

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

APRIL 2016 £3.60

OLIVIA GRANT

The Brit actor is back
on the small screen

HOUSE PARTIES

*The best stately
piles to party in*

PANDA WATCH!

Spotting bears
in Chengou,
China

HOME SUITE HOME
*How far steal the coolest
hotels' style secrets*

The INTERIORS ISSUE

Everything you need for a spring makeover

ON DESIGN

At Ace hotel, you'll find patchwork quilts by APC



ACE HOTEL LONDON

At the Ace in Shoreditch, resonating with the community was key for co-director of Universal Design Studio Jason Holley, who was brought in to work on the interiors. 'We wanted to express the local culture within the building and Shoreditch has always had such a rich history of artists and makers based here,' he explains. 'The goal wasn't to design everything ourselves but to create the best space possible, and that meant bringing in the right people for different parts of the hotel.' Bespoke pieces at

the Ace include custom lighting in the Hoi Polloi restaurant by designer Philippe Malouin, coin boxes in each of the rooms by Ally Capellino, patchwork quilts by APC, Lockwood Umbrellas and murals in the bedrooms and corridors by New York-based artist Johnne Eschleman. The latter is renowned for his artworks, which involve tearing up old dictionaries and layering text-based pieces directly to the walls using wheat paste. 'The building was an existing hotel when it was taken over by Ace and the artworks were identikit abstracts that looked like they had been churned out by a machine. The approach we took was to ask Johnne to produce something that fitted the Shoreditch location,' concludes Holley. acehotel.com/london

THE ROSEWOOD

Famed interior designer Martin Brudnizki might be the name behind Scarfes bar and the Holborn Dining Room (last year he co-founded And Objects, a product design studio with its own range of furniture, lighting and bespoke pieces, so it's now even easier to take his vision home) but the look of the outside space, The Terrace, was tasked to landscape designer Luciano Giubbilei. He commissioned Benchmark to produce the pagoda, bespoke lighting and furniture, in collaboration with designer Nathalie De Leval. 'We do a lot of furniture for Luciano's gardens but what was unusual here was that we took on the whole project, from the steel structure of the pagoda to the planters,' says Sean Sutcliffe, whose handiwork can also be seen at Boundary, the new Soho Farmhouse and countless other hotels. He believes that every hotel seeks a point of difference. 'With a standard product, the choice is actually incredibly limited so, in order to have its own sense of identity, it's vital that a hotel comes up with its own furniture, lighting and textiles – the full bespoke package.'

rosewoodhotels.com



Landscape designer Luciano Giubbilei commissioned Benchmark to design the structure and furniture for Rosewood's Terrace

FIVE MORE HOTELS TO SPOT SPECIALISTS' WORK

1 HOXTON HOLBORN

Illustrator Toby Triumph has had his work published everywhere from *The Spectator* to *Wired* magazine, but for the bedrooms at the Hoxton Holborn hotel he turned his hand to wallpaper for the first time. Witty and eccentric, his drawing designs weave in Dickensian references with ice-cream swirls. tobytriumph.co.uk; thehoxton.com

2 THE LANESBOROUGH

The late interior designer Alberto Pinto was behind the new look of The Lanesborough hotel, which re-opened its doors in 2015 after a top-to-bottom makeover. The 5,500 hand-painted stencils in the bedrooms and Library Bar are the work of Dolby and Taylor, experts in interior surface textures and bespoke finishes. dolbyandtaylor.com; lanesborough.com

3 THE GORING

Renowned for its luxury, handmade wallpapers and fabrics, last year Fromental completed a statement wallcovering for the refurbished front hall of The Goring hotel. The design – a mystical landscape painted on hand-gilded silver leaf depicting a menagerie of creatures from bejewelled walrus to pigs engaged in the Battle of Trafalgar – took four artists eight weeks to produce. fromental.co.uk; thegoring.com

4 ST PANCRAS RENAISSANCE

Bespoke decorative plaster mouldings are the backbone business of Locker & Riley, whose team of artists, model-makers and master craftsmen restored the original Victorian features of the Grade I-listed St Pancras Renaissance hotel. lockerandriley.com; stpancras.com/hotel

5 HAM YARD

At the heart of the drawing room at Ham Yard there is a French fireplace and rich fabric walls, which hotelier Kit Kemp has accessorised with pottery by Robina Jack, hand-painted Scandinavian bureaus and bespoke rugs by artist Breon O'Casey. breon-o-casey.co.uk; firmdalehotels.com