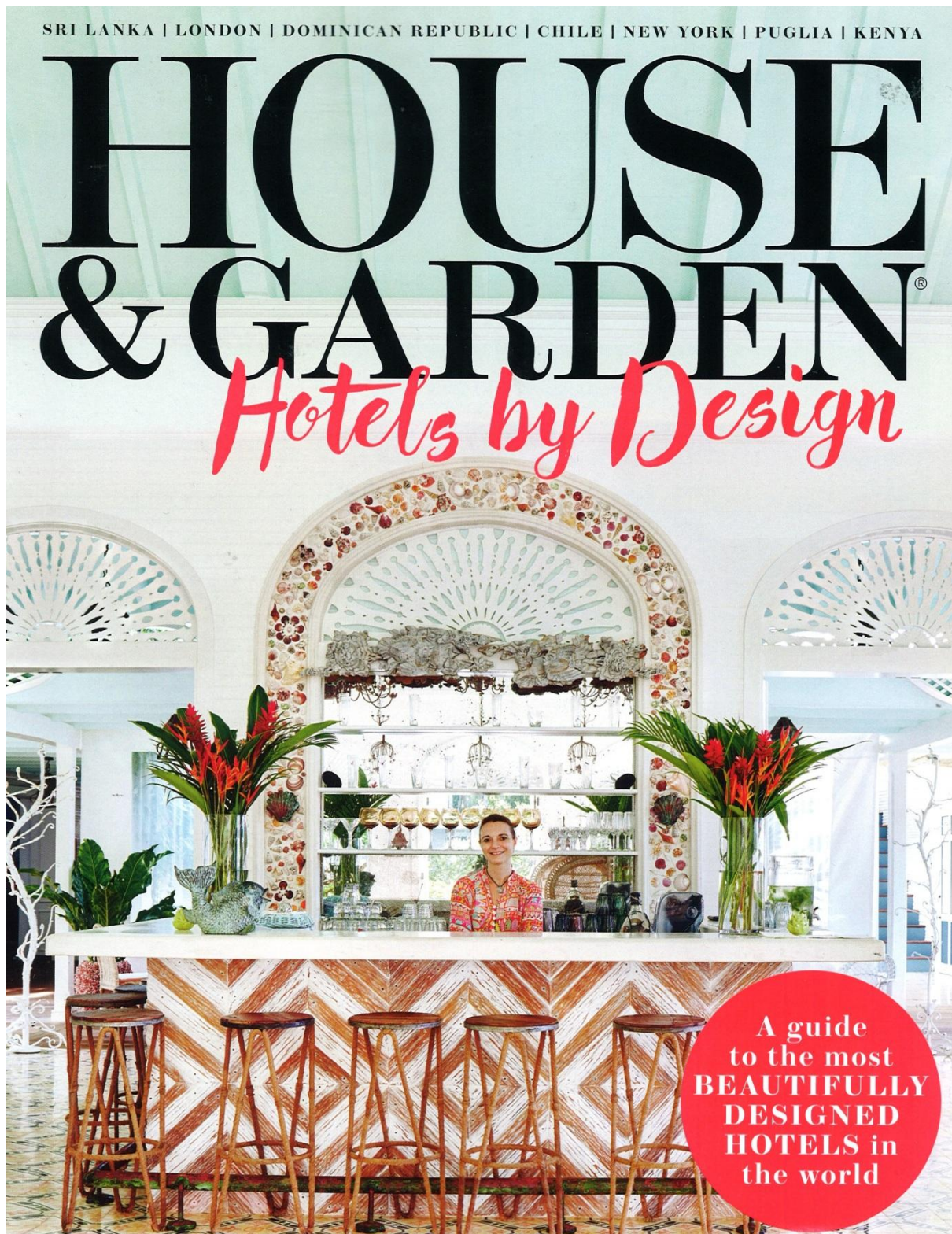


Client: Hotel Continentale
Source: House & Garden, Hotels by Design
Date: 01 May 2016



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Hotels
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Text EMMA LOVE

VIEW FROM THE TOP

IN THE WORLD'S MOST ENTICING CITIES, THE RISE OF ROOFTOP HOTEL BARS AND RESTAURANTS PROVES THAT THE ONLY WAY IS UP

When the sun is shining, we all hurry to the closest outdoor space: a beach, a leafy park or a rooftop. The latter is the urban hotel's trump card. Often left unused, a rooftop provides bonus space that can be transformed into a hip restaurant and bar, spa treatment rooms or penthouse terraces, or used to house a pool with a bird's-eye view of surrounding skyscrapers.

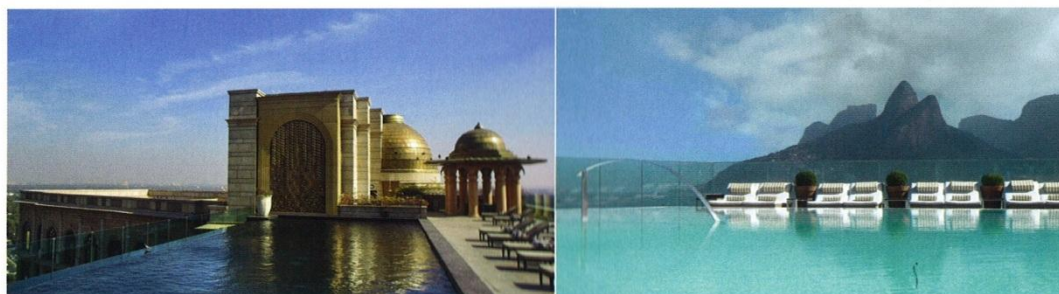
POOLS

Clockwise from top: W Amsterdam's pool overlooks the Royal Palace. The pool at Fasano in Rio faces Corcovado mountain. The infinity pool at The Leela Palace in New Delhi

If you're Kit Kemp, co-owner and design director of Firmdale Hotels, it's also the perfect place for a kitchen garden. Her Crosby Street Hotel in New York has a vegetable patch and Tudor-style chicken coop on its twelfth-floor rooftop, while Ham Yard Hotel in London boasts beehives and raised railway-sleeper beds, where fruit and vegetables are grown, to be picked and woven into the restaurant's menus, along with pots of herbs that create a wild, more natural look.

Approaching the gardening theme from a different angle is the vast, all-glass, greenhouse-like Commissary restaurant, run by celebrity chef Roy Choi, at the top of The Line hotel in LA's Koreatown. Designed by Sean Knibb, it features hanging ivy, fig trees and ferns alongside the communal dining table, with driftwood chandeliers and John Vogel chairs. A garden hose ▷

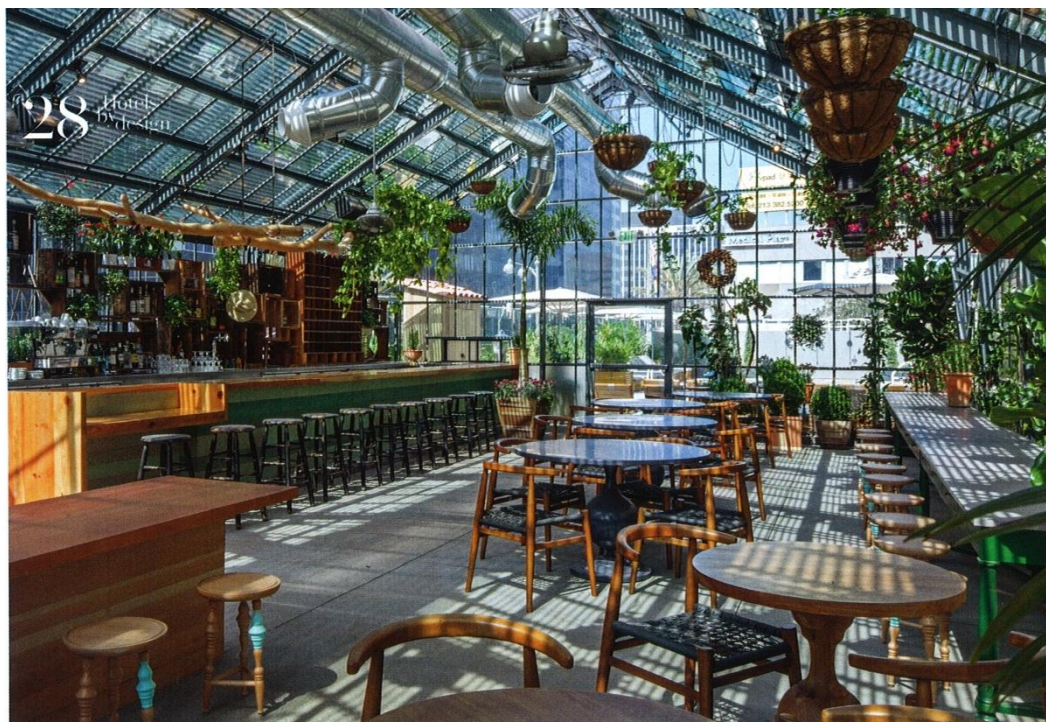
VICENTE DE PAULO; LUTZ VORDERMUELBECKE



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dangles from one end of the bar, where wooden crates house yet more greenery.

Of course, one of the biggest boons of a rooftop terrace is the magnificent view that usually comes as a standard. At Athenswas (a member of Design Hotels), the Acropolis looms from the sixth-floor bar and restaurant; the white marble infinity pool atop the Fasano by Rio's Ipanema beach faces Corcovado mountain; and at night, from the Sky Bar and Sirocco restaurant at the Lebua hotel in Bangkok – it's suspended on a precipice more than 244 metres in the air – the glittering city is lit up below.

In Palma, the best rooftop pool is at the Hotel Sant Francesc, a renovated nineteenth-century manor house opposite a beautiful basilica, and in Florence, La Terrazza cocktail bar is perched above a thirteenth-century medieval tower that's now the Continentale. The bar, redesigned three years ago by local architect Michele Bonan (he used Fifties cinemas as inspiration for the white banquette seating, chrome accents and wooden flooring), offers a front-row seat to the Arno River and its medieval, shop-studded bridge Ponte Vecchio.

Interestingly, some of the coolest interpretations of rooftops can be found in the US. The Upstairs cocktail lounge at the Ace Hotel in Los Angeles is a real scene with DJs and live bands, designed >



EATING

Clockwise from top: Commissary at The Line hotel in L.A. Cindy's restaurant at the Chicago Athletic Association hotel. Athenswas provides a tranquil point from which to take in the Acropolis

RUNNING

The running track at Four Seasons in Lisbon

A ROOFTOP RUNNING TRACK IS IDEAL FOR AVOIDING CLOGGED CITY STREETS



ART GRAY

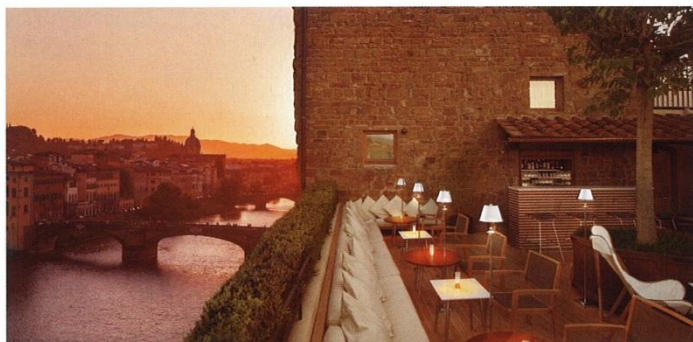
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30 Hotels
by design

Need to know When in Bangkok, trade the crowds at ground level for Lebua's Sky Bar 63 floors up. Sip on its famous Hangoverini, created for the cast of *The Hangover Part II* while filming there



THE SKY YARD IN TORONTO IS SET UP FOR ALL SEASONS

by local firm Commune (think: cedar stools by sculptor Alma Allen, a Navajo-like-print awning by artist Alia Penner and Mexican Equipale chairs in white leather). A concrete pool inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Ennis House is also an ideal resting point. In New York, there's the art deco Ides rooftop bar at the Wythe Hotel and Azul on the Rooftop at Hotel Hugo, which has a vibrant Cuban vibe with vintage posters and graffiti. In Chicago, the only sky-high place to eat is Cindy's restaurant, set within a vaulted glass and steel atrium across the top of a Gothic-style building that was once a men's club and is now the Chicago Athletic Association hotel.

While rooftops are understandably most popular in times of warm weather, they can function equally well in winter. The Four Seasons in Lisbon has a rooftop gym and outdoor running track (ideal for avoiding pedestrian-clogged streets in a strange city) while the 'climate defying' Sky Yard at The Drake Hotel in Toronto is set up for all seasons with cute canvas tents and a fire pit with crackling logs. For those who prefer being indoors, there is also The Tunnel at The Drake, a long enclave kitted out with graphic print cushions on bench seating and a television at one end screening retro cartoons. So it seems that at the most inventive city hotels, where space is often at a premium, the only way to go is up □

BARS

From top: The terrace at the Continentale in Florence overlooks the Arno River. Azul on the Rooftop at Hugo Hotel in New York. The suspended Sky Bar at Lebua in Bangkok hangs 244 metres above the city

HIGH LIFE

Right: The climate defying Sky Yard at The Drake Hotel in Toronto has cosy canvas tents by heaters and a fire pit to keep warm in winter



COLIN MILLER/CONNIE TSANG

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