

THE HOT ISSUE

AUSTRALIA

36 PAGES OF  
KITCHENS + BATHROOMS

# belle

APRIL/MAY 2009

## DESIGN MUST-HAVES

If you buy one thing this year make it a classic

### Rethink!

STYLISH  
ESSENTIALS TO  
UPDATE YOUR  
KITCHEN &  
BATHROOM

PLUS  
rent & Pyke  
DAVID HICKS  
ecker Phelan  
Guthrie  
ARC NEWSON

# WHITEHOT

THE WORLD'S COOLEST HOUSES + HOTELS YOU  
NEED TO KNOW + AUSTRALIA'S A-LIST DESIGNERS  
+ STOP PRESS... PARIS TREND REPORT



GLOBAL STYLE FILE **Bangkok** London **Los Angeles** Melbourne **Miami** New York **Paris** Sydney





# PARADISE CALLING

The 10 coolest hotels ... as chosen by some of our favourite design identities. The list includes an old-school favourite, the Oberoi in Bali, a little gem in Marrakech and a peaceful oasis in Thailand.

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## Parker Palm Springs

**GREG NATALE, INTERIOR DESIGNER**

"First, Palm Springs is awesome. Coming from Sydney we're used to a really green landscape and this is the desert. It's so different and so beautiful. Jonathan Adler did the redesign and I love his work. The whole place is basically white: white-painted brick with great pieces of vintage furniture and then there's a dark, sexy, low-ceilinged restaurant. It's real Hollywood Regency – a layer of opulence over minimalism. I was definitely inspired." [theparkerpalmsprings.com](http://theparkerpalmsprings.com)

## Straf Hotel, Milan

**JOHN PARKER, RETAILER**

"The Straf is distinctive because it is one of the few really contemporary hotels in Italy with an emphasis on design. Designed by the architect and fashion designer Vincenzo de Cotiis, the exterior is from the 19th century but the interior is predominantly brass, concrete and other industrial elements which give the hotel an atmosphere which is austere but calming.

"The hotel's Bar Straf is great for people-watching as it opens out onto the street, immersing you among all the beautiful Milanese people. You might also come into close contact with some amazing and famous musicians, as the hotel is near all the major recording companies. Then, during Milan Fashion Week, the Straf becomes a hot spot for the fashionistas and during the Milan International Furniture Fair it's full of designers. Basically, it's a great place for celebrity spotting!" [straf.it](http://straf.it)

## The Sarojin, Thailand

**NEALE WHITAKER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

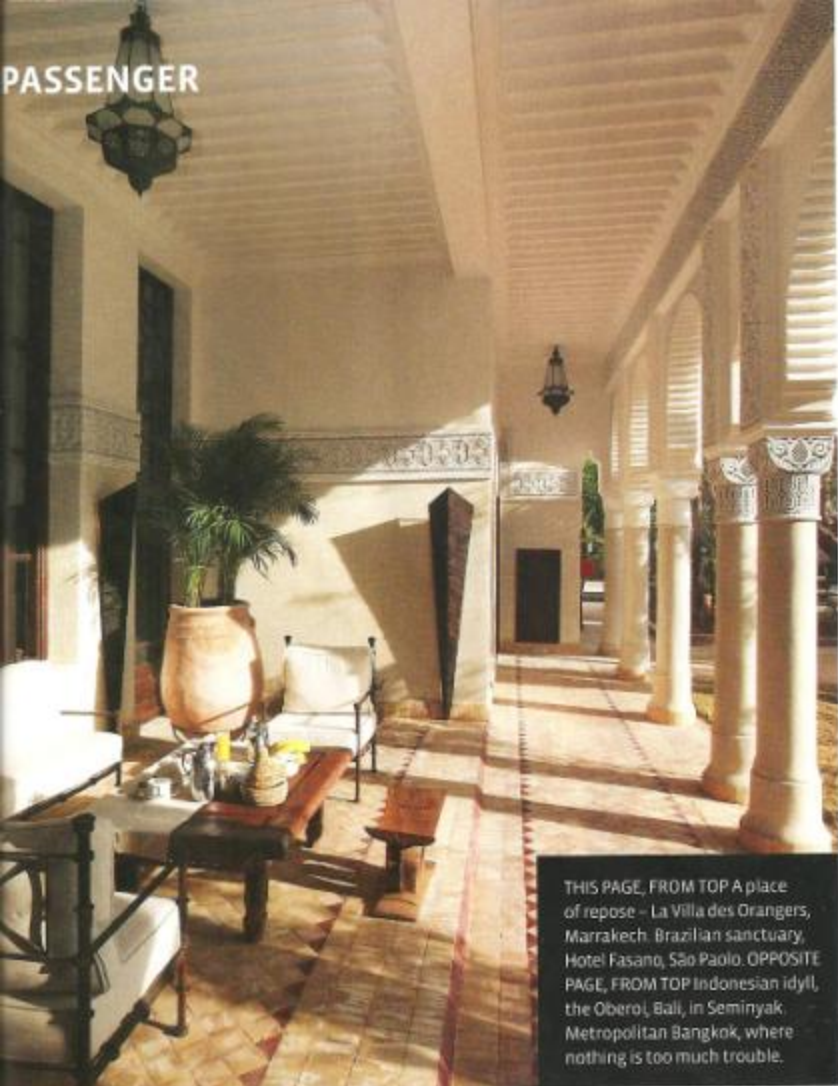
"This tranquil stretch of Thailand's Andaman coast took the full force of the 2004 tsunami. At Bang Muang a rusting police patrol boat – beached almost 3 kilometres inland – is a poignant memorial for posterity to too many lives lost. But on Khao Lak beach the exquisite Sarojin resort represents new optimism, hope and confidence. An hour north of Phuket, The Sarojin ticks every five-star box you could wish



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Parker Palm Springs, California. Straf Hotel, Milan, Italy. The Raleigh, Miami. The Sarojin resort, Khao Lak, Thailand. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP Views over Lake Pichola from the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, India. Hotel de Witte Lelie, Antwerp, Belgium.







THIS PAGE, FROM TOP A place of repose – La Villa des Orangers, Marrakech. Brazilian sanctuary, Hotel Fasano, São Paulo. OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP Indonesian idyll, the Oberoi, Bali, in Seminyak. Metropolitan Bangkok, where nothing is too much trouble.

for. But its real impact is less tangible. In a lifetime of travelling I cannot remember feeling as welcome, as relaxed, as cared for and – yes, I admit it – as downright romantic, as I did at The Sarojin. The place just wraps itself around you. The day we arrived it started to rain. A thunderous sky and a late-arrival monsoon was an inauspicious start to a long-anticipated getaway. But it just didn't matter and that's The Sarojin's magic. And what the brochure doesn't prepare you for is the total anguish of leaving." sarojin.com

## The Raleigh, Miami

**CHARLES HINCKFUSS, RETAILER**

"Every December the Art Basel Miami Beach takes place and the city is alive with visiting international galleries, great parties and crossover events. The city itself has great bones and there is no better hotel to take this in than The Raleigh. It's a classic luxury boutique hotel, and combines all the elements I love about interiors and design, mixing styles with a focus on comfort and understatement. The pool is world famous with an emphasis on luxury by the beach. It's a hotel where you can't help but have fun and everywhere you look you get inspired to decorate." raleighhotel.com

## La Villa des Orangers, Marrakech

**BARBARA HERMON, RETAILER**

"This is an old riad (house) which, like many here, has been converted into a small hotel. The atmosphere is quite spectacular – it's in the medina and only a few minutes' walk from the main square. Inside it's very traditional and has its own hammam (bathhouse). You can take breakfast in the courtyard or by the pool and what is also divine is just sitting down and ordering Moroccan tea (green tea with a dash of mint) and pastries." www.villadesorangers.com

