

THE AUSTRALIAN 

• JUNE 2024 •

Travel + LUXURY

PORTOFINO PRONTO

A storied hotel in Italy is restored and reborn

PROVENCE IN FOCUS

Ridley Scott's lush vineyard retreats

NEW BANGKOK CROP

Insider's guide to Thailand's top makers

AESTHETIC PLEASURES

*Style-savvy hotels,
alluring destinations
and creative hubs*





THE INN CROWD

Influential, inventive and sought-after, these are the interior architects and designers whose hotels are making a splash from Paris to New York. Whether new-school or established, they excel at rooms with a point of view.

STORY BY ALICE CAVANAGH

COUP DE FOUDRE

Envisioned by New York-based design firm Roman & Williams, La Fondation in Paris exhibits a cocooning warmth. Opposite: its eighth-floor restaurant.



NICE GESTURES
Clockwise from left: a reception at De Plesman in The Hague; a common area at The Brecon in Switzerland; De Plesman's restaurant Suus; a bedroom at The Brecon; the designers. Right: Rodolphe Parente.



One to watch: Rodolphe Parente

Paris-based interior architect Rodolphe Parente is a newcomer to the hotel scene, having focused on residential projects in France and abroad for the past 15 years. An Andrée Putman alumnus, he inherited the legendary designer's knack for scenography and her bold mix of materials. However, he is more daring in his approach to colour and the engaging dialogue he creates with contemporary art and design objects.

Currently, Parente has two major projects under way. Opening this season, Le Provençal is a retreat on the seafront near Hyères that reinterprets an existing family-run hotel. "It's a bright, warm and deeply emotional place steeped in history and memory," Parente says. "The mission is to guide the transformation without betraying the soul of the place. Guests should feel that something has changed, but nothing has changed."

The brief for his following assignment, the Experimental group's first Rome location, couldn't be more varied. Parente is transforming a former office block into a dynamic 78-room hotel. "It has a sophisticated atmosphere, a reimagined Roman elegance, infused with a graphic, Italo-disco spirit."

You get the impression he appreciates the multifaceted briefs and creating a connection with guests that goes well beyond the decor. "Hospitality allows for a truly global vision – aesthetic, sensory and emotional," he says. "Designing a place of welcome means imagining how people will experience a suspended moment in time, how memories will be made." ■

