

An Interview

A Place of Surprise and Excitement

Interior Designer Marcel Wanders on the Kameha Grand

You are designing the first Kameha Grand, how would you describe the project in one sentence?

The Kameha Grand is becoming the ultimate international 5 star hotel, combining the intimacy and sensitivity of a Rhine-hotel and the volatility and action of a conference-hall making it a future palace of relaxation as well as inspiration.

The architecture in itself is a very strong statement as such...

The architecture has a fabulous transparency overlooking the meandering Rhine and the city Bonn. All sides of the building have huge amounts of glass. We were challenged to keep the monumental scale and openness and to still create a warm and intimate place.

How did you work with that?

There is always the relationship with the interior and the exterior, blurring the boundaries between the far view and our own space, creating a very airy feeling. We used large curtains which partly block the views but create a sense of human scale and place while keeping the connection between inside and outside.

We brought in even more glass and crystal, showing also the different sides of glass and in doing so we warmed up the hardness of the architecture. We created a space which still feels open and large but also protected and warm. You can always feel whether you are in the hotel that has an intimate and cozy ambiance, or in the spacious and activating conference area.

What about the public areas?

Although the public areas are different and individual you can sense an overall atmosphere throughout the whole building. All public spaces are inviting and create opportunities for professional visitors as well as leisure visitors. Then there is the artificial garden-landscape, a lively part of the lobby.

Individual and inviting not being die attributes that normally come to mind in a conference Hotel....

Yes, at times the typical conference hotel is very serious and practical, boring mostly. I think a conference hotel should be exciting, stimulating and inspiring, so it needs to be a surrounding which brings to life all these qualities.

If you want to invite a group of professional colleagues, you want to show them they are important to you and you want to treat them well. So, instead of a typical boring and tiring conference hotel, this hotel has to be fun and inspirational.

So the Kameha Grand reflects your own mission? "Here to create an environment of Love. Live with passion and make our most exciting dream come true".

Absolutely. We want to give the professional guest an absolute 5 star feeling of leisure by creating a place of surprise, beauty and excitement, a place that is sexy and cool.

Marcel Wanders is designing for the biggest European contemporary design manufacturers like B&B Italia, Bisazza, Poliform, Moroso, Flos, Boffi, Cappellini, Droog Design and Moooi of which he is also art director and co-owner. Various designs of Marcel Wanders have been selected for the most important design collections and exhibitions in the world, like the Museum of Modern Art in New York and San Francisco and the V&A Museum in London among others.