

HOTEL GABRIEL

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WWW.PARIS-HOTEL-PLESSIS.COM

Suggesting that the traditional ingredients of a boutique hotel — comfort, exclusivity and intimacy — won't be enough for a sophisticated tourist, the creators of Hotel Gabriel add a little «extra» that makes their project different. Entirely focused on wellbeing and regeneration, the city's first «detox hotel» combines the invitation to leave the scurry urban life behind its doors with a range of high-quality treatments based on natural products and energy-restoring principles. The first part of the program is provided by architect Axel Schoener. The design team maintains the original art deco setting in the common spaces and turns guestrooms into relaxation chambers where the quality of sleep becomes a primary concern. Soothing white decor, soft-touch materials and upscale bedding are complemented by modern technology — plasma TVs, an iPod station, LED lighting and unlimited Wi-Fi. The rooms offer a range of detox treatments, including the NightCove sleep system: a series of light and sound programs adapted to the different stages of our sleep cycle. The regeneration part of the concept is ensured by the services of Bioo spa and complemented with healthy foods, a supply of anti-oxidant drinks and a wide selection of teas. Rates start from EUR 160 per night.

**AMSTERDAM**

PHOTO: EWOUT HUIBERS

MINIBAR

PRINSENGRACHT 478_T: +31 20 4221935
WWW.MINIBARONLINE.COM

A new concept of the bar invented by three Dutch friends and addressed to those who want their drinks in a more relaxing environment. No more queuing, trying to catch the bartender's eye, or being ignored at the bar. Instead, a comprehensive selection of drinks taken at your own pace, from your own personal minibar. Designed by Concrete Architects, the bar is located in a building that used to be a woodworking factory back in the '60s. Entering the bar, you check in with the concierge who provides you with a key to one of the 45 MiniBAR fridges stocked with premium quality beverage and snacks. Each MINIBAR contains all the classics like beer, wine, spirits and organic juices. For those who feel hungry, the bar has a delivery menu of sushi and seasonal dishes.

SEOUL**C.P. COMPANY & STONE ISLAND**

650-20 GANG-NAM SIN-SA
The two stores are sited in Shinsa Dong: this residential area full of small cafes and trendy restaurants is becoming Seoul's new luxury shopping district attracting the likes of Hermes. C.P. Company and Stone Island occupy two different stores, while a large terrace on the third floor houses a private lounge bar. Developed by Italian architects Park Associati, the retail concept for C.P. Company uses marine multistratum, Plexiglas panels and Velcro strips to create a flexible wall display system. A custom-made suspended lighting fixture doubles as a clothing rack; the hookup system for the hangers was inspired by airplane safety belts. The Stone Island store stays true to the Item/Unit concept developed by design firm Zeichnenweg TM. Stainless steel pedestals (Items) hold luminous fiberglass «sabres» (units) acting as supports for clothing racks and used as elements of window and in-store display.

SINGAPORE**CHOCOLATE RESEARCH FACILITY**

9 RAFFLES BOULEVARD, #01-30 MILLENIA WALK
WWW.CHOCOLATERESEARCHFACILITY.COM
Conceived by a serious connoisseur of the subject, Chocolate Research Facility is a new brand and boutique-cum-cafe where an addict can discover 100 creative flavours in no less creative packaging. The small cafe serves an array of chocolate-based pastries, while chocolate bars — the raison d'être of CRF — come in ten series. Just like in fashion, seasonal «Spring/Summer» or «Autumn/Winter» range offers ten new flavours every half a year. The Connoisseur Series contains ten nuances (61% to 76%) of dark chocolate, each made with cocoa from the finest single-origin plantations. The Exotic Series is about unconventional flavours like Sichuan Pepper, Tiramisu, Red Bean, Cheese and the like. Add Tea and Coffee series and a handful of classic options, spiced up by alcohol, fruit, and nuts, and your next step will be to pick your own box — understated monochromatic facade with wild patterns inside. The branding and interior is designed by Asylum, a creative outfit comprised of a design studio, a retail store, a workshop and a record label.

TRANCOSO / BAHIA @ BRAZIL**UXUA CASA HOTEL**

QUADRADO, TRANCOSO_T: + 55 73 3668 2166
WWW.UXUACASAHOTEL.COM
Since 2009, the fishing village of Trancoso — the UNESCO World Heritage Site on Brazil's enchanting Bahian coast — has also become the address of the UXUA Casa Hotel. An independent project by the creative director of Diesel, Wilbert Das, who describes Trancoso as «one of the most visually stimulating and relaxing places one can imagine», UXUA is comprised of 1-3 bedroom houses. The units are complemented by a restaurant and lounge, library, gym, spa, and a swimming pool. (Das insisted on making the pool look as natural as could be and spent quite a while in search of the proper stone, until in the end he has discovered aventurine). Three renovated fishermen's houses overlook the Quadrado, a grassy cliff-top square closed to traffic, while six more homes, including a multi-level treehouse, are nestled around pools in a tropical garden. Conceived as a tribute to the region, the hotel was realized in collaboration with Bahian artisans and builders who used local and recycled materials and traditional construction methods.