

sleep

HOTEL DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & ARCHITECTURE

www.sleepmagazine.com

ISSUE 47 MARCH / APRIL 2013



ANDAZ
MARCEL WANDERS'
BOOKISH BOUTIQUE

QT - SYDNEY
A DEPARTMENT STORE
DOWN UNDER CONVERTED

DAS STUE
BERLIN'S DANISH
EMBASSY REINVENTED

BALI LOCATION REPORT • TOKYO STATION HOTEL • THE ORCHARD • VANDER - LJUBLJANA



Andaz Amsterdam

Words: Matt Turner Photography: Courtesy of Andaz

Renowned designer Marcel Wanders has worked with Aedas Real Estate and Hyatt Hotels Corporation to launch Andaz Amsterdam.

It is appropriate that the conversion of Amsterdam's public library to a hotel is packed with references to the city's rich cultural history. Designer Marcel Wanders has often delved into his home country's past for inspiration in his product designs, many of which marry traditional Dutch craftsmanship with modern production techniques. In designing the Andaz Amsterdam Prinsengracht, set in the heart of the Dutch capital's 17th century canal belt, he has brought the hotel's historical surroundings into every corner of the building. The library books may be gone but shelves in the lobby and guestrooms carry tomes which reference Amsterdam's past, present and future – not least Wanders' own work 'Amsterdam Creative Capital' in which he tells 100 stories covering 700 years of creative endeavour in the city.

The colour scheme combines a

contemporary monochrome backdrop with richly detailed flashes of Delft pottery blue and bold strokes of orange – the national colour of the Netherlands. Nautical maps in the flooring and wall designs nod to the country's rich maritime heritage.

The *pièce de résistance* is the towering lobby atrium, described by Marcel Wanders as an 'observatory'. As Wanders explains, the space restrictions typical of Amsterdam's narrow buildings meant that creating a huge lobby would be impossible. Instead, in a typical piece of Wanders' playfulness, a series of tiny Alice in Wonderland style doors line the corridor entrance to the hotel. "It looks like a hotel where everything is petite, it's preparing people for something small, then wow, you see this five-storey high atrium and it comes to life."

This architectural intervention, punched ▶





► through the full height of the building, brings light into the centre of the hotel, as well as creating a focal point in the centre of the lobby. Referencing the history of Dutch navigation, the observatory combines a giant stretch of Delft-style wall design with a galaxy-like cluster of some of the best known lighting designs by Moooi (of which Wanders is co-founder and Creative Director): 'Random' lights by Bertjan Pot and 'Raimond' fittings by Raimond Puts float alongside bespoke creations including three oversized bell shaped chandeliers, suspended above the tables where staff greet guests. Large mirrors reflect this constellation of wall art and lighting, further enhancing the infinite sense of space.

"The observatory design goes back to old Amsterdam," says Wanders, "to the idea of a library as a centre of knowledge, to an

overflow of information. The Dutch would travel all over the world from here so there are old shipping maps, the universe and the stars that they used to navigate."

Not all the references are historic however. The hotel is also home to a collection of modern video art by emerging and established artists such as Ryan Gander, Erwin Olaf and Mark Titchner. Depending on the work's level of intensity and outspokenness, these are showcased in different areas of the hotel – in the public areas of the ground floor, in the hallways throughout the various floors, or via a special video channel available on the televisions in the guestrooms.

As well as the lobby, the ground floor combines open-plan restaurant, bar, lounge and library areas. The Bluespoon restaurant faces the hotel's landscaped garden, ►

ABOVE: Vanity units in all suites were bespoke manufactured by Ivanka to Marcel Wanders Studio's design: ball-shaped legs combine with an angled sink and mirror and 'one minute Delft Blue' handpainted washbasins. The Amsterdam 'Triple X' logo adorns the side. All units were made from pre-cast, highly polished, soft grey Ivanka concrete OPPOSITE PAGE: Marcel Wanders' bathtub design for Bisazza Bagno features in the suites, alongside mirrored wardrobes, ornate chandeliers and Delft pottery





▶ overlooked by a giant mural of 'Alice in Amsterdam'. Features include an open show kitchen and chef's table, where guests can watch Head Chef Julien Piguet's brigade create seasonal farm-to-table dishes using ingredients sourced from the coastal seaboard from the Netherlands to Northern France.

One wall in the restaurant features a large-scale mosaic in 'one minute Delft blue' – a technique Wanders uses to personalise his work. Custom handcrafted wooden panels, styled on traditional pieces of Dutch furniture, are embellished with carved animal heads. Although much of the furniture design in the hotel is bespoke, some of Wanders commercial designs have been specified for the restaurant, including Moooi 'Monster' and Poliform 'Venus' chairs.

The private dining area is in the style of an old greenhouse executed with "custom decorations in stained glass, making the area

appear like a jewel attached to the building". In addition, the restaurant offers a semi-private dining area and booth seating that provides a view of the lounge and observatory.

The Bluespoon Bar has been designed as a modern interpretation of a typical Amsterdam café – a dark, cosy and intimate space best summed up in the Dutch word 'gezellig', which has no direct English translation but conveys a convivial sense of belonging.

Guestrooms range from 24m² to 36m² and suites from 55m² to 141m², making these some of the largest in Amsterdam. An open plan layout, similar to that at W London, sees the traditional separation between bathroom and bedroom removed (although shower and WC remain separate). The centrepiece of the room is a multi-functional vanity unit made from a 150kg slab of concrete by Hungarian firm Ivanka.

The rooms are full of clever design ▶

ABOVE: The restaurant features Marcel Wanders' 'Monster' chairs for Moooi, and 'Venus' chairs for Poliform. Hakwood's European oak, deep smoked and natural oiled flooring features throughout the hotel. In total, Hakwood provided 600 m² of flooring for the restaurant, conference room and gym



▶ flourishes, many of which continue the references to Dutch history. Striking elements include the hand-painted washbasin, also in Wanders' signature 'one minute Delft Blue' style, an oversized book-shaped desk, and richly detailed wallpaper – similar to the wall feature in the Observatory – in the washroom. The large photographic wallpaper above the bedhead depicts a surreal half-fish-half-object image embroidered together with the three crosses of Amsterdam. Each room also features a pair of hand painted clogs, decorated with a yawning mouth.

Even the guestroom corridors have been subject to Wanders' ever fertile imagination. Based on the story of 'Sleeping Beauty' each floor features large floor numbers illustrating the narrative which unfolds as guests travel from the top to the bottom floor to find out how the story ends. Each guestroom features traditional Dutch hand-painted numbers,

as though guests are coming home to their private Amsterdam apartment.

As Wanders explained to Sleeper Magazine, the project is an unusual one, in the sense that as well as the interior designer, he is also the part-owner of the building, through his partnership with property developer Aedas Real Estate, who also helped Wanders develop his Westershuis studios where Moooi's Amsterdam showroom is located.

"I wanted to do a really creative project which speaks of Amsterdam, but also marry it with the right comfort levels and fantastic service through the partnership with Hyatt's Andaz brand," says Wanders. "It's going to be a fabulous property and people are going to be happy to be there. It's surprising, fun, different, and strange. An interior lives not on one idea, but on a thousand ideas – it's more than an object, it's a composition, it's like a piece of music." ■

EXPRESS CHECKOUT

Andaz Amsterdam Prinsengracht
Prinsengracht 587
Amsterdam 1016 HT
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)20 523 1234
www.amsterdam.prinsengracht.andaz.hyatt.com

117 guestrooms, 5 suites
Bluespoon restaurant
Bluespoon Bar, Lounge & Library
24-hour gym and signature urban spa
+ 400m² event space across three studios, Garden

Owner / Developer: Aedas Real Estate and Marcel Wanders
Operator: Hyatt Hotels Corporation
Interior Design: Marcel Wanders
Architect: Kentie & Partners