

THE HOTEL

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FROM EMMA O'KELLY

MOUNTAIN MODERN

The Hotel stands out among Lucerne's opulent inns as the modern master with a twist.



Following on from his grand Culture and Convention Centre in Lucerne, (see Wallpaper* 14), Jean Nouvel has created a second stunning landmark for the city. The Hotel is Lucerne's first five-star boutique hotel and comes as a cool contrast to the Montana and the Palace - turreted, gilt-filled joints that dot the mountains overlooking Lake Lucerne. With just 25 rooms (divided into 10 deluxe studios, 10 garden suites with patios and five junior suites), The Hotel opened last month in what used to be an art nouveau town house.

It is a boutique hotel in the true sense of the word: Nouvel has designed all the furniture for the space and each room has its own colour scheme. Eager to recreate the frescoes and opulent artworks found on the ceilings of ancient churches, he has rigged up each room with a

permanent projector that shows film clips overhead. The main bar, The Lounge, is set to become one of Lucerne's liveliest drinking dens (there's not much competition in this sleepy city) and, if you're looking for food, the hotel's sleek Bam Bou restaurant introduces French/Asian cuisine to the city. Best of all, however, is the deluxe suite: for those who prefer a bit of jungle boogie to all that alpine air, it comes with a sexy bathroom that looks on to a patio planted with bamboo and tropical plants.

The Hotel is the latest venture of local chef and leading Swiss hotelier Urs Karli, who also owns the Schiller and Astoria hotels in Lucerne and predicts a tourism boom in the town, thanks to the convention centre. With Nouvel devoting this much attention to the city, perhaps it's time you did as well.

DELUXE BOUTIQUE HOTEL – HOSPITALITY AND DESIGN BY JEAN NOUVEL

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