

TRAVEL-LEISURE

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO





T+L DESIGN AWARDS 2013

An exquisite hotel; a new twist on an iconic city bus; a beautiful museum, restaurant, suitcase, raincoat, and more—good design makes travel better, and for T+L's ninth annual competition, our distinguished jury chose the best of the year. **PLUS** T+L's salute to our Design Champion.

BEST MUSEUM Städel Museum Frankfurt Till Schneider, Michael Schumacher, and Kai Otto for Schneider & Schumacher This spectacular extension

of the Städel in Frankfurt inserts huge new galleries for contemporary art beneath the 19th-century museum's courtyard garden, lit by 195 large round windows embedded in the lawn. The windows are designed to be walked on, and also double as LED lights, laid out in a grid and glowing at night. But it is the subtle, swelling hill at the center of the lawn (and the corresponding dome in the gallery below) that is the project's otherworldly masterstroke, imparting a dash of Spielbergian drama in the heart of the city. 63 Schaumainkai: staedelmuseum.de.

HONORABLE MENTIONS Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut; Metropolitan Museum of Art Islamic galleries, New York City

BEST PERFORMANCE SPACE

Music School of Louviers, Louviers, France

Opus 5 Architectes

A beautiful ruin, built as a monastery in the 1600's and later turned into a prison, has been reborn as a state-of-the-art music school and performance space at the center of Louviers, in Normandy. Set above the Epervier River, the remnants of the site's historical buildings have been preserved, unified around a simple glass box with chrome stripes. The new construction houses the main orchestral hall and is the stunning focal point of the school, reflecting the surroundings and sky during the day, glowing warmly at night. 1 Rue des Pénitents; emmlouviers.jimdo.com.

HONORABLE MENTION

Cineteca Cinema Center, Madrid



BEST HOTEL, 100 OR MORE ROOMS

Palace Hotel Tokyo

Terry McGinnity for GA Design International

The understated luxury of the new Palace Hotel Tokyo, built on the site of the iconic 1961 Palace Hotel and adjacent to the moat surrounding the Imperial Palace in the center of the city, is perfectly suited to its history. There is quiet, traditional grandeur in the marble and ebony finishes and deep green carpets, and a sense of sophisticated restraint that permeates the hotel's dazzling lobby, restaurants, and bars. All of the rooms overlook the vast green Imperial Gardens; views of nature-trees, stones, moss, and water-are at the center of the design. 1-1-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku; palacehoteltokyo.com. \$\$\$\$

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam Hilton Frankfurt Airport

