

# Wallpaper\*

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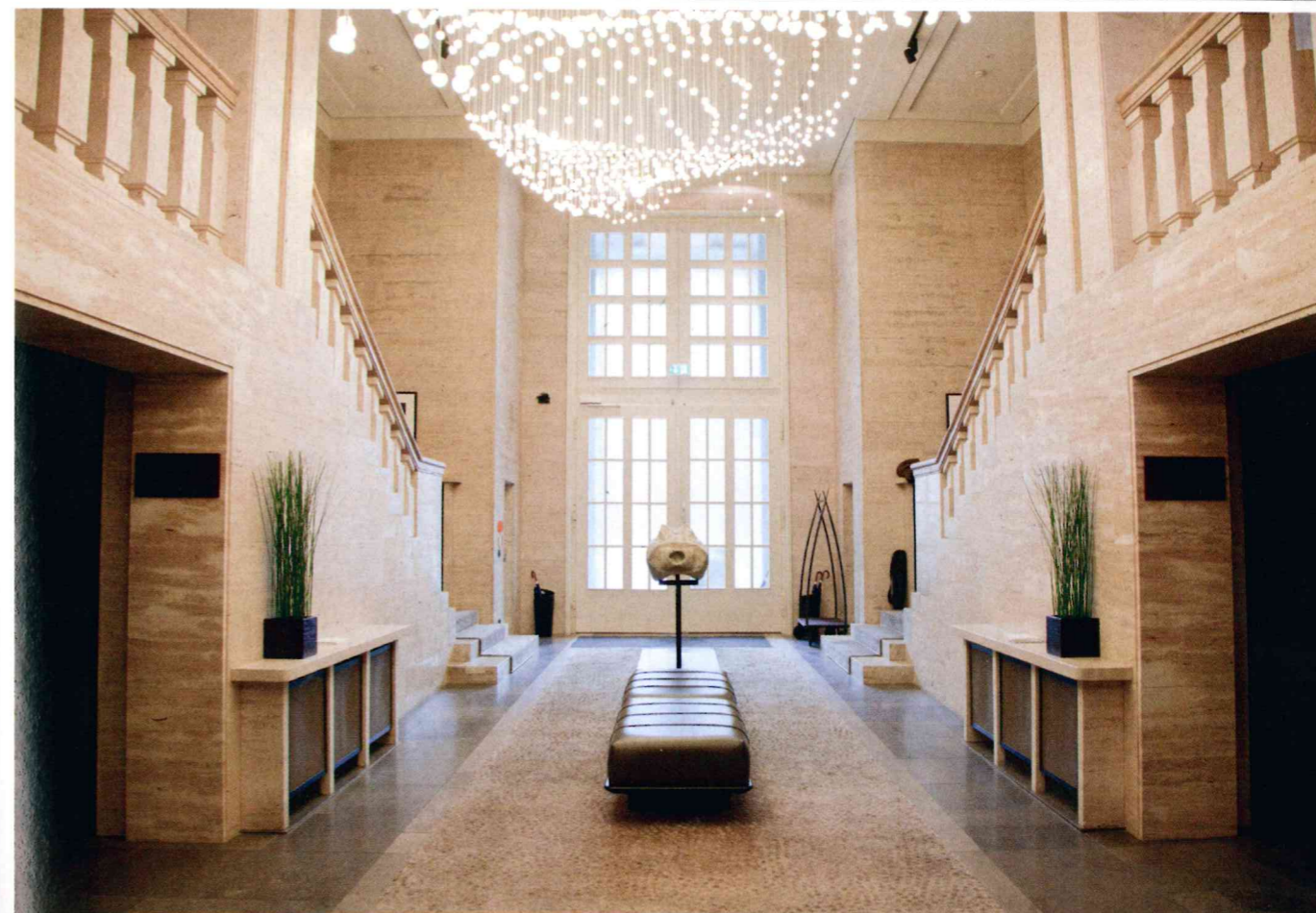


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## Ahead of the curve

Recently opened in Berlin's Tiergarten, *Das Stue* hotel heralds a new golden age for the capital's western districts

Behind the grey stone of the former Royal Danish Embassy's curved façade is a glamorous world of marble, wood and copper. Now the *Das Stue* hotel, the 1930s building sports a bold new addition of angular, cantilevered planes by Potsdam-based Axthelm Architekten. The project is at the heart of the revitalisation of western Berlin's grand districts, which have stood in the shadow left by the architectural cultural explosion in the east since the Wall came down.

*Das Stue* ('living room' in Danish) ironically is largely an Iberian creation. Patricia Urquiola's public spaces are full of dramatic splashes of colour, and feature a collection of black-and-white fashion photographs from the likes of Irving Penn and Richard Avedon, while Barcelona-based LVG Arquitectura has designed the 80 generous rooms in a more subdued palette of browns, ochres and greens.

The third Spaniard is Michelin-starred chef Paco Pérez. An alumnus of *El Bulli*, Pérez is responsible for all menus, including the 25-course 'Experience' at 5-Cinco, the fine-dining restaurant. The tapas-sized portions reflect a Spanish influence that extends to sourcing fish from the Catalan port of Llançà.

The new extension benefits from unparalleled views over Berlin Zoo,



### WEST IS BEST

Above, Patricia Urquiola, the Spanish designer in charge of the hotel's public spaces, decided to preserve the rather austere character of the lobby and staircase. Left, the curved stone building, originally the Danish Embassy, was designed by Emil Schaudt in 1939. It is located in Berlin's embassy quarter, on the south-western side of the Tiergarten park, facing the Berlin Zoo.

and the too-easy animal references are thankfully few, but striking: a grinning crocodile by Quentin Garel welcomes guests in the main lobby; a rhinoceros stool by Omersa sits in one of the lounges; and Arne Jacobsen's classic 'Swan' armchairs feature in each guest room.

Also overlooking the zoo is the hotel's bar, where some of Michael Frohnwieser's cocktails are inspired by Pérez's flavours, while a link-up with Till Harter, founder of Berlin's celebrated bar Tausend, ensures

the venue should keep the crowd purring during Fashion Week and beyond.

As for the 260 sq m minimalist spa, it offers a Finnish sauna and treatments by Austrian specialist Susanne Kaufmann using her Organic Treats product line.

The urbane, pan-European feel of *Das Stue* perfectly matches the renaissance of this elegant area of Berlin. ★  
*Das Stue*, Drakestrasse 1, Berlin, tel: 49.30 311 7220, www.das-stue.com  
Rates: from €200