

# CANDID

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THE DESIGN ISSUE



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THE WORLD'S CHOICEST  
DESIGN LED CITIES

MASTERING MILLINERY  
WITH STEPHEN JONES

DEAN & DAN:  
ICONIC BOYS WITH STYLE

## DESIGN-LED HOTELS

Words by Annie Biziou and Sophie Coughlan

Where to bed down when you're after more than just a comfortable night's kip? From treetop hideaways to slick city sleeps, here's our pick of the most unique hotels around the world for an awe-inspiring escape.



### West East Suites, Santorini

When architects become hoteliers, you can expect something special. West East Suites is no exception; combining the traditional cave-style that's a signature of the island of Santorini with clean, modern lines, this hotel is a pioneer amongst its peers. Taking inspiration from the panoramic views over the Aegean ocean and the caldera, this property is designed with water in mind. There are just sixteen suites in total—each with its own Jacuzzi, private plunge pool or pool access. All offer bright, contemporary space merging Cycladic white with organic grey, echoing the island's volcanic rock. The best is perhaps the regal Infinity Suite with both an indoor Jacuzzi and an outdoor plunge pool. By nature, Santorini is in itself a design aficionado's dream, and the views over the traditional whitewashed villages are reason enough to pitch up at this undeniably chic, boutique retreat.

[westeastsuites.com](http://westeastsuites.com)



### Juвет, Norway

Describing itself as "a synthesis of raw Norwegian nature, cultural history and modern architecture," Juvet is quite unlike anywhere on earth. So unusual that it captured the attention of 2015 sci-fi thriller *Ex-Machina's* set designer, this is a hotel that truly takes the concept of inside-outside to another level. The interiors of each camouflaged sleeping pod are sparse and brazenly modern, but that's okay, because the single sheet floor-to-ceiling glass windows let the surrounding nature reserve take centre stage without distraction. And what surroundings they are: riverine forest, winding fjords and distant hills give this property an entirely different ambiance depending on the season. Aside from the accommodation, there's an aged, original farmhouse and former cowshed where meals are served communally and a subterranean wet spa. Hiking, canyoning, rafting, skiing, climbing, fishing and kayaking can also be arranged.

[whitelinehotels.com](http://whitelinehotels.com)



### Chablé Resort, Mexico

If the words 'cave' and 'spa' wouldn't ordinarily make their way into your vocabulary, then the soon to open Chablé Resort in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula is probably news to you. This hedonists' idyll, settled upon 750 acres of land, consists of a 19th century, traditional hacienda restored with a contemporary hand: Thirty-eight ultra-modern pool villas and two three-bedroom presidential suites. But, truth be told, it's the spa that truly captures the imagination at Chablé, with nine treatment rooms built into a sacred natural cenote formation overlooking still emerald waters and surrounded by pristine Mayan forest. Treatments recall the ancient techniques of the Mayans, and if five-star service and the region's best museums, markets and art galleries within reach don't sway you, perhaps the fact that this hotel boasts the world's largest tequila collection will. You can ruin your spa-sourced balance in style.

[chableresort.com](http://chableresort.com)



NAUMI HOTEL, SINGAPORE

#### Naumi Hotel, Singapore

Amid the scintillating skyline of Singapore, Naumi Hotel is about as intimate as it gets. A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World portfolio, the designer property has garnered a slew of awards since opening and was refurbished at the backend of 2013 by neighbourhood architects, White Jacket. A ten-storey glass and aluminum tower gives way to contemporary spaces, with 73 stylish rooms in a variety of categories. Perhaps the best of the lot is the Andy Warhol-themed suite, strung with specially commissioned local artworks. It was even named 'Best Suite for Interior Design' at Sleeper's Asia Hotel Design Awards. As slick as it is surprising, the suite features quirky furnishings, namely a candy-stripe armchair, and a spherical eggcup bath for two with a rotating screen. Discreet, attentive service is provided by the 'Naumi-Aides,' who give the hotel more of a residential feel.

[theluxenomad.com](http://theluxenomad.com)



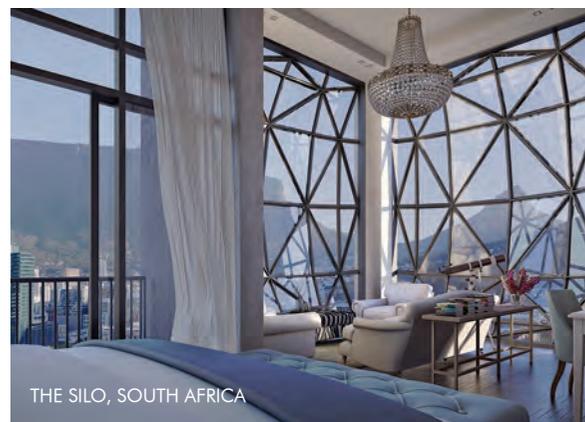
TIERRA ATACAMA, CHILE

#### Tierra Atacama, Chile

Tierra Hotels has three design-lovers' dream abodes in Chile: two in Patagonia—one on The Pampas and one on a mysterious island, and an additional property in the alien landscape of Chile's Atacama Desert. If Tierra Atacama's surroundings are one of Mother Nature's most spectacular

accomplishments, then this hotel is a masterpiece forged by some of the country's leading homegrown talent. Thirty-two rooms were built with natural materials, decorated in warm, desert-hued tones and dotted with locally crafted textiles. Views look out over either the Licancabur volcano or The Salt mountain range, and it's not just the hotel that has designer credentials; Tierra Atacama's grounds were designed by renowned Chilean landscape artist Teresa Moller, who renovated crumbling walls, reclaimed irrigation channels and preserved the algarrobo and chañar trees, and even created a medicinal herb garden in ode to the region's culture.

[tierrahotels.com](http://tierrahotels.com)



THE SILO, SOUTH AFRICA

#### The Silo, South Africa

"Culture on your doorstep" will take on new meaning in Cape Town, where a luxury hotel is due to be unveiled directly above a museum on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Originally built in 1924, the city's Grain Silo building was once the tallest in Sub-Saharan Africa, and though it isn't slated to open until 2017, The Silo has the makings of an icon. Occupying six floors over what will soon be the Zeit Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, the hotel was designed by London-based Heatherwick Studio, with each of the 28 rooms individually decorated by local hotelier, Liz Biden. Colourful, eclectic furnishings will season the industrial exterior, while a spa, a gym and a rooftop pool will add fuel to the fire; though possibly most exciting is the rumoured Champagne bar with views over Table Mountain. Cape Town's skyline will never be the same.

[theroyalportfolio.com](http://theroyalportfolio.com)

#### Hapuku Lodge, New Zealand

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more luxurious collection of tree houses than those at Hapuku Lodge in New Zealand. Each one is settled high in the canopy of a native Manuka grove with imposing views over Kaikoura's distant mountains and Pacific shores. Built using native woods and copper shingles, Hapuku's tree houses sink comfortably into their environment, each with large windows bringing the outdoors in. Interiors feature furnishings custom made



HAPUKU LODGE, NEW ZEALAND

by local craftsmen, and there's a choice between one-bedroom and two-bedroom tree houses. Outside, the Kaikoura Peninsula that was formerly home to the Maori people for nigh on a century is a medley of snow-capped mountains and wide shorelines patrolled by dusky dolphins and whales, not to mention a fascinating community where farmers and fisherman live alongside artists and craftsmen. What's more, Kaikoura was the second area in the world to achieve Green Globe Benchmark status.

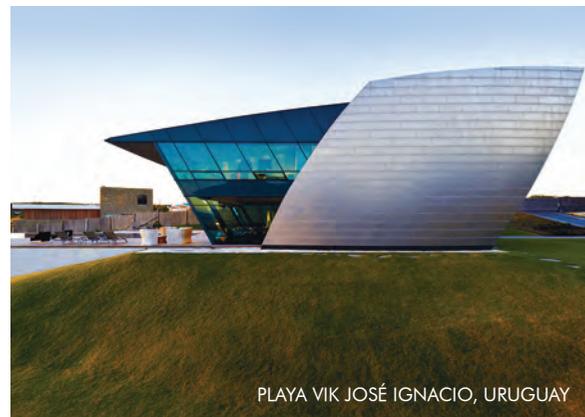
[hapukulodge.com](http://hapukulodge.com)

#### **Playa Vik José Ignacio, Uruguay**

A party scene that's earned its label as South America's answer to Ibiza has had the it-kids flooding to Uruguay's Playa del Este. In San Ignacio, a fishing village, uber-modern Uruguayan retreat Playa Vik resides. The central 'Sculpture' (lobby to you and I) is an imposing glass and curved titanium structure, capturing the coastline views and ample light. Enter through Pablo Atchugarry's monumental bronze door to find a wealth of contemporary art, with specially-commissioned paintings, handmade Japanese parchment paper floats and an Italian-designed bar and kitchen courtesy of Strato Cucine. A series of six gravity-

defying casas are topped with flower gardens and boast Ebony Macassar ceilings, hand painted floors and adobe fireplaces, as well as fully retractable windows opening out onto private terraces or gardens. With views over Playa Mansa, The Pavilion features a BBQ terrace with fire pit, a gym, spa and wine cellar.

[vikretreats.com](http://vikretreats.com)



PLAYA VIK JOSÉ IGNACIO, URUGUAY