

DESTINATION PARIS



COUTURE COMFORT

Barcelona based Castel Veciana Studio gave 9Hotel a modern makeover, fashioning a getaway that is as chic as it is cosy

TEXT BY **ANAMIKA BUTALIA**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CYRILLE BERNARD**

Detail of Gubi's Grossman Grashoppa Floor Lamp Left The lobby features sofa and wooden lounge chairs from Ethnicraft, the Cargo metal seater with leather upholstery is from Heerenhuis while the corner and centre tables are

designed by Skye Maunsell and Jordi Veciana respectively. The space has been accessorised with Asiatides' porcelain vases, Gubi's Grossman Grashoppa floor lamp, Tribe carpet and antique Jacques Tati posters

DESTINATION PARIS



An original, vintage Jacques Tati poster is a graphic addition to the library, nestled beyond the lobby. Left, from Left View of a poster and jars embellished with butterfly imagery; The community table in the lobby is set against a library with books bought from Emmaus, a charitable foundation

Set in the heart of the French capital, the soothing, sacred chants of Lord Shiva resonate within the contemporary and comfortable lobby of the 9Hotel, an influence of the Director of Tagerim Resorts, Dominique Jean-Lavabre's time spent in India. His vision for this Parisian hostelry was to evoke a homely sense – incorporating a library, community table as well as the bar. He gave the Spanish design studio a straightforward brief: It had to be serene and intimate. And architect and designer Skye Maunsell translated that to a warm space with intricate details, redefining the concept of casual luxury. Skye shares her secrets about the endeavour...

How has the property metamorphosed under your design leadership?

When we first visited the place and saw the limited area that it was built in, we envisioned it to be more open and inviting, where visitors would feel at ease. The idea was to give the place a laid back, relaxed atmosphere without compromising on its modern ambience. The major transformations in 2007 included the addition of 13 Club rooms. Then, in 2012, we undertook the exterior, adding a neighbouring (existing) edifice into the premises: It became extremely crucial to blend both the constructions, from the outside, while still respecting each of their identities. The lobby was also extended, and the distinguished decor of both the sections was unified in a unique fashion. We were quite simply asked to create “a home away from home” for their mixed business and leisure clientele.

Your insights on the look and feel...

When working with small spaces, functionality and simplicity are vital aspects, so we fused elegant furniture with a palette of natural media and tones. The concept was more about not following a marked theme but largely about creating a timelessness, which transmits a friendly and neutral feel that will suit anyone's expectations. So we chose the combination of wood and white, which runs throughout the hotel. The materials used include textured tinted pine, natural oak, distressed leather, smooth and textured fabrics, black steel and glass. Both the structures were treated slightly differently, creatively speaking: For the new, we incorporated neutral light hues; in the older one, deeper and dramatic shades dominate with colour splashes in small doses, primarily through furnishings. ♦

DESTINATION PARIS



“THE IDEA WAS TO GIVE THE PLACE A LAID BACK, CASUAL ATMOSPHERE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON ITS MODERN AMBIENCE”

The pristine bed linen is in stark contrast against the timber panelled walls and solid wood flooring, giving the room a clean, contemporary look. The hotel's stylish Superior suites ooze simplicity, ensuring the focus stays on comfort