

# Wallpaper\*

JANUARY 2012

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## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

The fresh and fabulous forward-thinkers who will change design, architecture, cars, cooking, fashion, furniture, film and photography forever

### KINGS OF NEW YORK

The men who made things happen for Richard Meier and Robert De Niro

### ACADEMY REWARDS

The super schools business

### PULL UP A CHAIR

We've got the best seats in the house

### VIENNESE WHIRL

Austrian fashion has us in a spin

**W\* DESIGN AWARDS 2012 PREVIEW**

**CONFERENCE CALL**  
We're all ears for smart mouths

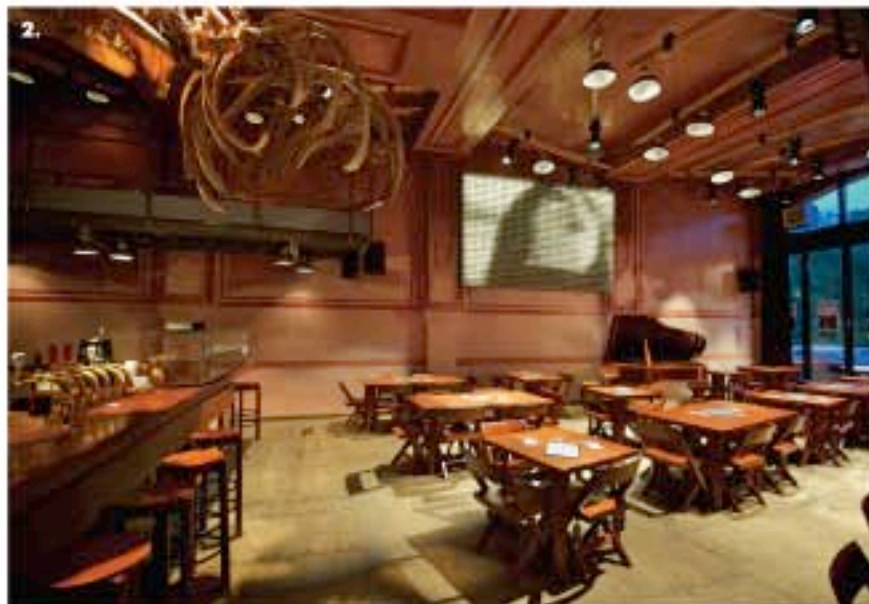
**SCREEN STAR**  
Why David Hockney is bigger than ever





## 2. SCREEN GEM *Potemkine, Brussels*

Housed in a former cinema lobby, the Potemkine bar features a square wall of bulbs that shows low-res versions of black and white movies. Meanwhile, a huge whale 'skeleton', created by Bonom, Brussels' most celebrated graffiti artist, hovers above the bar. Lounge chairs are upholstered in green or red leather, while the angular rosewood furniture references the 1950s work of Pierre Jeanneret at Chandigarh. **Guy Dittrich**  
2-4 Avenue de la Porte de Hal,  
Saint Gilles, tel: 32.2 539 49 44



Photography: Filip Vanzieleghem, Deryck Monero, Jaime Navarro

## 1. FRENCH FANCY *Kartel, Shanghai*

French designers Thomas Dariel and Benoit Arfeuille have turned a fin-de-siècle property in Shanghai's French Concession into a louche three-storey lounge bar. The space is a dramatic mix of exposed concrete, mirrored walls, custom-made furniture and bold slashes of colour, while up on the timber-decked rooftop, views of the French Concession's roofline are framed by the distant towers of downtown Shanghai. **Daven Wu**  
5th Floor, No 1 North Xiangyang Road, [www.kartel.com.cn](http://www.kartel.com.cn)



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## 3. MEX IT UP *Downtown, Mexico City*

Located in Mexico City's historic centre, Downtown is housed in one of the few remaining 17th-century palaces. Originally known as the Palacio de los Condes de Miravalle, the hotel/hostel is a response to the lack of decent contemporary places to stay in the centre and it boasts a red, volcanic-rock façade, magnificent patios and a stone-forged staircase featuring a 1945 mural by Manuel Rodríguez Lozano. Painstakingly restored by the Habita Hotel Group and local architects Charem Serrano, the building retains original features, such as wooden beams, ribbed ceiling vaults and

clay floor tiles, while new additions include the red-brick lattice bathroom partitions. Downtown has 11 suites with courtyard views, six master suites with street-view balconies and budget-friendly hostel beds (pictured below). It also features a rooftop bar and swimming pool, ping pong tables, a screening room, a beer garden and a restaurant serving traditional street food. **Pablo León de la Barra**  
Isabel La Católica 30, Centro Histórico, tel: 1.800 400 8484, [www.grupohabita.mx](http://www.grupohabita.mx).  
Rates: from \$25 per hostel bed; \$175 per room

