

THE WORLD'S BEST

ART

&

DESIGN



HOTELS

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INTRODUCTION

FOR CENTURIES, ART, design, and architecture have been used to transform, illuminate, preserve, and make sense of the world in which we live. Art and design, much like travel, are acts of discovery, invitations where influence, healing, discomfort, and enchantment are all possible. And as we travel, these art forms connect us to the unknown, deepening our comprehension and appreciation of the places and people we visit. The 28 hotels featured in *Art & Design Hotels* creatively embrace art in its many forms to provide authentic reflections and experiences for every guest.







AMMOS

HOTEL

— *Crete, Greece*

AMMOS, AN ECCENTRIC, minimalist-style hotel near Chania on the Greek island of Crete, has gracefully evolved from a wooden shack to a modern, designer-friendly getaway for all. The story of Ammos began in 1976, when Sophocles and Martha Tsepelis purchased a coastal property on Glaros Beach overlooking Chania Bay. The couple and their children spent their Grecian summers and long weekends in the modest beach hut, hosting barbecues, catching waves, and entertaining family and friends. As time went on, news of the charm of Glaros Beach spread throughout Europe and the small coastal community began catering to a growing number of tourists. A couple of decades went by before the Tsepelis family decided to build a hotel and formally share their slice of coastal bliss with their seasonal newcomers. The family's friend and architect, Ioanna Melaki, designed the original building and their son, Nikos Tsepelis, became the owner. Nikos spent the first decade learning the business and last two decades perfecting it. "The first ten or so years was more for me to learn the job. It was from 2005 and the first renovation that design and art became pivotal," says Nikos.







BYBLOS ART

HOTEL

— *Verona, Italy*

A 20-MINUTE DRIVE north of Verona in the Veneto region of Italy lies the Villa Amistà, a 16th-century Venetian estate home to the Byblos Art Hotel. The villa was originally built by architect Michele Sanmicheli, who designed the main Venetian-style structure above the deserted grounds of a Roman “casa forte”. Centuries later, architect Ignazio Pellegrini restored and expanded the villa to what it is today — three floors of Venetian architectural gems, with ornate detailing (plus a few restored frescoes) dating back to the 16th and 18th centuries. The villa’s transformation into a luxurious, five-star hotel opening in 2005 was thanks to fashion entrepreneur and avid art collector Dino Facchini. Facchini partnered with Italian architect and designer Alessandro Mendini, who laced in vivid color schemes and contemporary works of art within every inch of the historic villa. Today, over 200 installations, paintings, sculptures, and other works of art by the world’s leading artists fill the property.







CASA

MALCA

— *Tulum, Mexico*

MEXICO'S QUINTANA ROO lies on the eastern side of the Yucatán Peninsula and hosts a handful of the country's coveted travel destinations, including the sought-after coastal town of Tulum. Tulum is a two-hour drive south of Cancún and has witnessed an influx of new and returning tourists over the last couple of decades. The art-filled boutique hotel Casa Malca, founded by Colombian gallerist Lio Malca, is located right on the beach. "The genesis of Casa Malca was deeply rooted in the overwhelming sense of surprise and wonderment upon discovering a truly magical place," says Malca, whose first visit to Tulum came after a long exploration of Mexico's many regions. "Walking barefoot along the sandy beach, I encountered an inexplicable feeling — a profound connection unlike anything I had ever experienced," he adds. In this moment, Malca was deeply moved and inspired to share this euphoric feeling with others.





In 2012, the young collector purchased an abandoned property on Tulum's seafont, and began to design his dream hotel — an art-centric, magical property that values preservation and one-of-a-kind experiences. "I aimed to create dreamlike spaces and experiences, providing moments that allow everyone to step into a realm where the magic of dreams happens but while we are awake," says Malca.

Malca's vision for the hotel is similar to his other personal art projects, which value spaces and environments where art and design are preserved, exhibited and accessible for all. For Casa Malca, Malca curated a selection of sculptures, paintings, furniture and objects by the world's leading contemporary artists, all from his personal collection, placing the works throughout the property. "One of the most precious aspects of my collecting experience is finding an artist whose work evokes that indescribable feeling that makes my soul smile," says Malca, who began collecting art in the early 1990s. Museum-worthy paintings are hung in guest's rooms, Kenny Scharf's sculptures *Endless Totem and Scary Guy (Red)* grace the paths, *Blind Bulbs*, a set of enlarged bulbs by Sunil Gawde, and an outdoor sculpture by Fabien Verschaere are on display for guests to view within the property.

The Haring Bar's ceiling and walls, aptly named after artist Keith Haring, are covered in Haring's signature linear, playful patterns. The list of artists and artworks goes on and on, and guests of Casa Malca can find beautiful works of art at nearly every corner.

In addition to the incredible gallery-like experiences throughout, the hotel offers exquisite locally sourced cuisines served by three different restaurants on the property: Philosophy, Ambrosia, and Head of a Madman (the latter named after a Jean-Michel Basquiat artwork). An underground pool, called 'The Grotto', offers guests a cenote-style experience, while a picturesque "beach tunnel" provides a scenic path from the ground-level pool to the ocean.

Casa Malca is a unique and unforgettable hotel on Mexico's majestic Caribbean coast. "What I love most about Casa Malca is its ability to evolve without losing its essence — the enduring magic and warmth that I found when it all began," says Malca.



PREVIOUS LEFT — Exterior of Casa Malca

PREVIOUS RIGHT — A painted clawfoot tub in the jungle

ABOVE (TOP TO BOTTOM) — View of the hotel's exterior design; sculpture by Emilio Rangel

OPPOSITE — Grand entrance to Casa Malca's lobby

FOLLOWING — The beach-front pool, sculpture by Kenny Scharf

BEACHFRONT HOTEL / PRIVATE COLLECTION ON DISPLAY / BEACH TUNNEL



