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GUEST BOOK



098

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079 Anda Andrei

Having spent 30 years as the creative force behind Morgans Hotel Group and later the Ian Schrager Company, Anda Andrei has recently set up her own design studio, continuing to put her indelible mark on noteworthy projects. Her latest venture takes her to New Jersey, where she served as Creative Lead and Design Director for iStar's Asbury Park project – the multibillion-dollar revitalisation and redevelopment scheme anchored by Asbury Ocean Club, a 54-key beachfront property operated by Salt Hotels.

093 Gordon Campbell Gray

Founder of Campbell Gray Hotels, Gordon Campbell Gray has spent the past 15 years building a portfolio of luxurious boutique hotels, bringing his love for contemporary art and sculpture to the likes of Le Gray in Beirut and The Merchant House in Manama, Bahrain. His latest opening – Alex, on the shores of Lake Zürich – captures the spirit of the destination and sees the interiors take a different direction, with a villa on the lake concept inspired by the calming serenity of its surroundings.

098 Nini Andrade Silva

Born in Funchal, Madeira, Nini Andrade Silva has studied and worked in London, Paris and New York, however her heart ultimately lies in Portugal, where she has designed a number of hotels including Villa Foz Hotel & Spa in Porto and Furnas Boutique Hotel Thermal & Spa in the Azores. Andrade Silva was also the creative force behind Saccharum, and has teamed up with local operator Savoy Signature once again for the design of Savoy Palace, a 352-key resort that celebrates the beauty of Madeira.

162 Michaelis Boyd

“Working primarily in timber, our bar is a study in sustainability; investigating the afterlife of the materials through scale, layering, adaptability and recycling,” say Alex Michaelis and Tim Boyd of their Sleeper Bar design concept at Sleep & Eat. “This has led us to create a space that will cater to all walks of life, adjusting to the needs of each individual, and making the bar a rich experience for each visitor.” The bar will be open throughout the duration of the event, taking place at London Olympia from 19-20 November.

Savoy Palace

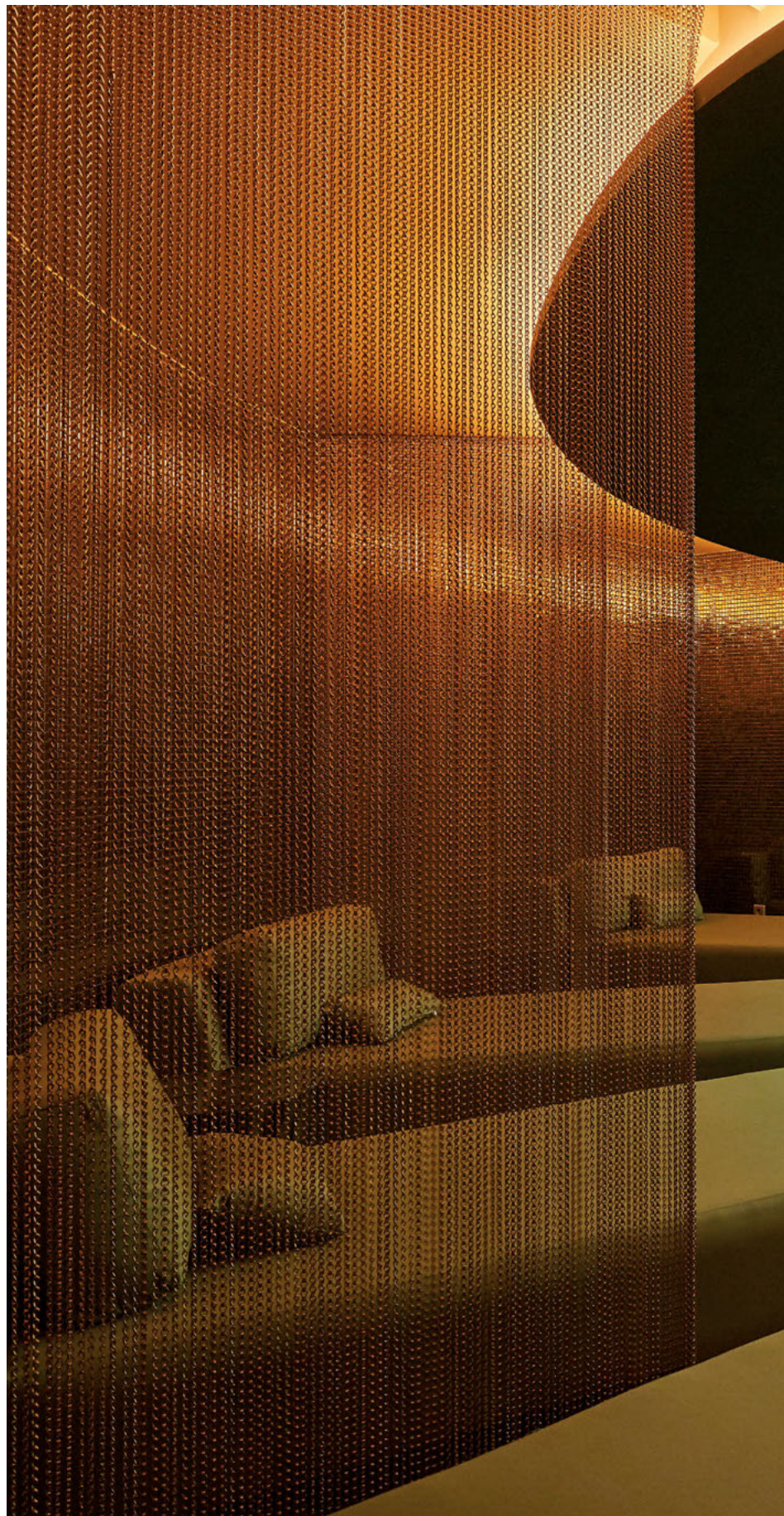
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Nini Andrade Silva looks to the natural beauty of Madeira to design a new flagship for Portuguese operator Savoy Signature.

Words: Catherine Martin • Photography: © Henrique Seruca

If you're from the UK or Germany, Madeira was likely the place that your grandparents holidayed; the year-round mild climate, quaint old town and relaxed pace a popular choice amongst the over-60s. While this demographic has been the making of tourism here, Discover Madeira – the island's promotion bureau – is keen to show that there's plenty on offer for all generations, with beautiful beaches, boat trips and vineyard tours as well as hiking, mountain biking and, for the more adventurous, canyoning, making for a diverse destination. And despite its proximity to Africa – the archipelago is closer to Morocco than to Portugal – direct flights from London on British Airways mean it's only a short hop across the North Atlantic.

Madeira's accommodation offer is diversifying too, with boutique hotels and budget options adding to the mix of guesthouses and grand dames. At the forefront is homegrown group Savoy Signature, which operates a collection of hotels across the island, from the classic Royal Savoy in Funchal, to the contemporary Saccharum resort along the coast in Calheta. Its latest opening brings something altogether new to Madeira, and stands as a bold flagship for a group that is committed to the prosperity of the island.







The lobby is dominated by a monumental chandelier, suspended over a bespoke carpet by Portuguese rug-maker Ferreira de Sá, which is itself a work of art

Located on a central avenue overlooking the ocean, Savoy Palace occupies the site of the former Classic Savoy, a Madeira institution that first opened its doors in 1912. The hotel's demolition in 2008 was a controversial move, particularly amongst locals who spent decades in awe of the property, but serious structural issues meant developers had little choice but to start again from scratch. The new incarnation is a bold addition to the skyline; a gently curving structure with floor-to-ceiling glazing across its 17 storeys. Inside, the legacy of the Classic Savoy lives on, with the aesthetic a contemporary take on the history and traditions for which the island is known.

Interiors are designed by Nini Andrade Silva, herself an advocate for Madeira having been born in Funchal and selecting it as the location for her own design centre, an exhibition space and restaurant that showcases the connection between the island and her works. For Savoy Palace, Andrade Silva worked in partnership with RH+ Arquitectos, continuing a collaboration that began with the design of Saccharum. While Saccharum is inspired by Madeira's cultivation of sugar cane, Savoy Palace celebrates the



Lobby Staircase - Savoy Palace Tribute Cosmopolitan Resort | Madeira Island, Portugal

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natural beauty of the island, as well as the heritage of what stood before.

In harmony with the Classic Savoy’s heyday, interiors are influenced by the Belle Epoque period, with ornate detailing and romantic colourways making regular appearances throughout. The lobby is dominated by a monumental chandelier – a particularly proud moment for Andrade Silva – creating a memorable first impression and bringing drama to the double-height space. To the rear, a sweeping staircase is wrapped in ornately carved balustrade panels inspired by the patterns of Madeira’s delicate embroidery, and at its foot, a bespoke carpet by Portuguese rug-maker Ferreira de Sá is itself a work of art.

The influence of Madeira’s volcanic landscape as well as the nation’s vast plantations of cork trees can be seen in the surfaces and finishes, and references to the nearby botanical gardens abound. A chandelier in the shape of a flower in bloom presides over Hibiscus Restaurant while delicate orchid petals seemingly float over the

breakfast buffet at Orchidaceae Atelier. Living plantlife is in abundance too; palms, ferns and tropical flora permeate outdoor spaces, climbers cloak the façade, and even the rooftop is planted with trees – in total, Savoy Palace boasts 23,000m² of gardens.

The great outdoors have also inspired the design of the spa, one of the largest in Europe with 11 treatment rooms, sauna, steam room, experiential showers and large hot tub. A darkened tunnel – just like those carved through the mountainous landscape – marks the beginning of the spa circuit and leads to a heated swimming pool with the wow factor. Overhead, an undulating ceiling in brilliant green mimics the tree canopy, while water trickles from a feature wall depicting the island’s cascadas. Its levadas make an appearance too, with the spa’s foot bath inspired by the network of irrigation channels that now serve as hiking trails. For the relaxation room, Andrade Silva transports guests to Madeira’s Laurissilva Forest, the UNESCO World Heritage Site that occupies a



fifth of the island. A solid tree trunk serves as a central focal point, with daybeds around its perimeter positioned to gaze up at the foliage.

For those who prefer the real thing, there's plenty of sunbeds dotted between the palm trees of the outdoor swimming pool, and up on the rooftop, where an adults-only infinity pool offers spectacular views to the mountains.

Guestrooms also make the most of the views, with most featuring a sea-facing balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows. The look is elegant and sophisticated, with a cream colour palette providing contrast to the floors below. Intricate fretwork frames the bed, and reading lights from Astro are thoughtfully built-in to the headboard. Made-to-measure furniture, customised fabrics and pieces from Andrade Silva's product design portfolio – including the characteristic pebble-shaped basin – furnish the spaces, with larger rooms benefiting from freestanding bathtubs and separate lounge areas.

Despite the large key count – 352 guestrooms in addition to 226 apartments – the wide

range of facilities on offer as well as the clever segmentation of larger spaces mean that there's opportunities for both socialising and solitude. There's conference facilities for up to 1,400 delegates, six swimming pools and eight restaurants and bars, not to mention the exclusive rooftop lounge and terrace reserved for suite guests only.

But for Savoy Signature, it's not only about creating a world-class resort for travellers; the group is committed to having a positive impact on its home nation. The design team worked with a number of Portuguese brands and manufacturers to furnish the hotel, and Savoy Signature has aspirations to create a new hub for locals, having acquired an area to the rear of the property. There's also plans for a millennial-focused hotel with the ongoing refurbishment of the nearby Madeira Regency Club – just another of Savoy Signature's efforts to build a destination that appeals to all.



EXPRESS CHECK-OUT

Owner: AFA Group

Operator: Savoy Signature

Architecture: Saraiva + Associados

Interior Design:

Nini Andrade Silva; RH+ Architects

www.savoysignature.com