

MONOCLE

INSIDE: GLOBAL RETAIL SURVEY TEXAS DOES FASHION BUMPER STYLE DIRECTORY TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT

(M) **A to F** **AFFAIRS:** Brazil, crime and Bolsonaro **BUSINESS:** London's shopping crisis **CULTURE:** Why journalists get killed **DESIGN:** The new bridge builders **ENTERTAINING:** The town made from biscuits **FASHION:** Is Benetton almost cool again?

IT'S TIME FOR A FRESH LOOK

① **FEELING** *Monocle gets a sharper snap – turn to page 38 to find out why it's all change*



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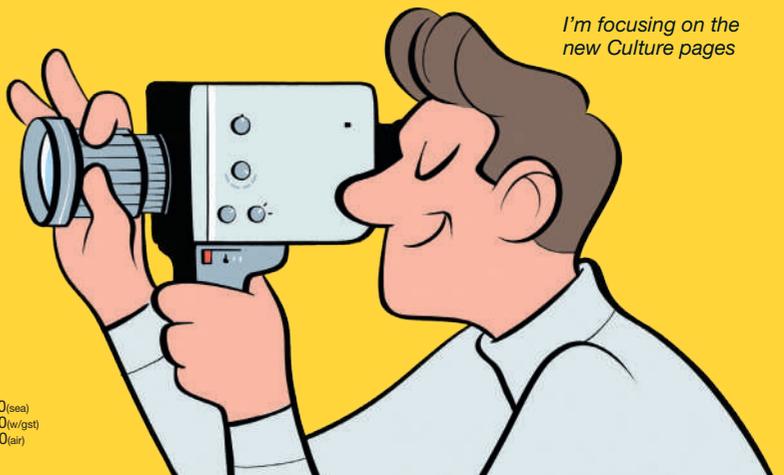
Are you on the scout for a new fashion hangout?



Dallas retailers are no cowboys (well, not in a bad way)

SPRING

② **READING** *How one man reinvented the bookshop and found cult success* ③ **DESIGNING** *Loewe's Jonathan Anderson on fixing luxury* ④ **SHOPPING** *The mall kings with a good survival plan* ⑤ **FILMING** *We all need to see a doc – including Monocle Films' icebreaking cracker*



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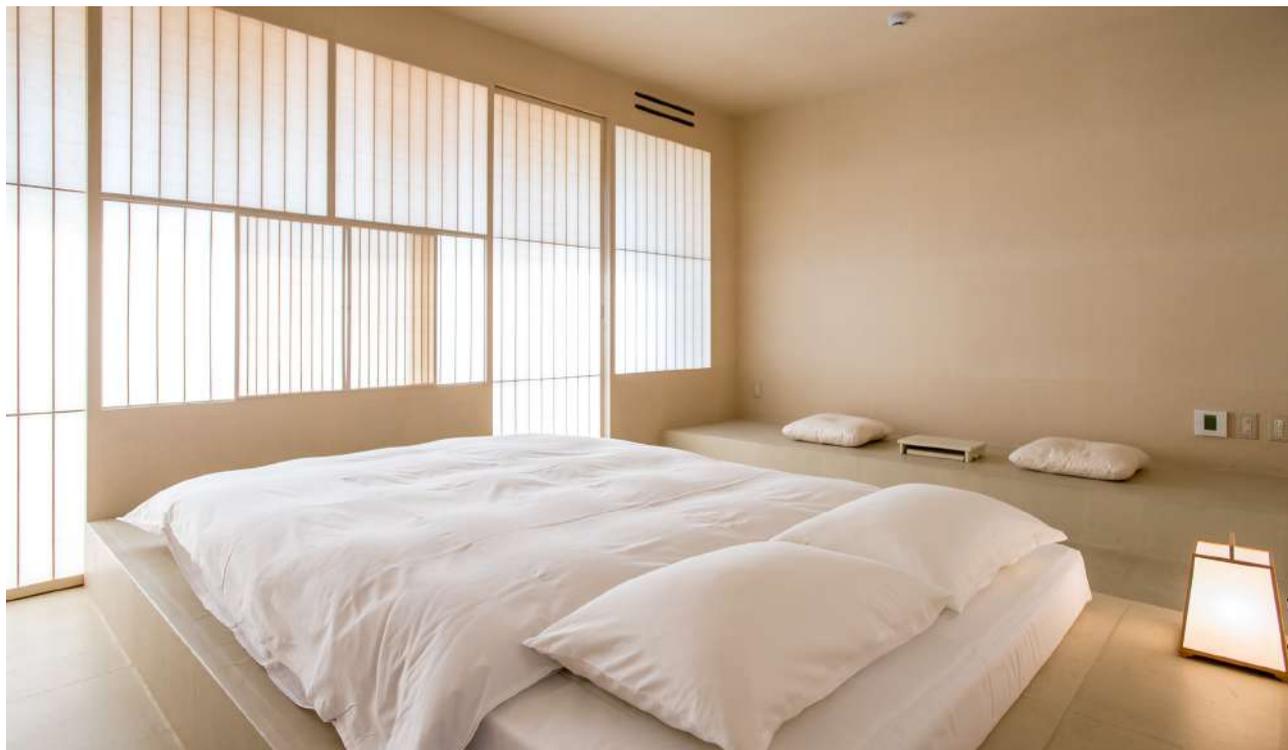
+ **i** **GREAT HOTELS:** The Onomichi hotel you need on speed dial **NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE** What to eat, buy and see in the Spanish capital **BE ORGANISED** Simple solutions for a tidier life **POLISHED ACT** Hamburg's shoemakers.



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DESTINATION. . .
Japan
Hillside revival

A new chic hotel is set to revive Onomichi, a sleepy port town in Hiroshima prefecture flanked by hills and historic temples.

By *Junichi Toyofuku*
Photographer *Kohei Take*

Lantern Onomichi Garden (Log) sits on a steep hillside overlooking the scenic Setouchi Inland Sea in western Japan. This tranquil hotel is the latest venture from hospitality group Discoverlink Setouchi, which is set on reinvigorating the port town of 138,000. It has already regenerated a number of neglected buildings in the area, including the Onomichi U2 hotel, restaurant and retail complex housed in a former maritime warehouse – and Log won't be its last project.

"Locals don't usually walk up the mountainside," says Takanobu Yoshida, Log's general manager, taking in the view from the hotel's rooftop. He points to a cluster of abandoned traditional wooden buildings in the vicinity. "We want to attract locals here and eventually

put the lights back on in these empty houses," he says.

When Discoverlink bought the Log property six years ago, only two rooms of the L-shaped, three-storey apartment block dating from 1963 were occupied. Yoshida's team commissioned Bijoy Jain of Studio Mumbai in India and Muguruma Architects & Carpenters in nearby Kagawa to transform the languishing space into an inviting hotel. "The building was opaque and heavy in weight and mass. Our objective was to make it open, light and porous to the environment," says Jain of his first international architectural project.

Four years in the making, the once forsaken building has been reborn as a six-room hotel. Wherever they could, Onomichi's residents and Discoverlink

colour scheme, which she created by mixing natural pigments from the area's flowers and plants. "[Residents had] an enormous interest, generosity and pride in sharing aspects of the town with me," says Dineen. "It helped to shape my vision of Onomichi and then reflect that surprising mix of elements and character in the range of colours."

This engagement with the community was also important for Jain, who called on Japanese craftsmen to help create a portion of the hotel furnishings, including handmade ceramics and intricate copper window screens, designed to oxidise in the sea breeze over time. "The idea of the project was to make a space, threshold and opening similar to Naoya Shiga's dwelling – one that captures the landscape of

"Residents had an enormous interest, generosity and pride in sharing aspects of the town with me. It shaped my vision of Onomichi"

(1) Handcrafted stool
(2) General manager Takanobu Yoshida
(3) Brewing up
(4) Fine carpentry



1 2



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What sets Log apart:

1 **Placemaking**
The garden, planted with large cherry trees, is open to the community, while the café offers semi-outdoor seating overlooking the sea.

2 **Good retail mix**
The hotel shop at the reception sells regional delicacies, such as fig vinegar and citrus-fruit jam, as well as furniture designed by Studio Mumbai.

3 **Comfort is king**
Guest rooms feature comfortable mattresses that resemble futons, designed to match the aesthetics of the room.

4 **Seasonal dishes**
Kumamoto-based chef Ai Hosokawa creates delicious seasonal meals for Log's kitchen.

5 **Communal spaces**
The dimly lit bar, painted in Kate Dineen's shade of pink, is a meeting point for locals and guests alike. Sip a cool glass of wine while listening to vinyl.

Onomichi," says Jain, referring to the former home of one of Japan's most celebrated 20th-century novelists, which lies a stone's throw from Log.

It's a quiet neighbourhood; you can hear the birds chirping and the chatter of the occasional pedestrians. Inside the hotel, sheltered by impressive cherry trees, the atmosphere is calm yet convivial. The staff, dressed in neat uniforms, are on hand to welcome guests and suggest the best walking routes. It's a place to unwind and recharge – and the



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café-cum-bar is always open for a glass of Japanese wine or whiskey, which can be enjoyed in a cosy corner overlooking the sea.

The hotel represents another step towards enlivening the town and Discoverlink has exciting plans in the pipeline, which will give residents even more reason to trek up the hill. A hotel spa is in the works, as well as an outdoor theatre in Log's courtyard, which will be open to the public. Discoverlink's goal is ambitious but Yoshida's team knows that Rome wasn't built in a day. "Our purpose was not to simply open a hotel here," says Yoshida, reflecting on the vacant houses on the hill. "It'll take time but slowly we want to turn Onomichi into a bustling place once again." — (M) l-og.jp

BRIEFING...
Travel

Invite yourself in

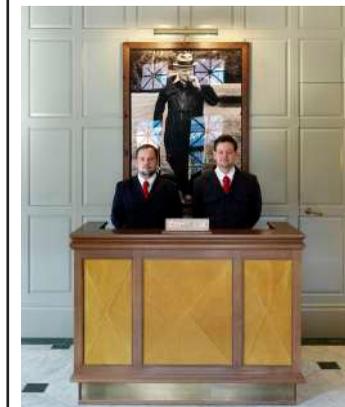
Turn the page for the latest hotel openings and travel news from around the globe. First we're in the English city of Cambridge, where we visit a revitalised Edwardian grande dame.



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3

This page: (1) Striking entrance (2) Interior design by Martin Brudnizki (3) Concierge desk
Next spread: (1) Hotel library (2) Try to get a turret room

Scholastic soubriquets aside, there's little to put one in mind of dingy student digs in the lively and light-filled University Arms Cambridge. When you pull up outside, the sandy-hued double-height columns set a grand tone and show the scale of a revamp that saw architect John Simpson revive this Edwardian gem of a building after a fire in 2013. Four years and €93m later, the 192-room affair has been allowed to shine with playful interiors by Martin Brudnizki (he of The Ivy's facelift and London mainstays such as Annabel's).

And it works rather well. The new lease of life has artfully elevated the grand old building beyond sub-Soho House mediocrity – a definite danger for anyone gunning for that now-beloved British-with-a-twist take on hospitality.

Tack right as you enter then clip across the lobby floor and you'll hit a welcoming wood-panelled library. Next door there's a well-appointed bar and busy restaurant overseen by Tristan Welch, called Parker's Tavern (named after a crow-plagued patch of grass known as Parker's Piece outside). Its generous menu riffs on comfort food from lobster mac'n'cheese to meaty finds from field and fen (and, actually, good British sparkling wine from Kent in the form of Gusbourne Brut Reserve). The



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25hours Hotel Terminus Nord

PARIS

Hamburg-based hotel group 25hours chose Paris's bustling 10th arrondissement as the home for its first property in a non-German-speaking region. Located in an 1860 Haussmanian-style building opposite Gare du Nord, the new member in the group's growing portfolio draws on the eclectic energy found around the busiest train station in Europe. The design blends Parisian elements – such as a kiosk-style reception area and wrought-iron balconies – with an Africa-inspired colour scheme in a nod to the melting pot of cultures and travellers coming together in the neighbourhood.

"Paris is an accolade for us," says Christoph Hoffmann, founder of 25hours. "It's one of the few big cities left that still radiates adventure, romanticism and authenticity – these are all core values in our approach to hospitality, so it really is an ideal match."

Within the individually decorated bedrooms (of which there are six size categories), bright wallpaper provides a canvas for Kollywood posters, graphic-print carpets, bedspreads made from vibrant African fabrics and Moroccan-style ceramic sinks in the bathrooms. Pops of colour pervade throughout the common areas, from the pastel-hue velvet chairs and floral kilims in Mediterranean restaurant Neni to the heavy green curtains and patterned lampshades in speakeasy-vibe bar Sape. Artist-photographer Alex Toledano's portraits of the community adorn the corridors, introducing guests to the diverse mix of residents who call the area home. — AW 25hours-hotels.com



Sail away

GLOBAL

The cruise industry is riding the crest of a wave and shows no sign of stopping. This spring and summer season sees the launch of *Scenic Eclipse*, the first ocean-bound ship from river-cruise operator Scenic, as well as Hapag-Lloyd's *Hanseatic Nature*. The ships are equipped with expedition boats and *Scenic Eclipse* even has a seven-seat submarine and helicopter. "We want to provide discovery experiences in the world's most exotic and remote destinations," says Colin Downing, managing director of Scenic UK.

The ships mark a trend towards smaller bespoke-expedition cruises. In 2018, cruises of this kind accounted for 1 per cent of the global market but, in the next three years, 28 such ships will head out to sea. These boats, smaller than the average cruise ship, can call on smaller ports and offer passengers a more intimate experience. — HU scenic.com.au; hl-cruises.com



STILL LIFE: David Sykes

Q&A

Klaus Kabelitz
General manager,
Belmond Cadogan Hotel
London

The end of February saw the opening of Belmond's newest addition: the 54-room Cadogan Hotel in Chelsea, London. Overlooking the verdant Cadogan Gardens, halfway between the fashion-forward Kings Road and stately Knightsbridge, it comes complete with a bar and restaurant headed by Adam Handling. The historic hotel – first opened in 1887 – has been sensitively revamped to reflect its storied history without losing its authenticity: seek out the mosaic lilies designed by Lillie Langtry, the 19th-century actress who used to live here and even has a suite named after her. Its general manager, Klaus Kabelitz, tells us how they've embraced the community and polished the property. — MSS

What makes Chelsea such a special place?

I started off in Mayfair on Park Lane and moved up to Knightsbridge before coming to Chelsea, and it's probably the most unique of these areas. I have a feeling that this is where the real London is. Neighbours have been knocking on windows asking if we're open. It's that sort of hotel where people who live nearby come in and make it their own, which is great for our guests. It helps you feel connected to the area and the people.

How have you managed to tie the redesigned hotel to the community and its roots?

There's a long list of famous British people who have lived around here, including Bram Stoker and Oscar Wilde, so the hotel has many stories to tell. We worked with the local bookshop John Sandoe to curate our hotel libraries. Details throughout the hotel nod to the history of the place. Original details – including the mosaics and wood panelling – were brought into today's world and contrasted nicely with the contemporary British-made furniture and artwork.

What do you think sets the Cadogan Hotel apart?

The hotel is small in terms of the number of rooms, but big enough to offer all the services to help guests really feel at home. There is life in the bars and restaurants and, when you're here, you couldn't be anywhere else in the world. belmond.com



Ready for take-off

ISTANBUL

Istanbul's new airport has been built to be the busiest one in the world. Turkish Airlines' success in funnelling passengers through its hub in recent years left the old airfield, Ataturk, bursting at the seams, so the new mega-terminal offers welcome relief. Limited flights began operating here late last year but this year sees the airport come fully online.

The numbers are impressive: the airport will eventually have six runways and 500 check-in desks. Construction costs to date are somewhere north of €11bn. When completed in 2028 it should be able to handle 200 million passengers per year. By comparison, Beijing processed 95 million in 2017.

Among the innovations we can expect: unmanned buggies, baggage tracing in a mobile app, and biometric and facial scanners. Istanbul is investing properly in technology in a bid to show the world how it's done. — GL

Top flight

SCANDINAVIA

SAS has taken the on-board comfort kit to new heights by championing sustainable Scandinavian design. Stockholm-based clothing company Filippa K designed the sachets and eye masks; the socks are made from recycled materials with environmentally friendly dyes by Swedish Stockings; the Humble Co toothbrush comes with a corn-starch handle; and the Verso cream and lip balm help travellers cope with dry air on board. — DEP sas.se



Something's afoot

GLOBAL

A decade ago hotels harnessed the Havaianas moment and started commissioning their own takes on the iconic flip-flop (the Fasano in Rio has some very nice black-and-white Ipanemas that await you in your room). But it's a more modest footwear trend that now has hotel owners staring at their feet: the slipper.

Coinciding with the rise of the slider, the plastic slip-on that's been part of the fashion parade for a few years, the hotel slipper has seen its appeal rise. Mr J Bieber, a popular musician, has been widely snapped with white-towelling-encased tootsies. And during a stay in St Moritz's Suvretta House we were struck by the number of guests wearing the hotel's embroidered variety to breakfast. So next time you find a pair by your bed, take them – they're a step into the world of fashion. — AT



(1) Plush blue slippers from the Ritz London
(2) Cable-knit Harrison slippers from Soho Farmhouse
(3) Leather babushkas from Kasbah Tamadot in Morocco



guestrooms, however, are the real deal-clincher (though where else you'd stay in Cambridge we're not certain). Beyond the predictable pictures of pastoral scenes – and, yes, the occasional nod to that well-known boat race – there's are pleasing textures to the finishes, prints, throws, beds and sofas that invite you to linger – particularly if you're lucky enough to nab a turret room (907 is the best). Don't just take our word for it: make an educated choice and see for yourself. — JAF universityarms.com