

HOMEWORKS

INTERIOR DESIGN + LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



ISSUE #4



→ LONDON'S hospitality scene is jumping, with a swathe of new hotels, restaurants and bars where inspirational design is a key part of the attraction

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▲ RESTAURANT >
CIRCOLO POPOLARE

Where to start with what is one of the city's most Instagrammed restaurants? The wisteria (it's real) and fairy-light draped ceiling, the awesome collection of vintage plates and framed pictures, the 20,000 colourful vintage bottles on back-lit shelves, the Med-inspired textiles or the 200m of coloured Italian glass. Designed by French design team Studio Kiki, the look is Sicilian wedding and then some. Food is casual - starters to share and pizzas. No-one ever has room for dessert. bigmammagroup.com/en/trattorias/circolo-popolare



▲ TEA ROOM > MARIAGE FRÈRES

Covent Garden's new tea emporium and bistro is a leaf-lover's lifeline with a design by Franck Desains. The bazaar on the ground floor resembles something from Around the World in 80 Days, with cartons, boxes and tins stacked from floor to ceiling, peddling every kind of tea like a sophisticated souk. The first floor dining room is a calming affair after the chaos: all white interiors, staff also in white, sophistication on tap. All the bistro dishes have a tea surprise such as salmon with matcha. The pièce de résistance of this French outlet's offering is the chariot des desserts – elegant patisserie again served of course with a cuppa. Perfect for afternoon tea after a day's shopping. mariagefreres.com ▶

DESIGN TO GO / LONDON



RESTAURANT > MOMO ▲

Mourad Mazouz's Magrebian masterpiece was totally redesigned in spring 2019 and is now fresh-faced. Mazouz also owns Sketch and some of the frivolity you can find there is also present in the new Momo interiors – which are enough to make you feel like you're in Oran or Fez. The Arabic voices dining around you are proof enough that the food here is the real deal – the roasted cauliflower and the asparagus tagine are exemplary dishes. Downstairs, behind a front door you have to knock on to get in is a speakeasy, El Bar, from Eric Lorincz – who ran the world-famous American Bar at the Savoy previously. Order a French 75 and luxuriate in low-lit splendour. momo.london



▲ RESTAURANT > YOPO

What a tucked away gem Yopo is, off a quiet side street in Fitzrovia. With little fanfare, it – and the Mandrake Hotel it's attached to – manage to perform all sorts of trompe l'oeil tricks on you – hidden passageways and dark, sultry corners, smoke and mirrors. The design is a family affair – overseen by entrepreneur Rami Fustok and his interior designer sister Tala, and with artworks by brother Malec and sculptor father Bushra. It feels wild, decadent and exotic. There's spectacular gothic lighting by Lara Bohinc and paintings by Francesca Clemente which perfectly compliment such stand out dishes as potato churros with bottarga and chargrilled sea bass. yopo.london



HOTEL > THE STRATFORD ▲

Rising from the new development at Stratford that is transforming the former 2012 Olympic athletes village, The Stratford is a swanky new combo of hotel, bar and restaurant with a minimal vibe. Signs Bindseier Hemmiken and Peter Bundgaard Rutzou of Space Copenhagen have paid tribute to their countrymen like Arne Jacobsen with a clean sweep of interiors. The Stratford Brasserie offers comfort eating from Soho House alumni Ben Harrington. thestratford.com/hotel



▲ HOTEL > LINCOLN PLAZA

Lincoln Plaza won Building Design's Carbuncle Cup in 2016. Luckily the interiors are much more pleasing. RWP Design's work takes inspiration from the former Docklands with plenty of iron and wood, and ship themed touches that display a certain British humour – any interior designer that places a monograph of society interior designer Nicky Haslam in the bedrooms is clearly having a cheeky joke with punters. The Food Store Restaurant places green walls and fresh produce centre stage and the Jack Speak Bar is a really well thought out, low lit den that's perfect to round off a Canary Wharf night. lincolnlazalondon.co.uk



HOTEL > THE LITTLE YELLOW DOOR ▲

You'd be forgiven for thinking you had stumbled into someone's chi chi Notting Hill flat by mistake when you walk through the threshold of the new iteration of the famed Little Yellow Door. The ground floor is just like an upmarket living room with sofas and shelves of books, while the bar looks like a posh kitchen you'd congregate in at a house party. Downstairs there's a secret dancefloor. Mezze and innovative cocktails will fuel your night. thelittleyellowdoor.com/



▲ RESTAURANT > MORTY & BOBS

Coal Drops Yard is London's newest and swishest retail and eating destination. The former industrial yards behind Kings Cross Station offer bare-brick units which are the perfect home for hipster joints such as Morty & Bobs which serves the best toasties in town – grilled cheese with chorizo, n'duja and brie all hit the menu. Suave, minimal interiors by Fraher & Findlay are topped off with warm wood designs by Shape London, with brass finishes and soft furniture. It's fun and swish at the same time. mortyandbobs.com



▲ BARS > BOB'S LOBSTER AND BEDALES

Bedales has brought the glamour back into wine bars with their new opening in Borough Market which includes a terrace looking over the market and dark woods inside, where a new autumn/winter menu of sharing plates has debuted (www.bedaleswines.com). Bob's Lobster is the upstart of the chain in London Bridge which brings a kitschy vibe and pairs seafood with wines. bobslobster.com



▲ BAR/RESTAURANT > SKYLIGHT LONDON

This new addition to the city skyline transforms an old multi-storey car park at Tobacco Dock in Docklands into a playground suitable for all weather conditions. Summer sees day beds and croquet, in winter there are igloos and ice rinks. Flexible architecture adapts to changing needs and there's a ready supply of sleek streetfood and drink (plus those views). skylightlondon.com



▲ BAR > BARTS

Inception Group's newest venue is Cahoots (www.cahoots-london.com) on Kingly Street, Soho, which has been designed by agency Finch to resemble a 1940s Tube carriage (above). As well, the group has also brought chintzy retro pomp to the capital with Barts in Chelsea. A 1920s-style gin joint designed by Charlie Gikas and Duncan Stirling, that with its lashings of wood and brass, could have been airifted in from Chicago. (barts-london.com)



HOTEL > THE STRATFORD ▲

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