

THE ICONIC HOTEL



# MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MILAN



IN THE HEART OF THE LOMBARD METROPOLIS, MILAN LIFESTYLES AND REFERENCES FROM THE EAST COME TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY THANKS TO THE HARMONIC PROJECT OF INTERNATIONAL SCOPE.

By Francesca Tagliabue

New flagship for the Milan high-end hospitality. After the recent reopening of the Hotel Excelsior Gallia (project by Studio Marco Piva), another elegant work of architectural renovation confirms the interest of the city toward the creation of spaces "to live in" for those who live in Milan and for those who are only "passing through" the city. The Mandarin Oriental, Milan is the first hotel of the Group in Italy. In the property located between the Brera borough and the Fashion District, contemporary design and calibrated touches of Oriental elegance come together under the sign of luxury and sophistication. The hotel occupies four adjoining buildings dating back to the 18th century and the project was developed by Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel Interiors. The bu-

ildings, characterized by simple and sober façades, overlook two parallel streets (Via Aldegari and Via Monte di Pietà) and conceal two courtyards in their interior. One of the buildings - Palazzo Confalonieri - has a curious story that is worth telling: originally built as a home for the family of the same name, between the 1930s and 1950s has hosted the Milan Civic Tax Office and later the offices of the Cassa di Risparmio delle Province Lombarde. Since the architectures now converted to hotels were all born as houses, the layout of interior spaces and the height of ceiling vary from floor to floor. The lower levels, considered in the past centuries as «noble» because they housed the owners, have higher and airier ceilings while the upper levels, once for the servants, have





lower ceilings to maximize space. This variety of solutions and the irregular layout are particularly evident in the 72 rooms and 32 suites at the Mandarin Oriental, Milan. The rooms differ in layout and views but they are all treated as residences and therefore equipped with a home charm and particularly refined finishes. The floors are of parquet, the walls are coated with walnut or oak boiserie. The furnishings are designed mostly by Antonio Citterio and thus associated by the love for the rigorous lines that characterize the production of the architect; these are pieces from the catalogue of companies, maybe customized in dimensions or finishes, or furniture designed exclusively for the hotel.

For example, the beds are designed specifically for the hotel and exhibit a special padded headboard in arch shape, which embraces the thalamus contributing to its sound insulation and enhancing its feeling of intimacy.

In the suites, the sofas have a backrest with the same shape. Also interesting is the table on wheels conceived by Antonio Citterio to be easily moved around the room and act, from time to time, as a support surface, as desk for work, as a surface for room service. The colour palette consists of beige and touches of purple, especially on upholstery and the arabesque carpets: the ensemble is simple and inspired by the interior of great masters as Piero Portaluppi, Gio Ponti or Asnago e Vender.

The ensuite bathrooms are completely clad with Italian marbles (but the type of stone changes from room to room) and consist of a wet room with bath and shower and a separate toilet. The glazed walls adjacent to the sleeping area can be made opaque by a simple touch to ensure privacy and discretion. In the penthouses located on the upper floors the lower ceiling height is well compensated by the large windows overlooking the rooftops, which allow beautiful views of the spires of the nearby Duomo. Also worth a mention the presidential suite on the second floor, overlooking Via Monte di Pietà, consisting of bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom in blue Brazilian marble, and the two speciality large suites of about 100 square metres, which overlook the courtyards and Via Orti, picturesque and with little traffic.

But the Mandarin Oriental, Milan is much more than just a place to stay or simply sleep. The structure combines different areas for



## ANTONIO CITTERIO PATRICIA VIEL INTERIORS

Antonio Citterio and Patricia Viel are the founders of Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel Interiors, whose headquarters are in Milan, Italy. The firm works internationally, developing complex projects on all scales in collaboration with a qualified network of specialist consultants. Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel Interiors during the past 20 years has executed interior designs for residential and commercial complexes, retail outlets, work spaces, offices, showrooms and hotels. The company, a spin-off of Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel and Partners, has a strong expertise in providing detailed project documentation covering the interior of a building, from interior fit-out to bespoke millwork elements and furniture. The firm is also active in the sector of corporate communication, handling projects of coordinated image, installations and graphics, and has participated to several design competitions, national and international. Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel Interiors method of working is in most cases different from the traditional work method of interior design firms. Different disciplines communicate and collaborate on each project of our office in order to keep it consistent on all levels. Recent projects include: the Bulgari Hotels in Milan and London and the W Hotel in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation). Projects currently under construction include a large-size integrated design project in Doha (Qatar), residential units in the new Elbphilharmonie building in Hamburg (Germany) and the new Mandarin Oriental hotel in Milan (Italy).





relaxation, fun and perfect places to enjoy fine food. First of all, the Spa of 900 square metres, following the oriental heritage of the Group, has interiors inspired by the philosophy of feng shui, both in the use of materials (water, air, fire, wood and metal) and in the layout of the spaces. In addition to the area with pools, whirlpools and saunas, the hotel has four individual rooms for treatments, a room dedicated to Thai massage and a VIP suite. The approach to wellness is clearly holistic. Adjacent to the Spa there is the fitness room equipped with Technogym ARTIS machines of last generation. But, as said before, the Mandarin Oriental, Milan is a place to live every day for everyone. For this purpose the property includes public places with different soul and well defined personality. Accessible from the lobby or via a dedicated entrance

on Via Monte di Pietà, the Mandarin Bar is open from eight in the morning until late at night. Its atmosphere changes according to the times of the day, turning it into an ideal place for a breakfast, a lunch or a night out.

Its interiors bet on a graphic black and white design using geometric patterns that completely cover the floors and the walls. In addition to the indoor room, with a large «U» counter, the coffee bar also expands with a lounge area located outdoor in one of the courtyards and therefore used especially during the summer season.

Connected to the bar, but also with private entrance from Via Monte di Pietà 18, there is the Seta Restaurant. It occupies two of the four sides of the building and part of the second courtyard;











the kitchen is located on the third side, and customers can watch the chefs at work throughout dinner.

Designed to accommodate up to fifty guests, the Seta has floors and walls covered with wood, while upholstery and tablecloths were chosen in a contrasting bright green. Some corners of the dining room can be separated by means of partition in order to create private spaces, such as the private room right behind the reception, designed for intimate dinners for up to eight participants. A structure of international scope must be ready to welco-

me meetings and events, for this purpose at the Mandarin Oriental, Milan there are two conference rooms. Both located on the ground floor they host respectively seventy and fifty seats (with theatre setup) and they equipped not only with latest generation technological supports, essential for the organization of conferences and speech, but also with a dedicated kitchens, perfect for the organization of catering and refreshments.

Milan soul and international character, the Mandarin Oriental, Milan presents itself to the world confident of its success.



## MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MILAN

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| Architectural project and interior design: | <b>Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel Interiors</b>   |
| Lighting:                                  | <b>Santa&amp;Cole, B&amp;B Italia, Flos, Davide Groppi, Azucena, Maxalto, MLS, Jacopo Foggini</b>             |
| Doors:                                     | <b>Lualdi, Garofoli, Rimadesio</b>  |
| Bathroom fittings:                         | <b>Pozzi-Ginori, Hansgrohe, Kaldewei, Boffi, SciroccoH</b>  |
| Finishings:                                | <b>AssaAbloy Italia, Vescom</b>   |
| Fitness equipment:                         | <b>Starpool, Technogym</b>  |
| Building systems:                          | <b>Microdevice</b>  |
| Furniture:                                 | <b>Poliform, B&amp;B Italia, Maxalto, Paolo Castelli, Cassina, Living Divani, Gervasoni, Interna Contract</b> |
| Outdoor:                                   | <b>B&amp;B Italia, Unopiù</b>   |