

GO GLOBAL!

We track down the world's top design destinations, with insider info on architecture, interiors, hotels and restaurants to fuel your next adventure

WORDS FREYA HERRING

TOKYO, JAPAN

Nadine Alwill, architect, alwill.com.au

For Nadine Alwill, who runs Alwill Architecture + Interiors with her sister, Romaine, the juxtaposition of nature and urbanity makes Tokyo, where she lived as a child, a genuine design hotspot. "Tokyo's most contemporary buildings still manage to capture that indefinable quality – the *wabi-sabi* – of traditional Japanese design," says Nadine. "Whether it's how they handle light, the arrangement of space or how you move through it, it's about maintaining a connection with nature. No matter what style or trend you come across in this intensely populated and built-up city, a sense of ancient culture prevails."

The building: "As a building, the **Ginza Maison Hermès** (pictured) is incredible, even more so for the park space – nature again – that is being created next to it." maisonhermes.jp/en/ginza.

The hotel: "I love **Trunk Hotel**. It sums up the feel of Shibuya ward [neighbourhood] to me – it's really open to all walks of life, and the lobby feels like a giant conversation pit where you can meet anyone and just sit and talk to them for hours. The fit-out is totally unpretentious and at the same time unashamedly 'designed'." trunkhotel.com.

The store: "As a design for place and people, **Tsutaya bookstore in Daikanyama T-Site** is wonderful. It's a really cool part of Tokyo, too, with loads of great little stores and cafes." realtsite.jp/daikanyama/english.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (THIS PAGE) BEHROUZ MEHR/BAUERSYNDICATION/AMAU, (OPPOSITE, TOP, SECOND LEFT & SECOND RIGHT) HENRY WILSON, (TOP RIGHT) ALAMY, (BOTTOM RIGHT) RANDY HARRIS, CAFE PALLADIO IMAGES COURTESY OF BAR PALLADIO, BARPALLADIO.COM

JAIPUR, INDIA

Megan Morton, author and stylist, meganmorton.com

Known as the 'Pink City', Jaipur, in India's Rajasthan, is romantically toned in dusky pinks and ornate, Wes Anderson-like detailing – in short, it's an aesthete's paradise. So it's no wonder stylist Megan Morton finds it so inspiring. "For me it's the patterns that are on constant repeat," she says. "From the *havelis* [traditional mansions] to the block printers' work, there's an innate and beautiful methodology to Jaipur's design approach in every medium that I find endlessly fascinating." Megan calls the city's stepwells "mind-boggling and magnificent. The way ancient India retrieved its water back in the day via these stone stepwells will blow your mind".

The hotel: "Designed by an Italian couple, **Jobner Bagh** is small and family-run, and has a rooftop where you can sit with a cup of chai and take in Jaipur. It is a joy to experience, especially after days of stepwells, mic-drop palaces and 16th-century havelis." jobnerbagh.com.

The museum: "Go to the **Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing** to see every mark made and fashion influence India has had, all within a restored 17th-century haveli." anokhi.com.

The cafe: "Experience the charming apricot and spearmint frescoed walls of **Caffè Palladio** (top left and centre), taking Turkish coffee and mezze plates. It's a total treat." bar-palladio.com/caffe.



NEW YORK CITY, USA

Sibella Court, designer and author, thesocietyinc.com.au New York City isn't just a centre of design for Sibella Court – it's her second home. "I lived in Chinatown and Tribeca for 10 years," she says. "SoHo was my backyard." The founder of The Society Inc loves the Big Apple's robust aesthetic. "The cast-iron buildings, the water towers, the huge stone sidewalks, the brownstones and the cobblestoned streets," she says. "I embraced its energy, street scrap, noise, weather, parks and buildings. Its influence and memories seep into every one of my projects today."

The shops: "John Derian Company Inc (bottom right) and Paula Rubenstein have to be my top two. They are stores where modern and ancient sit comfortably with textiles, curiosities and the plain obscure." johnderian.com, paularubenstein.com.

The hotel: "Restored in 2006, **Lafayette House** is a hidden gem housed in an 1848 brownstone. It boasts the highest of high ceilings, marble fireplaces, deep-soak bathtubs and open outdoor spaces (upper centre right). It's a nod to old New York." lafayettehousenyc.com.

The restaurant: "The lobby at **The Marilton Hotel**, built in 1900, is detailed to perfection. The hotel (centre left, centre right & top right) features dining and lounging options that are worth a try whether you're a guest or not." Check out the richly decorated Margaux restaurant (top right) or the dark-toned cocktail bar. mariltonhotel.com.



STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Sarah-Jane Pyke, interior architect, arentpyke.com

According to Sarah-Jane Pyke from interior design studio Arent&Pyke, Stockholm lives up to the hype. "Stockholm cheekily claims to be the capital of Scandinavia, and in many ways everything we love about Scandinavian design is present there," she says. "From the medieval to 19th-century architecture, to the pared-back, clean lines of mid-century and contemporary design, it's inspiring. It's picture-perfect, with all the elements we love from a European sojourn – cafes, bakeries, chocolate and cake shops, galleries, as well as bars and restaurants in beautiful old buildings."

The shop: "Svenskt Tenn is a store worthy of a pilgrimage. Bringing together colours, patterns and motifs from all over the world, the textiles are timeless and eclectic. It's also brimming with furniture, lighting and objects." svenskttenn.se/en.

The event: "The **Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair**, held each February, is such an enjoyable fair for the scale and brands represented, as well as the warmth of the exhibitors." stockholmfurniturelightfair.se.

The hotel: "With interiors designed by Ilse Crawford, **Ett Hem** (pictured) captures the essence of 'home', with freshly picked posies on bedside tables and open fires warming the rooms. You can enjoy a book from the library, help yourself to a glass of wine from the kitchen, and be completely at ease lounging in front of the fireplace on a snowy winter afternoon." ettthem.se.



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LONDON, ENGLAND

Peter Grove, architect,
boardgrovearchitects.com
English-born Peter Grove often travels to London with his partner Holly Board, with whom he runs BoardGrove Architects. "The design scene is a constantly evolving mixture of influences – fashion, art, media, performance and music," says Peter. "The context in which buildings sit is layered in time, and often projects respond directly to the site's history." A prime example is South London Gallery (southlondongallery.org). "The oldness of the terraced house is prized and added to, with a double-height dining room looking onto a wall garden," he says. **The hotel:** "At **Ace Hotel** in Shoreditch (*pictured*), a vibrant ground floor spills onto the street with a flower shop, record store and cafe. Upstairs, rooms have a window seat that looks out across the city – a great spot to recover." acehotel.com/london. **The pool:** "Go for a swim under the epic roof in the main pool or the beautiful concrete ceiling of the training pool at the **London Aquatics Centre**, designed by Zaha Hadid." londonaquaticscentre.org. **The shop:** "At **Gallery Fumi** in Mayfair, the designs and artworks are unique. They captivate the imagination and make you think about how things are made." galleryfumi.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT) ALAMY; ARTWORK & DRAWING (THIS PAGE) BY UNKNOWN ARTISTS.
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ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Carole Whiting, interior designer,
carolewhiting.com
A recent trip to Zurich made its mark on interior designer Carole Whiting. "The old part of town is hilly, with cobblestones and narrow lanes to get lost in," she says. "In the more modern parts, there's lots of architecture from the early 20th century – cutting-edge in its day, very simple and minimalist – which is a lovely counterpoint to the period architecture." Checking out Pavillon Le Corbusier (*bottom centre*), by famous Swiss architect Le Corbusier and reopening in 2019, is a must. "This is one of his last buildings," says Carole. "It marked a change in his materiality from concrete to steel and glass." She declares the Museum für Gestaltung (museum-gestaltung.ch/en) "my favourite place. The lower floor spans seven decades of the 20th century, with rooms dressed in Swiss furniture and decoration from each period." **The hotel:** "**Marktgasse** (*top right, centre left, centre right & bottom right*) is perfectly located in the old part of town. It features beautiful spaces converted into hotel rooms. Some rooms have incredibly beautiful, original fireplaces. The windows are huge, the ceilings soar." marktgasseehotel.ch/en. **The food:** "On the hill above Marktgasse, there are interesting art, design and antique stores to meander through." **The restaurant:** "**Hilti** (*bottom left*) is at the top of a department store and is stylishly fitted out, with vast seating inside and out. There are so many delicious options that you totally forget it's vegetarian." hilti.ch/en.



take a tour

Travel with a friend – or meet a new group of like-minded design lovers – on these guided trips

Marrakech with Julia Green

Stylist Julia Green's (pictured, left) tours of Morocco sound like something out of a dream. "We watch people loom, paint, make ceramics and cook," she says. "Marrakech is a city that celebrates colour and craft like very few others I have been to." Her Magic Of Morocco tour, planned with Souk & Co, sees you explore Berber villages in the desert and stay in luxurious *riads* in Marrakech, check out markets and experience Yves Saint Laurent's stunning home gardens. "Each riad has a rooftop garden that overlooks the city," says Julia. "Sinking a G&T up there in the evening, listening to the call to prayer over the tops of the mosques, is beautiful." Email julia@greenhouseinteriors.com.au for more information on her Moroccan tours. Visit soukandco.com.

Tokyo with Megan Morton

Megan Morton (pictured, left) doesn't just go to Jaipur. She takes design tours across the globe. One of her favourite destinations is Asia's hub of pared-back design – Tokyo. On this tour, you experience things you wouldn't have access to when travelling alone. "There are not many trips to Tokyo that have you doing *ikebana* with an Issey Miyake-clad master in a Tadao Ando concrete house after a morning at a flea market," she says. "On our morning walks, we see Japanese shrines, tick off bucket-list design stores and museums, then it's on to a pottery market before heading back to the hotel for an *onsen*." Where do we sign up? theschool.com.au/collections/excursions.

Milan with Urban Italy

Despite its renown as the capital of design, Milan has often proved difficult to navigate for design-lovers thanks to its industrial veneer – where do you go to see it all? That's where Urban Italy and their range of design tours comes in. "We design experiences like dinner with designers, or at the home of an art collector," says Mikaela Bandini, Urban Italy's owner and creative director (pictured, right). "We visit entire neighbourhoods such as super-chic Brera or the more up-and-coming Tortona. In order to see and touch the urban revival of Milan, we take you on study tours and visits with architects, designers, professors of architecture and journalists." Let Milan be a riddle no more. urbanitaly.com.

Paris with Anne Ditmeyer

Originally from the US, graphic designer Anne Ditmeyer (pictured, left) has been taking design tours of Paris, where she has lived since 2009, for six years. Tours start at Merci. "It's the quintessential concept design store," says Anne. "I love starting here as the third arrondissement is an area most people never think to visit, but it's vibrant with independent shops." Afterwards, the day will depend on you. "If you love food and beautiful packaging, we'll detour to Maison Plisson down the street. If you're more into paper, we'll head to Papier Tigre, a line of paper products and accessories. If you're looking for home decor, we'll hit Jamini, with hand-block Indian printed textiles designed by Usha Bora." navigateparis.com/home/parisdesigntour. 10

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