



UNPRETENTIOUS NATURALNESS

THE LAKE HOTEL BY BLENDDDESIGNOFFICE





“The combination of earth tones, ochre and red earth highlights the geometric building volumes, while at night LED 3000K lighting fixtures highlight the building elements, incorporating the game of light and shading with different versions of materiality”.

The Lake Hotel, located in Ioannina Greece, comprises of 41 rooms translating tradition and local architecture following a modern design methodology in a luxury and warm setting.

The hospitality project refers to a new five-star hospitality infrastructure at the lakeside location Limnopoula, in Ioannina. Blend design team were invited to create a contemporary hotel identity based on a newly built three-level building shell with several classical elements of vernacular architecture such as the ‘sahnisi’ and the ‘arches’.

The total surrounding area of 10 acres, is divided into various functional areas with local materiality associations and the colours of vernacular architecture. The landscape reminiscent of the local riverbeds gently slopes toward the pool which is treated like a villagers’ central square paved with sidewalk concrete tiles. To the left side the curved playground areas for events and entertainment for the little guests, while a purposeful selection of vegetation and plants emit the free forms of a natural setting. On the right side, the pool bar can be accessed via a wooden crossing over a shallow pool with river pebbles, while right next to it a Mediterranean herb garden was created to provide the purest ingredients for salads and traditional dishes. Respectively, the whole planting study moved in a single direction to integrate organically the flora of the wider area highlighting an unpretentious naturalness with minor human interventions. The same motivation dictated the uncoated structural elements such as the concrete sidewalks that delimit the areas of planting, traffic and public areas.

Tradition is introduced allegorically at the parking zones where antique concrete paving in red clay and ochre were used

to portray the herringbone patterns typically found in Gianniotika handicrafts. The same pattern continues to all the driveways, the reception alley, the surrounding multipurpose space and the conference hallways at the basement.

The basement level occupies the restaurant kitchen, conference halls and catering services for all the indoor and outdoor events. At the conference halls the element of tradition is introduced with an abstract version of the ornate wooden ceilings found in the local mansions, accentuated by recessed linear lighting fixtures that imitate highway lanes. At the same level the public restrooms were designed where the contrasting elements of white and black in intricate patterns prevail. The level occupies a state-of-the-art wellness and relaxation concept inspired by the Vokos gorge both in terms of materiality, colour schemes and patterns as well as seasonality.

On the ground floor there is a spacious lobby and reception area, bar, cafe, breakfast room and restaurant. Again dominant elements appear in the ornate wooden ceilings and marble floors with two-toned patterns, which allow under their weight to integrate smoothly and discreetly the velvet furniture, contemporary lighting and art pieces, as well as the industrial perforated metal balustrades. The corridors to the rooms and suites are dominated by specially designed doors and skirting boards, produced by local craftsmen while the 41 rooms and suites are divided into four different colour typologies Ocean Forest, Urban Earth, Slate Gray and Crimson Garden. The bathrooms depict herringbone patterns in warm beige marble and red brown marbles slates, illuminated uniformly in warm white light to create a spacious and welcoming hygiene area.

BlendDesignOffice have been Shortlisted for Hotel Under 50 Rooms – Europe Award in The International Hotel and Property Awards 2022. On entering the Awards, Design Director and Co-Founder of BlendDesignOffice, Helen Brasinika, said “It is a great opportunity to expose your work to a wide and diverse audience, test your design outcome and impact within a global industry context, while having a unique opportunity to network and get more exposure”.

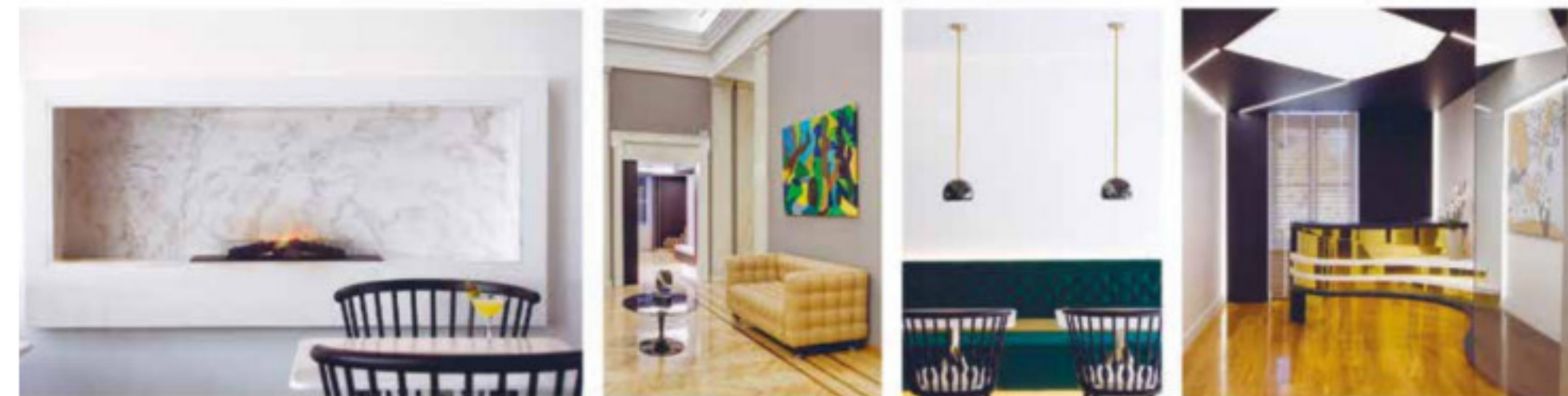
A favourite element of this project for the BlendDesignOffice team was unfolding tradition through the eyes of a designer. The wooden ceiling, handmade flower themes and drawings on the ceiling trellis, traditional materials combined with high tech technology, contemporary lighting design and fixtures, and bespoke doors, skirting, headboards demanding craftsmanship and skills. Local artists and painters were called upon to draw the ceiling, wooden craftsmanship for the handmade dropped ceiling, reclaimed wood suppliers, local marble installers and suppliers.

The combination of earth tones, ochre and red earth highlights the geometric building volumes, while at night LED 3000K lighting fixtures highlight the building elements, incorporating the game of light and shading with different versions of materiality.

The landscape is very natural, almost unfinished, local plants and Mediterranean herbs, a rich and traditional colour palette of the city’s rich architecture and history imported inside the interior scheme and colour choices. Tradition that is exposed gradually as a story without being intrusive. Contemporary design without losing its local and cultural context.



blending light landscape environment & nature through design



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projects@blend.com

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