mind, what sort of project would you like to undertake? Architecture allows us to experiment with sensations. We are very satisfied to have had the opportunity of building a house in the air that gives the feeling of walking on the water of the Mediterranean. Each project must be understood as a new form of experimentation in which the best is still to come. In our team, we always bear in mind that



This project specifically responds to a desire to be part of its surroundings, respecting them and trying to capture them. A point of inflection is its stairs, offering a suggestive itinerary. The swimming pool area is exceptional, as it brings the sea closer to the house. White Sandy Almería Marble by L'Antic Colonial has been used for it. A three-dimensional structure made of screens and slabs of reinforced concrete was chosen as it adapts to the topography minimising the slope's changes.



or significant in small things if you understand that each assignment is an opportunity to materialise a good project.

Clear and neat spaces prevail in your work, a stark architecture in which surprising volume-play takes the leading role. Could you define your style? A defining element of our architecture is a certain attitude towards our projects. Our ability to study each of them, their schedule, analysing them to overcome this situation and be able to generate continuity: continuity with surroundings that we should respect, a spatial continuity, the use of just a few materials, the integration of all facilities, the lighting... And also, the search for continuity that withstands time while not becoming

There is a pervading presence of singlefamily houses in your work. Thinking about this kind of space, the needs that it should meet and its uses, what do you consider essential in a house? Each home and each project materialises depending on our customer's personality. That's why our approach to projects emerges from a two-fold commitment - our willingness to provide each specific context (its needs, budget, applicable laws, natural environment...) with a technical answer as well as a desire for seeking beauty through a completed work. This process work has been really useful, from

ample and open. The play of light and shade confers a changing appearance to the façade and outside spaces. Floorings and features by firms belonging to Porcelanosa Group, like White Thassos Polished Marble floor, by **L'Antic Colonial,** and bathroom units and taps by Noken, were used. This collaboration was very productive in different ways, as explained by architect Fran Silvestre. "One was the help afforded by the technical team. All this joint

execution and work management. Thus, we had specialists for each area who sometimes seemed to be For the smooth and high quality execution of the work, collaboration among all the professionals from the various trades is vital and having a single brand that can be applied to all finishes is a great advantage for making the work process more flexible and for improving the final result."





# **VITAL ARCHITECTURE**

Architect Fran Silvestre founded Fran Silvestre Arquitectos in 2007. The studio is made up of a multidisciplinary group of architects who share the same projects. Fran Silvestre recognises that the project he feels most satisfied with is the human team of his own architecture studio. He combines work at his architecture studio with teaching. He currently works with the department of Projects of the Architecture School of Valencia - of which he used to be Deputy Director - and is the professor in charge of Final Projects of Architecture Degrees at Madrid's European University. He comments: "I think that teaching architecture is a very important activity. Each student has an immense potential, and the main goal is to give them the foundations and support they need to be able to develop and focus it on their surrounding social contexts." In the last year, he set up the Wind-Power exhibition in collaboration with the Alfaro Hofmann Interior Architecture studio with which he often works. This show is the result of several years of joint research with the ITE ("Instituto Tecnológico de la Energía": Technological Institute of Energy) and the UPV (Polytechnic University of Valencia). They were drawn to the development of this project by their concern for reducing impact on the landscape and integrating renewable energies into urban surroundings using architectural design.

pursues satisfaction, understood in its most complete sense: satisfaction of all who actively participate in its development. It is a search for comfort from a thermal, acoustic, even perceptive sense, trying to generate a beautiful atmosphere in which the owners are faithfully reflected.

What methodology does Fran Silvestre Arquitectos apply when collaborating with international architecture studios like Pritzker laureate Álvaro Siza? Our collaboration with Álvaro Siza was essential for the studio, for our understanding of architecture, and also to maintain a committed attitude to each project – our starting point was the artisanal care clearly visible in his entire work.

All this is reflected in our attitude towards our projects and their environs.

Can you name an architect whose work you admire? Personally, I would highlight the material expressiveness and timeless quality of Swiss architect Peter Zumthor's work, Álvaro Siza's artisanal approach, and the respect for place, landscape and tradition as well as the ability to surprise of Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer.

**Current projects?** Right now, Fran Silvestre Arquitectos is working on different national and international projects: a housing project in Brussels, the redesign of a historical office building in central Valencia, a wind-power tower... We are lucky to be growing at the pace we want and enjoying each stage.

The plot is almost 1,000 square metres, of which 242 are devoted to the house itself. Underfloor heating was installed and the interior design was entrusted to the Alfaro Hofmann Interior Architecture studio. White Thassos Polished Marble was used for the inside flooring; and outside, White Sandy Almería Marble was used, both by L'Antic Colonial from Porcelanosa **Group.** The kitchen furniture is the G-480 model by Gamadecor, and the worktop is made of Krion®, a novel and resilient material by Systempool - both

brands belong to **Porcelanosa Group.** The studio headed by
Fran Silvestre looks for innovation
through new materials and
technologies in order to improve
people's lives. They therefore focus
their efforts on innovation based
on experience and on improving



# THE STRENGTH OF A GROUP

All the new products from **Porcelanosa Group's** eight brands, the stars at the International Fair on Ceramics for Architecture and Bathroom Fittings

nce again, **Porcelanosa Group** presented its new collections at the International Fair on Ceramics for Architecture and Bathroom Fittings (Cersaie). Held in the Italian city of Bologna, the 30th Cersaie edition overwhelmingly confirmed its worldwide profile – with over 100,000 visitors, of which 32% came from abroad – as well as its position as a benchmark world fair for the ceramic and bathroom sectors.

With a total of 106,846 visitors (75,563 single visit visitors), the Group considers this fair to be one of the most essential for the sector and it

therefore created a global space to present the latest innovations of its eight firms. The new ceramic floors and wall coverings by **Porcelanosa**, **Venis** and **Urbatek**, together with natural materials by **L'Antic Colonial** were integrated with kitchen and bathroom fittings by **Noken**, **Gamadecor** and **Systempool**. In addition, **Butech's** technical solutions had a stand with a surface area of over 300 square metres (specifically separate to present its new products of installation materials and state-of-the-art building systems).

The next edition of Cersaie will be held in Bologna from the 24th to the 28th September 2013.

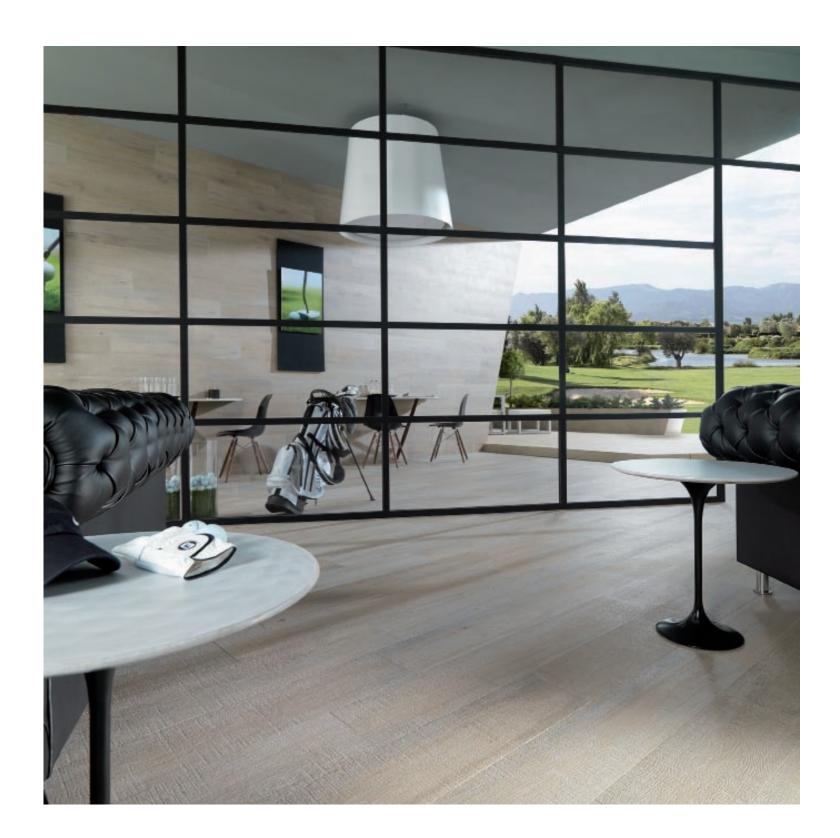


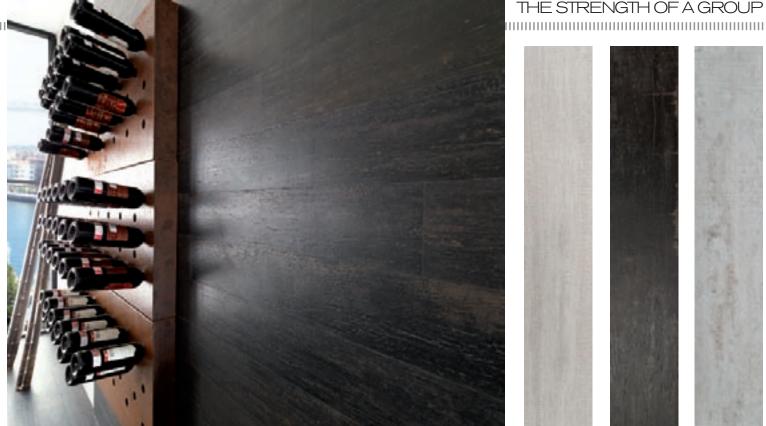
# THE STRENGTH OF A GROUP

# **PORCELANOSA**

orcelanosa took advantage of this Italian fair to present its new models of **PAR-KER** ceramic parquet, a great Moy series (Mocha, Anthracite and Grey),

make a powerful statement and boast similar or better qualities than real wood, since PAR-KER requires no maintenance, is not damaged or choice both for indoors and outdoors, and for worn over time, has long-lasting colour, is easy to private and public spaces. Thus, **Top Britania**, clean, is not affected by temperature changes, is Moon Britania, Ash Britania and Wales non-slip and does not absorb liquids. In addition, **Britania,** just like the different products of the its great durability makes it perfect for underfloor heating installations.









Britania, Ash Britania and Moon Britania, all measuring  $19.3\times120$  and  $18\times65.9$  cm. The Moy series comprises Mocha (left), Anthracite and Grey (measuring 14.3  $\times$  90 cm). The image (above left) shows how PAR-KER blends perfectly with the wall, creating visual unity between floor and wall covering. In addition, its wood-like look imbues the space the warmth and comfort of wood plus all the advantages of ceramic parquet. The ceramic pieces at the top of the page (clockwise) are Top Britania  $(19.3 \times 120 \text{ cm})$ , **Mocha Moy** (14.3  $\times$  90 cm) and  $\mathbf{Grey\ Moy}$  $(14.3 \times 90 \text{ cm}).$ 

# **NOKEN**

**oken** presents **MOOD**, a new bathroom concept comprised of two broad product ranges, a bathroom fittings line and a brassware line. The bathroom fittings line, designed by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and world of ceramics with accessories - thus making it modular and extendable, as well as versatile and range for a more traditional public.

functional. MOOD has four basic colour finishes for Krion® elements: Snow White, Yellow, Strawberry and Navy Blue, but customers can choose from a wide range of special colours. The MOOD line of taps, designed by Luis Vidal + Architects, ensures Luis Vidal + Architects, seamlessly combines the responsible use of water and has a highly userfriendly electronic range as well as a mechanical

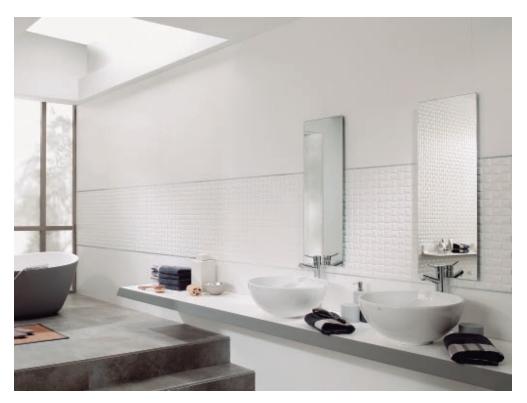


Easy-to-use and intuitive: respect for the environment and user friendliness were major goals when developing the MOOD bathroom brassware collection. Noken took into account users' experiences to ensure it is intuitive and easily adaptable to life's daily needs. Its digital technology guarantees perfect control and ensures optimal use of water. With these ideas in mind, Luis Vidal + Architects developed the entire line of taps: the electronic version allows for customised use for the user to adjust operation, flow and temperature. A mechanical version offers the same futuristic and elegant design adapted to a more conservative public.

# **BUTECH**

ne of the main innovations of **Butech** at this year's fair has been its linear floor drain system. An aesthetically beautiful solution that allows for floor level shower trays to have the same flooring as the rest of the bathroom. It is a new stainless-steel range of linear floor drain systems comprising of a single waterproof layer compatible with the

installation of ceramic tile and a U-bend drain. **Butech** also showed its most exclusive range of decorative edges: the Elegance Collection (available in quality chrome or 24-karat gold set with Swarovski crystals). An elegantly beautiful solution of decorative metallic lines for joins between different materials and to finish off tops or wall corner edges.











# **GAMADECOR**

lines return to bathroom fittings. Starting from the purity of square

ith **Gamadecor**, geometric and flexible programme that allows for limitless combinations. Gamadecor also presented a new kitchen model, G690 Vintage Coconut and rectangular forms, its new collection **Oak / Krion®**, in which the central island – done **Next** proposes a series of modules that form in **Krion**® – is centre-stage again and whose repeated and diverse compositions, and are all doors, concealing electric appliances, are in very functional. The **Next** collection is an open harmony with state-of-the-art interior design.









In the G690 Vintage Coconut Oak kitchen in **Krion**® (above), the facing modules are in a strikingly minimalist yet vintage style, as is the modern island, thanks to the functionality of their concealed compartments and Krion®'s qualities: easy to use, as well as fireproof and antibacterial. The modules of the **Next** bathroom series are available in a wide range of sizes for basin units, auxiliary modules, wall storage units, countertops and basins, with the possibility of incorporating mirrored fronts (left). In addition, a new range of handles is available, and customers can also choose between a traditional opening system and the practical 'push' system. The range of finishes goes from laminated and lacquered, from shiny or matte to real or dyed wood.

# **VENIS**

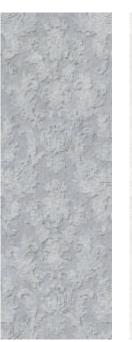
atural stone was the inspiration for Florencia – a soft-textured ceramic wall cladding with an effect as fine and elegant as the real product itself. Emulating artisanal carved bas-relief stone surfaces, its any space with great character. **Florencia**, by measure  $44 \times 66$  cm.

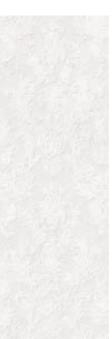
**Venis** is a ceramic product exclusively for walls and measures 33.3 × 100 cm. It is available in three colours: White, Beige and Natural. The Cascais and Madagascar porcelain stoneware collections, with the same stone effect, have a delicate floral motifs imbue the interior design of smooth texture more suitable for floors. Pieces



The photograph on the left shows how the White Florencia wall cladding (33.3 × 100 cm) combines perfectly with the Montana Blank floor (19.3  $\times$  120 cm). Below, the Natural Florencia finish  $(33.3 \times 100 \text{ cm})$  goes beautifully with the White Wash Canada flooring (19.3  $\times$  120 cm). The three **Florencia** swatches correspond to the colours: Natural, White and Beige.





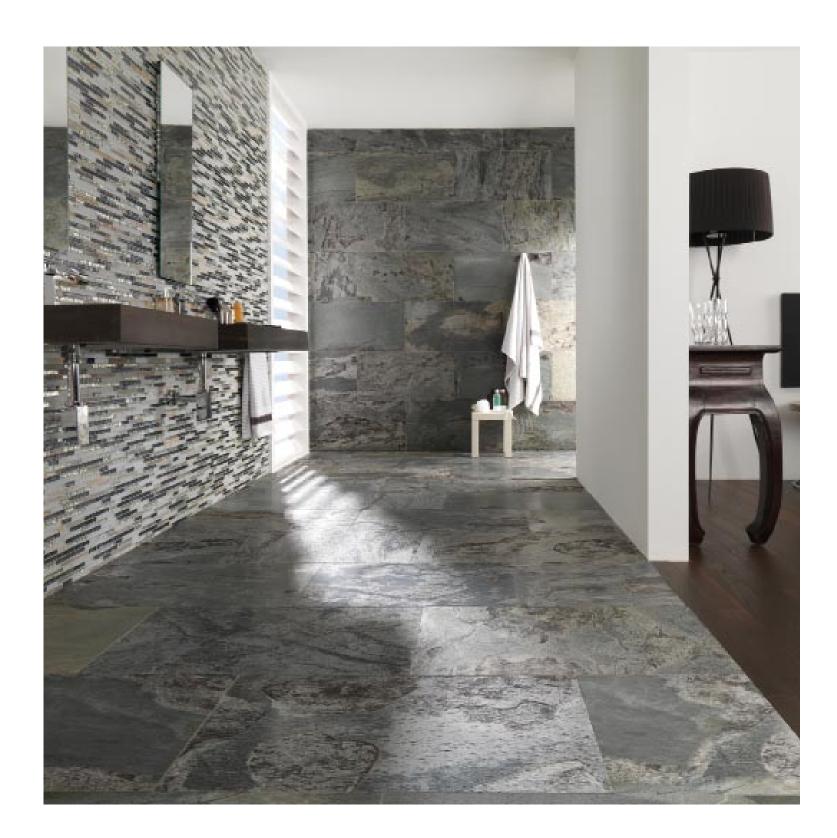


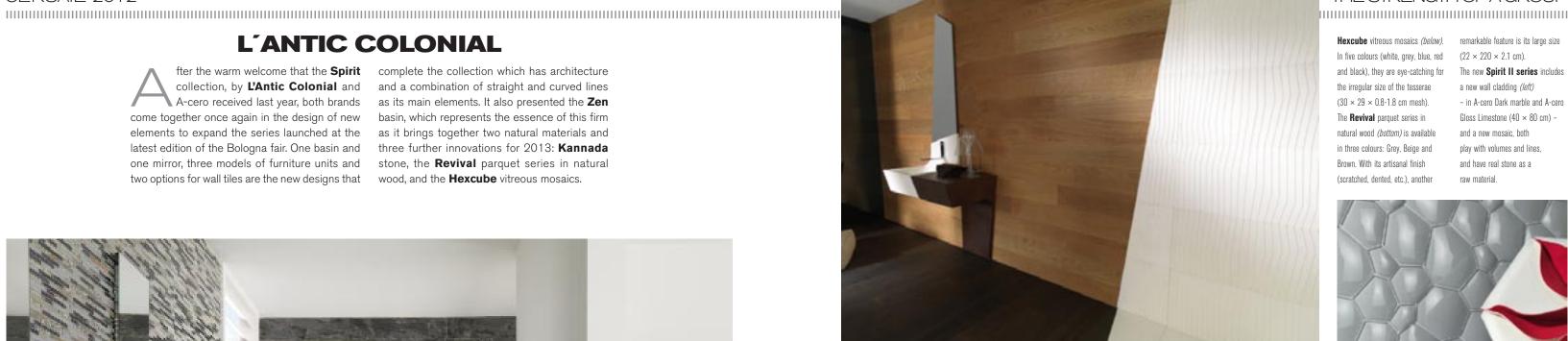


# L'ANTIC COLONIAL

collection, by L'Antic Colonial and A-cero received last year, both brands come together once again in the design of new basin, which represents the essence of this firm elements to expand the series launched at the as it brings together two natural materials and latest edition of the Bologna fair. One basin and three further innovations for 2013: Kannada one mirror, three models of furniture units and stone, the **Revival** parquet series in natural

fter the warm welcome that the **Spirit** complete the collection which has architecture and a combination of straight and curved lines as its main elements. It also presented the Zen two options for wall tiles are the new designs that wood, and the **Hexcube** vitreous mosaics.





Opposite, Slate Kannada, in greens which contrast with its distinctive veining. It is available in Natural Home finish, both for floorings and wall coverings ( $40 \times 80 \times 1.5$  cm). The **Zen** set (below) combines a basin in natural stone with a wooden furniture unit (87.5  $\times$  40  $\times$  47 cm). In four different types of stone (White Athens, Brown Stone, Italy Cream and Beige Travertine marble) for the basin, and two wood finishes (Intense Walnut and Warm Walnut) for the furniture unit.



THE STRENGTH OF A GROUP

In five colours (white, grey, blue, red  $(22 \times 220 \times 2.1 \text{ cm})$ . and black), they are eye-catching for The new **Spirit II series** includes the irregular size of the tesserae  $(30 \times 29 \times 0.8 - 1.8 \text{ cm mesh}).$ The **Revival** parquet series in natural wood (bottom) is available in three colours: Grey, Beige and Brown. With its artisanal finish (scratched, dented, etc.), another

**Hexcube** vitreous mosaics (below). remarkable feature is its large size a new wall cladding (left) - in A-cero Dark marble and A-cero Gloss Limestone (40 × 80 cm) and a new mosaic, both play with volumes and lines. and have real stone as a raw material.





Spirit II Series (above, top left): Spirit II basin's star feature is its vertical concept of space. Measuring  $53.1 \times 58.3 \times 50$  cm, its design stands out for its builtin taps and curved front echoed in the shower area. Available in A-cero Dark marble or A-cero Gloss limestone, it can be combined for visual harmony with any of the collection's furniture units (available

in Intense Oak or Ash Oak). **Spirit** II Curved Unit: a floor module with a pronounced curve on top, where the drawer is located  $(53.1 \times 85 \times 50 \text{ cm})$ . **Spirit** II Floor Unit: Fabulous for its original trapezoidal shape, with slanting lines and three drawers at two heights. Straight lines prevail and, like other models, is available both slanted to the right or to the left. It measures  $53.1 \times 85 \times 50$  cm. Spirit II Drawer Unit: The most

 $53.1 \times 22 \times 50$  cm, this wallmounted drawer unit allows for lighter compositions. Spirit Mirror II: Designed as a basin accessory to further enhance, if possible, its verticality (available in three different heights: 90 × 45.5 × 2.5 cm, 130 × 45.5 imes 2.5 cm and 150 imes 45.5 imes2.5 cm).

versatile option. Measuring

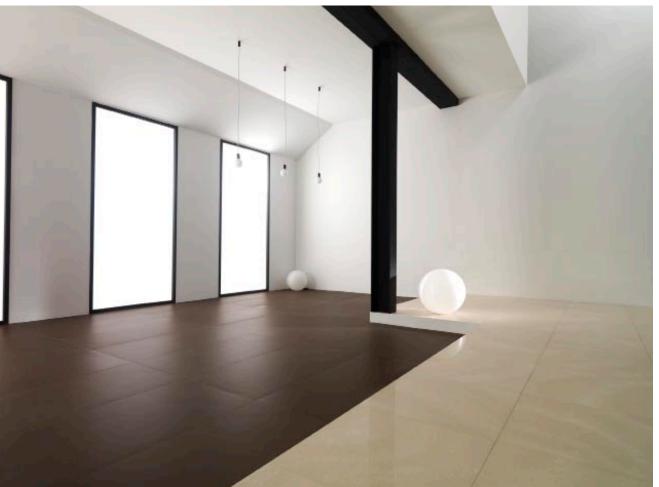
# **URBATEK**

stoneware products, presented at the latest Cersaie fair, its new 120cm format for the **Avenue** collection - it is successful series of the Porcelanosa Group.

he **Urbatek** brand of porcelain a new ceramic collection in porcelain technical stoneware, with a marble look and developed using significant technological advances in the sector of technical porcelain stoneware. In addition, among the most sought-after by architects and 
Urbatek surprised with new and energetic colours interior designers - completes one of the most (Purple, Blue, Aqua, Green, Rose and Yellow) for its **Town Collection,** in **Nature** (Natural matte) The brand also launched its **Pure Collection,** and **Polished** (Polished shine) finishes.







The new  $120 \times 60$ -cm rectangular shape of the **Avenue** collection (above left) is the perfect size for tiling large areas and exteriors. **Avenue Grey** model  $(120 \times 60)$ . Its competitive price also makes it attractive thanks to the **Porcelanosa's** technological development of its production system. The six new colours of the **Town** Collection (above) expand the colour palette of this high-performance ceramic product (unglazed and with no additional visual decoration that could damage the technical qualities of this kind of quality porcelain stoneware). Some of **Pure Collection's** technical features (left) are: its solidity, its polished and natural finishes, standardised 120-cm format, and the new decorated mesh of the Pure Line Collection. The photograph on the left shows Polished Pure Beige  $(60 \times 60 \text{ cm})$  and **Pure Brown** Nature (120  $\times$  60 cm).

# **SYSTEMPOOL**

and spa products, Systempool presents its innovations for this year: new basins for the Modul series, both floormounted and wall-mounted, and a new tap and hydro massage panel for the **Seasons** series. **Icon** shower series and a new finish for the **Land** and harmonious.

n expert and leading brand in bathroom series of shower trays (adding angular shapes to the range). The screens in its Yove series, with straight and minimalist lines (also including circular corner versions or installed over the bathtub), are outstanding. With minimal edging, magnetic latches and innovative detachable Other innovations are different models for the lower track, the **Yove** series is highly functional









taps and hydro massage panel (above left) are streamlined and sophisticated in style and in harmony with the other elements in the **Seasons** series. A screen from the Yove series (below left). Paying special attention to ergonomics, functionality and aesthetics, the **Modul** series (above) is completed by the **Krion® Stone** basin and washbasin set - either floor- or wallmounted and with taps on the countertop. An outstanding feature is the freestanding Modul hathtuh set into a black steel structure (also available in chrome and with a towel rail). The **Icon** shower series (left), in brass and chromed aluminium, and fitted either with thermostatic shower or bathtub mixer taps. The **Land Stone** shower tray (granite rock texture, matte finish) is of resin with a high-quality gel coating and its finish simulates natural stone. Bespoke only (five colours and two



# BRITISH WITH A MEDITERRANEAN FEEL

In southern England, next to the idyllic villas of Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks Beach, is 14 Nair Road, a modern and cutting-edge home whose enormous terraces and large windows reflect the Mediterranean tradition evident in the architecture of James Sims of JSA Design.







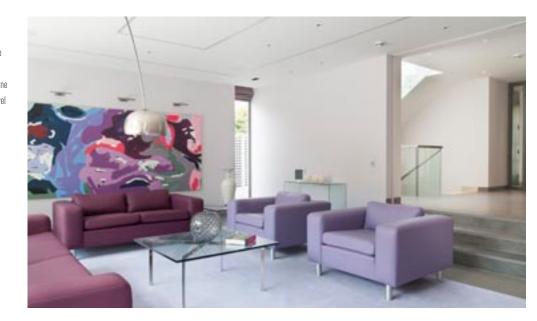
In this four-floor home, indoor and outdoor areas are clearly differentiated and the terraces afford an added value with their views of the olive and bamboo groves within the property, and of the nearby 11th hole of the Parkstone Golf Club. The house can also be accessed via the garage with space for two cars.

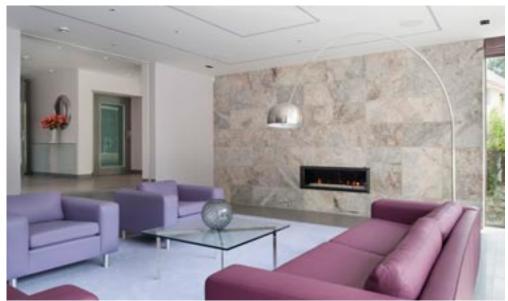
lose to Sandbanks Beach and Parkstone Golf Club, one of the best golf courses in southern England, is this designer house in which contemporary luxury is the indisputable star of the project. On a plot of almost 1,500 square metres, 14 Nair Road is a modern home on four floors – three of them connected via a lift – and five exceptional suites whose bathrooms are beautifully equipped with materials from **Porcelanosa Group**.

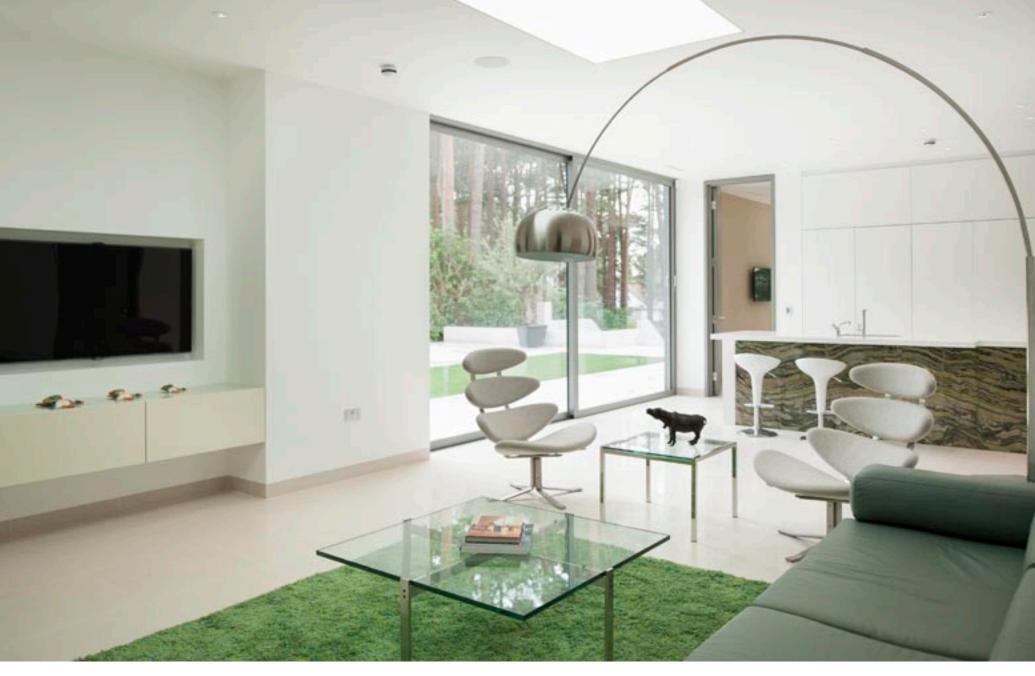
This modern building – measuring over 850 square metres – with the technical endorsement and guarantee of the NHBC company has spaces which are divided in such a way that the indoor and outdoor areas are clearly differentiated and the

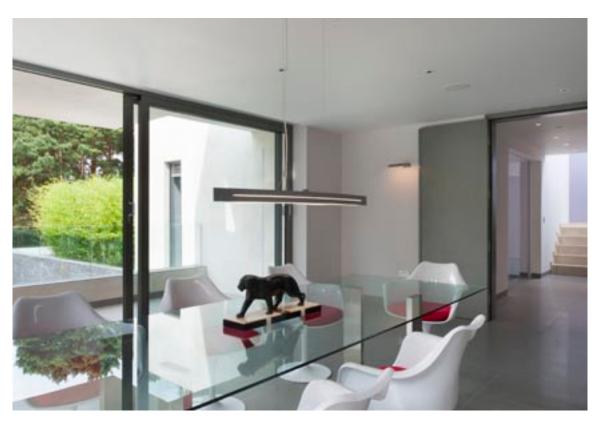


The armchairs and sofas in the sitting room (right) add a fun colourful touch to the room whose highlight is the mounted gas fireplace, set in the Italian travertine marble clad wall. On the same level are the kitchen and dining room (below) decorated in pure white and with large windows that offer exceptional views of the property.











The family room, taking up most of the ground floor, is arranged around the TV and also has a kitchen and an 'intelligent' access to the main suite. Again, large windows opening onto the terrace offer spectacular views and allow natural light to stream in.

terraces acquire a special relevance – they make up almost a third of the built surface area. In fact, it is in these ample and open-air spaces where the Mediterranean influence present in the work of the architect – the renowned interior designer James Sims of JSA Design based in Palma de Mallorca – is perhaps most evident.

On one level of the ground floor, in addition to two rooms (each with a bathroom and dressing room) is a white, open family room with a kitchen area, another space for watching television and an 'intelligent' access to the main suite (on a higher level). The connection between all three areas is outstanding – an enormous terrace with views of the 11th hole of Parkstone Golf Club, as do all rooms at the back of the house.

The ground floor is structured around the sitting room – the heart of the home – and has a private terrace of 65 square metres. The colourful sofas in mauve and violet and a mounted gas fireplace set in a wall clad in Italian travertine marble are eye-catching. On the same level are the main









All five suites in the house, including the master suite on the first floor, have their own bathroom – fully fitted with products from **Porcelanosa Group** – and dressing room. In addition, the two suites on the ground floor open directly onto the big terrace (above), and one of the suites on the first floor has its own balcony (right).





In harmony with the rest of the house, entirely built with top quality materials, **Porcelanosa Group** products were used in all the bathrooms; **Noken** basins from the **Forma** series (top) and the **Bela Retto** high-spout mixer tap (above). The **Minimal Hydro** bathtub and shower with a 4 wateroutlet mixer tap and the **Vado Zoo** bathtub, are by **Systempool** (right above).

kitchen and dining room, both with minimalist interior design predominantly in pure white but for small details in red.

Up on the first floor (smaller than the rest) are two further rooms (again, each with a bathroom and dressing room) and the master suite with a private terrace and a main bathroom fitted with a Jacuzzi and a spacious shower and sauna.

The basement, fully devoted to entertainment, includes a gym with padded floor and floor to ceiling mirrors leading directly to the changing rooms and sauna (for five people). The home cinema room is perfect for relaxing in a most leisurely way and has a 7.1 surround sound system, an Epson 3D/HD projector and an immense three-metre screen. In addition, the architect designed a bespoke cellar to hold 390 bottles.

The technology present in every single detail of this property is superb and includes a Clipsal home automation system controlled via iPad installed by the local company 'Living' (remote controls for TVs, blinds, lighting, heating, etc.).

# Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and **Luis Vidal + Architects**

Two big brands team up to design a great bathroom collection

**NOKEN's** new concept of bathroom fittings and brassware



**Mood** is a new bathroom concept comprising two large families of products. On the one hand, the London architecture studio headed by Richard Rogers was responsible for the design of the line of bathroom fittings together with architect Luis Vidal from Barcelona, and on the other, architect Luis Vidal and his team designed the brassware line on their own.

These sustainable and functional products conquer this

The bathroom fittings line is remarkably fresh and modern, combining the purity of ceramics with perfectly integrated accessories: towel rails, mirrors and storage units that can be combined with enormous flexibility and

space in the home.

architectural approach, integrating wall surfaces with built-in ceramic elements resulting in different spaces in which the bathtub, basin and toilet each have their own

The innovative technology allows customising and programming both temperature and water flow depending on the user's preferences. The collection also has a mechanical version offering the same elegant style adapted to a more conservative public. "These futuristic and extra flat taps create an environmental awareness in users as they show water consumption instantly and

In turn, the line of taps combines functionality with

avant-garde design inspired by nature and captures

the very essence of water: its simplicity and emotion.





A detail of the single-lever basin mixer tap in chrome (left) perfectly matching the 120-cm Snow White **Krion®** countertop with a drawer (right). And (below) a digital, single-lever basin mixer tap / White, on a 75-cm **Krion®** Navy Blue countertop.









Wall-mounted toilet with Soft-close seat and accessory holder in Snow White **Krion**® (above). The **MOOD** range design is dominated by a series of circles and lines that give continuity to all its pieces and create a sleek and curved transition between the vertical and horizontal planes. Thus, its clearly defined design renders spaces unique (left): Wall-mounted toilet with Soft-close seat and accessory holder in Snow White **Krion**®, 120-cm Snow White **Krion**®countertop basins with drawer and accessory holder, and chrome, single-lever basin mixer tap. Thermostatic shower in chrome with 3-way showerhead.

in real time and therefore encourage responsible use," the architect explains.

The collaboration between the two architecture studios dates back to 2004 when Luis Vidal founded his studio and established a long-standing association with the Richard Rogers studio, based in London. "We share a very similar understanding of architecture with Richard Rogers and both agree in looking for designs for improving quality for users and also consider technology not as a goal per se but as an instrument to help solve social and environmental problems. Working with him on different projects has allowed us to understand his British way of thinking and working style and combine them with a Mediterranean one," says Vidal. This is clearly demonstrated by the **Mood** collection, in which their joint work has resulted in an interesting line of innovative, functional and sustainable products.

# **MOOD'S INTERNATIONAL** PRESENTATION IN LONDON



The Design Centre was opened by Porcelanosa Group earlier this year, and the Clerkenwell district – an area in central London - was the place chosen for the worldwide launch last 19th November of the Mood collection, designed for **Noken** by two architecture studios: Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and Luis Vidal + Architects. At the presentation

were Richard Rogers, Simon Smithson, Ivan Harbour and Amo Kalsi, from the Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners firm, and Luis Vidal and Carlos Peña, representing Luis Vidal + Architects.

Apart from getting to know the collection first-hand, those attending enjoyed a discussion about the new Noken collection and the world of bathrooms in general, an instructive talk in which architects Rogers and Vidal explained this new concept comprising bathroom brassware designed by Luis Vidal + Architects and the bathroom fittings collection jointly developed for **Noken** by both studios.





Richard Rogers and Luis Vidal at Porcelanosa's new showroom in London during the presentation of the **Mood** collection (above). Two relaxing moments during the event (left and right). Having seen the new collection, the architects participated in a round table discussion (below right) in which they informed guests of the

particulars of the new bathroom concept that they designed together. A detail of the basin with 120-cm top with drawer and accessory holder finished in Yellow Krion® with digital built-in tap for the basin / White (above right and below).











Richard Rogers has received many awards - including the illustrious Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2007, the RIBA Gold Medal in 1985, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Medal in 1999. Rogers was knighted in 1991 and has been a member of the House of Lords since 1996. More recently, in 2008, he was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour. In addition, he has served as Chairman of the Tate Gallery and Vice Chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain. He is currently an Honorary

Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York. Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, the studio directed by Richard Rogers, was founded in 1977 and has offices in London, Madrid, Shanghai and Sydney. The studio is best known for pioneering projects such as the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the headquarters for Lloyd's of London, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the Millennium Dome in London. The wide range of projects also include Terminal 4 at Madrid Barajas Airport, Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport, and one of the future office towers of the World Trade Center site in New York. The studio's wealth of experience in urban planning has won it some major projects in London, Lisbon, Berlin, New York and Pudong, in Shanghai. Recently, the studio participated in the Greater Paris Project, which looks to the future of Paris as a more integrated metropolitan region as it faces the new social and environmental challenges of a big city.







# SLEEP EVENT 2012

# **GOOD NIGHT**

Three of the five rooms participating in the 2012 Sleep Hotel Fair used materials from **Porcelanosa Group**, including the one chosen as the Best Hotel Room. An initiative organized and headed by Mark Coates, the Group's Commercial Director in London.





cott Brownrigg and Willmott Dixon, with their project Shaded White. won the Prize for the Best Hotel Room Design at the 2012 Sleep Event, a London fair where the latest products and solutions for hotel design, architecture and development are exhibited.

This award is part of the 2012 Sleep Hotel initiative where architects and designers are confronted with the challenge of designing a hotel room - a challenge that this time consisted of creating a small five-star luxury room in a limited 23 square

In three of the five rooms designed for the 2012 Sleep Hotel by renowned architects and designers, materials from Porcelanosa Group were used because of their versatility and the fact that its products are perfect for making the most modern and innovative designs come

to life with no limitations on imagination or

The competition among participants was quite tough, but the jury, made up of Javier Hortal, EMEA Project Manager from the





# WINNER OF THE BEST ROOM AT THE 2012 SLEEP

STUDIO: Scott Brownrigg & Willmott Dixon Interiors Website: www.scottbrownrigg.com Project designer: Una Barac, Lindsev Bean-Pearce, Rose Chan and Sarah Simmonds Project name: Shaded White

collaborated with us from the start of our concept for the Sleep Hotel. and although we changed our own specifications several times, they supported us throughout the process, quaranteeing that we had all we needed to complete our Room. The most outstanding part of

Description: "Porcelanosa

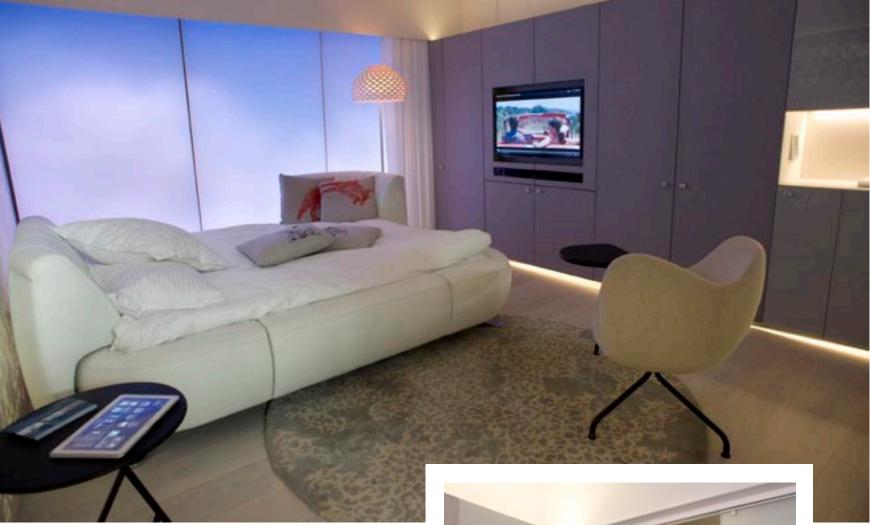
special dressing area with a vanity style basin opposite a bronzed mirror wardrobe. Porcelanosa provided us with a beautiful

the bathroom design was creating a

Krion® topped and wooden legged vanity table with an elegant circular Krion basin mounted on top. That was the pièce de résistance of the space and completely summed up our modern and simple approach to the desian."

Porcelanosa materials: The basin is **Epoque** by **Systempool**, made of **Krion**® with wooden legs, and elements from the Essence C series by Noken were

also used in the bathroom.





# **CLEVER SOLUTIONS BY**

**BISSET ADAMS** Studio: Bisset Adams and 8build Website: www.bissetadams.co.uk Project designer: Paulo Ribeiro Project name: Cloud Nine **Description:** "When we first considered the viability of taking one of the five rooms at this year's Sleep event, **Porcelanosa** was the first company we got in touch with. **Porcelanosa's** extensive product range meant that Paulo Ribeiro, our senior designer on the project, could select many of the items for the room set, from bathroom fittings, to flooring and

wall storage. A key feature of Paulo's concept was the impact of the Krion® product which covers an entire wall, and which combined with a clever solution for back lighting the unique image, helped create the 'Cloud' ambience. The Krion® wall feature caught the attention of the numerous visitors to by **Noken.** the room set. Although not all the products originally selected were used in the final design, we are extremely grateful to Mark Coates and his team for being a key part

in making the Sleep event project a

huge success and for allowing us to use the Porcelanosa warehouse

in Watford for our dry run exercise which was critical for our success." Porcelanosa materials: Krion® covering by **Systempool** and Eden 1L Polar floor, 20 x 240 x 2 cm, by L'Antic Colonial In the bathroom, elements from the Lounge and Essence C series

# A POETIC LANDSCAPE DESIGNED BY YASMINE MAHMOUDIEH

Studio: Yasminemahmoudieh Website: www.

yasminemahamoudieh.com Project designer: Yasmine Mahmoudieh

Project name: Poetic Landscape **Description:** "The poetic landscape magnifies the beautiful mosaic floor tiles of porcelain with natural wood in the living room, highlighting the poetic landscape of the luxurious 23 square-metre room. The bathroom is clad in translucent glass with inserted textured fabric thus creating a spacious feeling in this rather small room."

Porcelanosa materials: For the room's floor, Eden11 Camel 20 x 240 x 2 cm was used, and in the bathroom. Black Round Stone Mosaic 12 x 12 cm. both by **L'Antic Colonial.** In the bathroom there are also elements from the **Soft** series, by **Noken.** 



Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Khirstie Gunn-Myles, IHG Design and Engineering, and Conrad Smith, Executive Director of Reardon Smith Architects, highlighted the "intelligent design", "the use of space" and the "timeless design" of Shaded White, which together with its "functionality and focus on the customer," clearly deserved to win.

Una Barac, Scott Brownrigg's Director, said she was very pleased with the award, and described her project as a room designed to offer guests a special and unforgettable experience, full of state-of-the-art technology and painstakingly planned to enhance the wonderful views. She stressed how the refined colour palette and different textures make Shaded White a timeless design. She also thanked all her suppliers, including Porcelanosa Group, for their support.

In turn, Graham Shaw, Operations Director of Willmott Dixon Interiors, highlighted the quality finishes used in the room's design and the functionality of its integrated technology - for instance, communication with the reception desk, and the lighting, blind and leisure control systems, using iPads.



# HBA

# LARGE SCALE INTERIOR DESIGN

It is the world's biggest and most influential interior design firm, and also the one with the most awards. Its teams have designed international hotels, resorts and spas, and have now begun working with **Porcelanosa**Group in Asia, where everybody praises their understanding of luxury.

Text: GEMA MONROY



hey can define luxury as no other interior design firm can, either giving historic hotels their old glory back or creating new icons. HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates have been breaking conventional moulds for 50 years and rather than setting trends, they offer inspiration to many followers. The key lies in identifying the distinctive character of each place and building spaces in harmony with their surroundings and the personality of those who are to use them. "In each project, we tell a story," sums up Ian Carr, the company's CEO in Singapore. "With drama, adventure, romance, suspense... we absorb the spirit of the local culture and the essence of the place and imbue it into every detail of our work. Just like archaeologists, we first have to recover the past so that we can preserve it." HBA already works with **Porcelanosa Group** on much anticipated projects such as the new Hyatt in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and the Baku Flame Tower in Azerbaijan.





# INDIA Park Hyatt Hyderabad

A few minutes from Hyderabad's financial and business centre, HBA created a luxurious and contemporary hotel that adds new heights of sophistication to this cosmopolitan city.

The lobby of the new Park Hyatt Hyderabad with its spectacular granite atrium designed as terraces in order to maximise daylight. The Tre Forni Bar. All the restaurants and bars in the hotel seek to ensure interaction with their guests. The warm atmosphere and city views from the Tre Forni Terrazo. The restaurant is decorated in earthy colours, with wooden floors and The Presidential Suite, with natural materials and modern luxury. The bathrooms compare favourably with those found at the best spas. The swimming pool, in the impressive fitness centre, has a water temperature control system and views of the Banjara Hills.

BA's interior design is characterised by its search for inspiration in the local surroundings, culture and traditions. The designers of the team, led by Greg Bates and Nicole Smith, spent several months getting to know the city of Hyderabad – visiting its museums and studying its architecture. As a result, Indian fabrics and colours suffuse the entire hotel. The highlight of this seven storey hotel is its impressive atrium, "a space designed as a number of terraces, allowing daylight to illuminate every corner, thus creating a comfortable feeling of security," explains Bates. With this job, HBA has completed 45 projects in India, a country in which the firm will design twenty further projects over the next years. Hyderabad's Park Hyatt opened in 2012 in Banjara Hills and is located between the airport, the Hi-Tech City and the Central Business District.



Once more, HBA has challenged the classic approach of hotel interior design. The result is a new design benchmark in Asia.



The skyscraper, by Wilkinson Eyre, measures 432 metres. The Four Seasons Guangzhou is on the 30 uppermost floors. The lounge invites quests to take in truly breathtaking views. The aim is for them to feel as if they are in the clouds. HBA drew inspiration from this ethereal building to create minimalist and delicate interiors replete with sophisticated features. Right, the ultramodern lobby area. In the background, the dramatic effect of Australian artist Matthew Harding's piece in red steel stands out.

ext to the Guangzhou Opera House soars this 432-metre tower overlooking the Pearl River, a project by Zaha Hadid. This is the Guangzhou International Finance Centre, the latest icon in a city regarded as China's new economic engine. At the top, between the 70th and 103rd floors, the Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou has become the new design benchmark in Asia. Connie Puar, from the Four Seasons, and the HBA team of designers headed by Ian Carr, the company's CEO in Singapore, were very clear: they wanted guests to feel as if they were in the clouds (a symbol of movement, of conveyance, in Chinese mythology). High-speed lifts, clad in red onyx that changes colour depending on which angle it is viewed from, lead to a lobby in light yet bright colours in which a red, steel sculpture by Australian artist Matthew Harding appears to be floating on a sea of glass. This is not the only artwork in the hotel. "Works



# FULL BLAST

One hundred per cent recyclable, **Krion**®, by **Systempool,** has
become a favourite material for
architects and designers when
creating the most functional, beautiful
and inviting bars for fashionable
venues, restaurants and hotels. Perfect
for its antibacterial properties, **Krion**®
is strong and easy to clean and can
also be used as a wall covering.

MATERIAL

1 HOTEL GRAN MELIÁ
DON PEPE\*\*\*\*\*GL
(MARBELLA) Located in the
lobby of the hotel, the newly opened
Oyster & Caviar Champagne Bar is a
space of contemporary style where
elegance and sophistication are
combined with a inviting chill-out
area. With lounge-like furniture and
lighting, its specialities are exquisite
oysters and caviar and it also has

a long list of different champagnes. Its impressive **Krion**® bar provides an *avant-garde* touch perfect to indulge in, why not, some delicious beluga. A new beginning for a classic Marbella venue. Designed by Pedro y López S.A. and executed by Euvada S.L. in collaboration with Raíces con Arte.

champagnes.

\* bar provides

perfect to

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\*\*TESPRESSO\*

(VALENCIA) Apart from its

delicious Mediterranean cuisine, the

most striking trait of this Valencian

restaurant located in the city centre

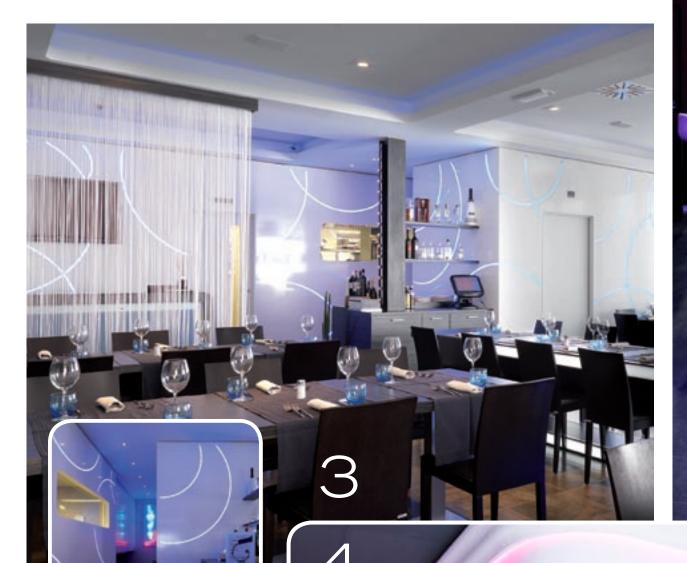
is the combination created by its

pristine white bar made of Krion\*

and the designer lamps. Designed

by Interiorismo 4U and executed by

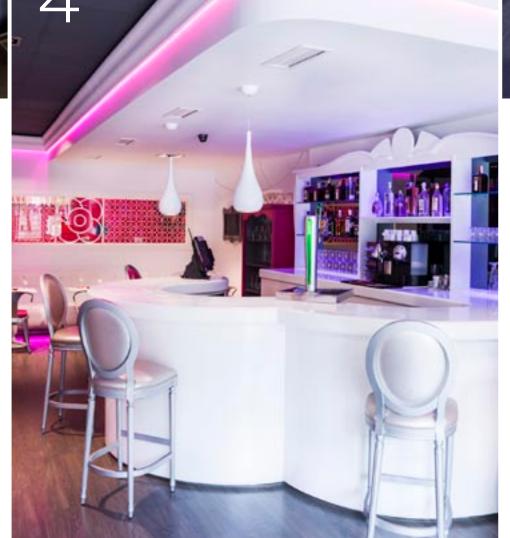
VF Aplicaciones.

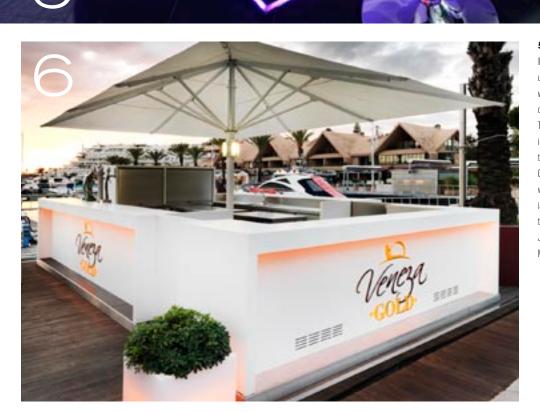


3 DELFINO BLU **RESTAURANT & PIZZA** (COMO, ITALY) The drawings and illuminated friezes showing through the walls of this Italian restaurant were possible thanks to the versatility of **Krion**® planks (measuring up to 3.5 metres, they can be used to cover both straight and curved walls using a thermoforming technique. In addition, the chemical welding applied hides the joints between the planks both for the Stone and Lux versions). Designed by architect Andrea Zappa, from Linea Zappa Team, and executed by Molteni Mobili S.R.L.

(VALENCIA) This modern, recently opened Japanese restaurant in the city of the Turia River boasts pop-chic aesthetics which are perfectly achieved by its bar and walls thanks to the plasticity of Krion\*, giving it a curved and seamless design. Pore-free, this Solid Surface guarantees, thanks to its strength, durability and low maintenance, a long life-span for this fashionable venue.

Designed by Adriana Nicolao and executed by VF Aplicaciones.





BAR (MURCIA) The pristine ultra-white Krion® bar of this venue acquires a different colour depending on the lighting chosen. Thus, purple can be appreciated in the photograph, but it can shift to red, green, etc. as desired. Chromotherapy is in fashion in the world of interior design, and Krion® is perfect for this modern and bold technical feature. Designed by José Montiel and executed by Montaje Integral Decor S.L.

(ALGARVE, PORTUGAL)
Also perfect for outdoor spaces
thanks to its resilience to extreme
weather conditions, Krion\*
was used for this modern bar
located in the heart of a marina
in southern Portugal. With the
name of the venue engraved on
the planks and lighting
matching its corporate image, its
durability and easy cleaning are
highlights, as are its fireproof
and easy to repair properties.
Executed by Vinilconsta.



BALABUSHKA (SALAMANCA) The ultra-white

**7** CAFÉ & BILLAR

bar's rounded forms made in Solid Surface by Systempool give a unique and special style to the atmosphere of this modern space which is a great place to enjoy a drink while playing a game of pool. Although ultra-white is the most popular colour, **Krion**®'s colour range is made up of 83 colours, a variety that ensures great versatility. Designed by Jesús Verde. Architect: Javier del Río.

8 OCEAN CLUB SALAMANCA This caférestaurant lounge, whose menu has a typically American feel, opened in the most famous university town in Spain. The bar is divided into two distinct parts, the upper part being made of ultrawhite and seamless **Krion®** and the lower part, woven and textured. Designed by Javier Balmori and executed by Kreoss Spain S.L.



9 HOTEL TABURIENTE (SANTA CRUZ DE as a meeting point as well e Hijos.

TENERIFE) Room 26 is an Afterwork & Music venue designed as for concerts and is divided into perfectly separated spaces. One of them is the imposing **Krion**® bar in black, with an ethnic decoration of African and Eastern motifs and ochre and aubergine colours. Designed by José R. Fragoso and executed by Carpintería Ramos

1 O CASINO CIRSA VALENCIA The ONE VLC restaurant, within the Valencian Casino, offers avant-garde and traditional food that matches its sophisticated interior decoration. The long **Krion**® bar, illuminated at the base, is perfect for savouring an aperitif before enjoying a very varied and delicious buffet. Architect: Jose Mª Lozano. Designed by Nacho Moscardó (Arquitectura Interior) and executed by Creaciones Parma.



# PARQUE SANTIAGO RESORT

The Parque Santiago complex, in its constant quest for quality improvement, has entrusted **Porcelanosa Group** to renovate several areas of the Parque Santiago IV.



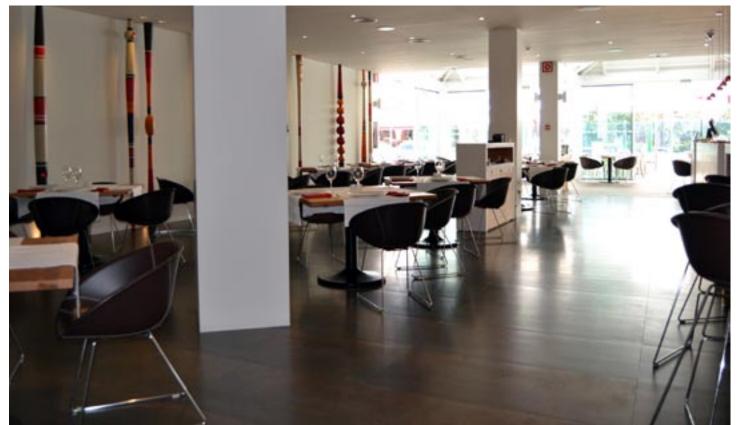
n Playa de las Américas, in the south of Tenerife Island, is the Parque Santiago IV, a Canary Islands-style apartment complex that is part of the Parque Santiago touristic, accommodation, leisure and hotel resort and covers some 67,000 square metres. With a surface area of 20,000 square metres, it is on the most important shopping avenue in the Canary Islands, is close to the sea and has direct access to the beach and walks along the promenade.

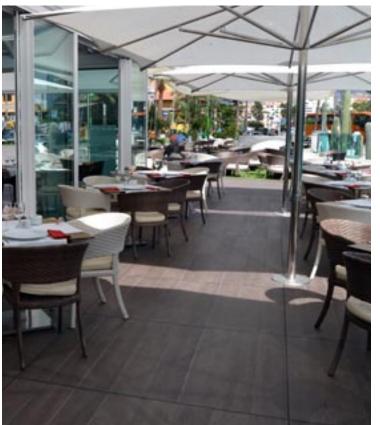
Parque Santiago, totally committed to constant innovation and renovation, has used materials by Porcelanosa Group to restore several leisure areas in Parque Santiago IV, including the Gula restaurant, the Santiago supermarket and the square in the heart of the resort. A commitment to improvement which, as put by Javier Cabado González, Executive Vice President of Parque Santiago, "has placed us in an avant-garde position regarding quality and service standards for over two decades. This won us the 2012 Medal for Excellence in Tourism awarded by the Government of the Canary Islands". In order to energise and adapt its offer to customer demand this commitment to the future includes important actions that have been, and are being, undertaken. "This is why we didn't hesitate in choosing, from the outset, the design and quality of materials by Porcelanosa Group, which provide our facilities with an added value that is much desired and appreciated both by us and our customers," Cabado says.



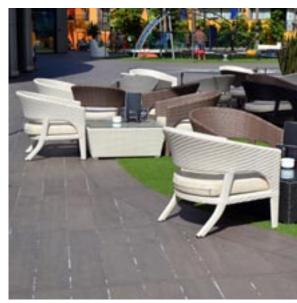














The outside and terraces of the Parque Santiago IV resort were done in non-slip **Tavola Foresta** 19.3 x 120 cm, by **Venis.** Inside, the flooring is **Ferroker**, 59.6 x 120 cm, by **Porcelanosa.** Solid Surface **Krion\*** by **Systempool** was used for the wall coverings

and for the countertops and auxiliary furniture. In the bathroom, the wall covering in **Technic Snow** 59.6 x 120 cm, by **Porcelanosa** stands out as do the floor-mounted taps for the **Lounge** basin with chrome finish, by **Noken.** 



# MATERIALS EVOCATIVE OF TIMES PAST

irected by interior designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán who is very much in fashion, and using quality Porcelanosa Group materials, Castell de Saint Marçal, in Cerdanyola del Vallès (Barcelona), recently renovated its restaurant. Located next to the 12th-century castle, its design was inspired by the old "French orangeries of palaces and castles, where big family celebrations were held". Faithful to his own style, Rosa-Violán, who directs Contemporainstudio, describes himself as an "urban archaeologist" finding the right style for each project. Thus, this 480-square metre banquet hall has become the perfect place to celebrate all kinds of social events, and with seating for 450 people it now enjoys a renovated and fresh French look in total harmony with the adjacent gardens and castle.









Although the castle was originally built to a square plan with a central patio, a tower and a Gothic chapel and surrounded by a moat, in 1895 architect Cayetano Buïgas clad it with fantastical decoration inspired by Romanesque and Gothic architecture. Subsequently, and over the past 30 years, other work has been carried out, such as the restoration overseen by castle restorer José Luis Vives and a number master artisans. Well-known landscape designer Luis González Camino also collaborated. For the flooring in a drawing room next to the castle (left), interior designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán used Terracotta Earth & Fire White Touch 40 x 40 cm and Terracotta Earth & Fire Black Touch 40 x 40 cm, by L'Antic Colonial.

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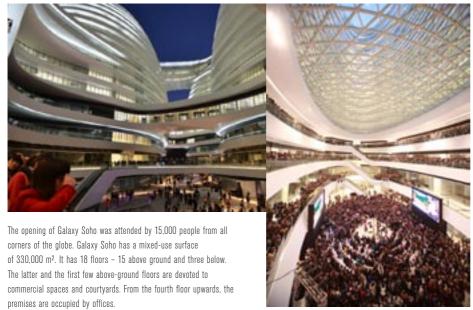
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# TALKING ABOUT... ZAHA HADID







# An architectural galaxy in Beijing

This fascinatingly seamless and certainly daring complex stands in the heart of the Chinese capital. Officially opened last October, its designer took part in the event accompanied by Zhang Xin and Pan Shiyi from Soho China, the project developers.

The complex is part of the evolution and large-scale change that the city of Beijing has been experiencing these past years. Zaha Hadid explains: "Working on Galaxy Soho has been exciting. Its design responds to the needs of Beijing's dynamism and a variety of its contextual links. We have created a wide range of public spaces that are directly intertwined with the city, reinterpreting its traditional urban structure and the patterns of contemporary life within an urban landscape inspired by nature." A project with a total of four separately arranged volumes connected by a series of walkways that form a dynamic and fluid world in its interior.

Located in the Chaoyangmen area, Galaxy Soho was created in harmony with the movent patterns of urban life. "The natural rhtyhms and flows of the city, its surroundings and people were integrated into the design", the architect explains. In addition, the project took into account the way sunlight enters and moves so that natural light suffuses this impressive place.