

MONOCLE

**INSIDE: JACINDA ON BEING PM AMANPOUR ON DANGER
AI WEIWEI ON AMERICA FRANCE'S QUEEN OF POP**

Ⓜ **A to F AFFAIRS:** Can you still be a sexy nation? **BUSINESS:** Latvia's high flyer **CULTURE:** Are prizes bad for careers?
DESIGN: The cosiest Zürich apartment **ENTERTAINING:** How to host this Christmas season **FASHION:** The best shops in Italy

COME ON IN

Join our double-issue
season celebrations

LESSON LEARNED

REBELS, THINKERS AND FIXERS
ON THE MOMENTS THAT CHANGED
THEIR LIVES IN 2018



9 771753 243983	12	UK £7	DKK 130	AUD \$15.95(seea)
		USD \$14	BEL €13	SGD \$19.90(w/gst)
		GER €14	SEK 109	CDN \$14.00(seea)
		ITA €11	JPY ¥2,350(+tax)	ESP €13

+ **i** **REPORTS:** Insider gift guides to Tokyo, Copenhagen and Vancouver **HOLIDAY HOTELS** Mexico City, Porto and deepest Ireland. Miniature **CITY GUIDES** for Canberra, Charleston and Moscow. The new **WRAP STARS** revealed.

USE YOUR NOODLE

Ryo Kan

MEXICO CITY

Mexico City's Japanese district, a quiet area of tree-lined streets that sits between the capital's polished Polanco neighbourhood and busy CBD, has a new hotel. Surrounded by some of the city's best Japanese restaurants and noodle bars, Ryo Kan offers visitors a tranquil resting place and serves as a send-off point for exploring the centre.

The hotel, which was designed by husband and wife Regina Galvanduque and Andres Mier y Teran, introduces a traditional Japanese aesthetic that has been reimagined with Mexican materials. Guest rooms are furnished with a centrally positioned futon-style bed and copies of Mexican magazine *Gatopardo*. Throughout the tranquil hotel, minimalist Japan-inspired ceramics are showcased next to traditional Mexican pottery. On the hotel's terrace guests will find Japanese onsen baths.

Downstairs there's a sit-in kitchen that serves breakfast, coffee and beer. Guests looking to dine can venture out to nearby Cantina or order in Asian cuisine from nearby restaurants – such as Rokai – a draw for visitors from both near and far. "Mexico is a country that loves Japanese culture. Locals view a visit as a weekend experience," says Galvanduque. — NPF ryokan.mx



GONE FISHING

Duas Portas

PORTO

A 10-minute drive from Porto's city centre, Duas Portas is a tranquil retreat in the former fishing village of Foz do Douro. The family-run eight-room hotel is a converted 19th-century home overlooking both the Atlantic Ocean and the Douro River. The architect and co-founder, Luisa Souto de Moura – daughter of Pritzker prize-winning architect Eduardo – preserved the historic façade and decorated the hardwood-floor rooms with a mélange of Scandinavian vintage finds and bespoke furniture. Bed linen from northern Portugal and bouquets of fresh flowers add a touch of hominess.

Homemade bread with jam and pastéis de nata can be enjoyed on the concrete terrace that leads up to a verdant garden, while those hoping to explore the neighbourhood even further can jump onto one of the hotel bikes. "Duas Portas is the meeting point of travelling, the pleasure of hosting, the quality of architecture, the enjoyment of Porto and, in particular, of the neighbourhood where we live," says Luisa. — ZS duasportas.com

Q&A

TIMOTHY GRIFFIN
Managing director,
The Hoxton
New York



The Hoxton Williamsburg was the east London-born hotel brand's first foray outside Europe – but not the last. The group then opened in Portland, Oregon, at the end of October and has two further spaces – in Chicago and downtown LA – slated for spring 2019. With two new London venues also in progress, The Hoxton is thinking big as its North American managing director tells us. — EJS

Why did The Hoxton eye the US for expansion?

The Hoxton Shoreditch is in a fascinating neighbourhood that has evolved over the years. It was natural that we look at other dynamic cities and neighbourhoods within those cities – hence the draw to the US.

How did you select the US neighbourhoods?

There's almost a theme for each neighbourhood: creative and energetic – and that aligns with our brand. Look at our cultural programming in each of our hotels: it's a way for us to connect with creators, makers and innovators. Take Portland, Oregon, for example: the hotel is in the old Chinatown district. It's a really interesting area that's evolving by the day.

Why the pace of new hotels?

It's consistent with our values. We're an innovative, entrepreneur-led business so why hang around?

Do you think The Hoxton is still a British brand?

There's a piece of Williamsburg at this hotel but there's a hustle that runs through it – that kind of British energy exists in each of the hotels. However, each location definitely takes on the characteristics of its neighbourhood.

Do you have further expansion plans?

We want to find other sites in the US – we have a team looking at possible homes for The Hoxton. And similarly, in Europe we have Shepherd's Bush and Southwark that are both fully in production. thehoxton.com