

№ 15 - Summer 2016 - € 10

wonder world *seasonal*

ITALIAN STYLE IN DESIGN, FOOD AND LIVING

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The *Art*
of
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DESIGN HOTEL



The Venice you weren't xpecting

There's a side to the lagoon city that's very different from the busy, crowded place we're used to seeing. The JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa is an oasis of calm and nature, a haven for the new

by Marta Bernasconi



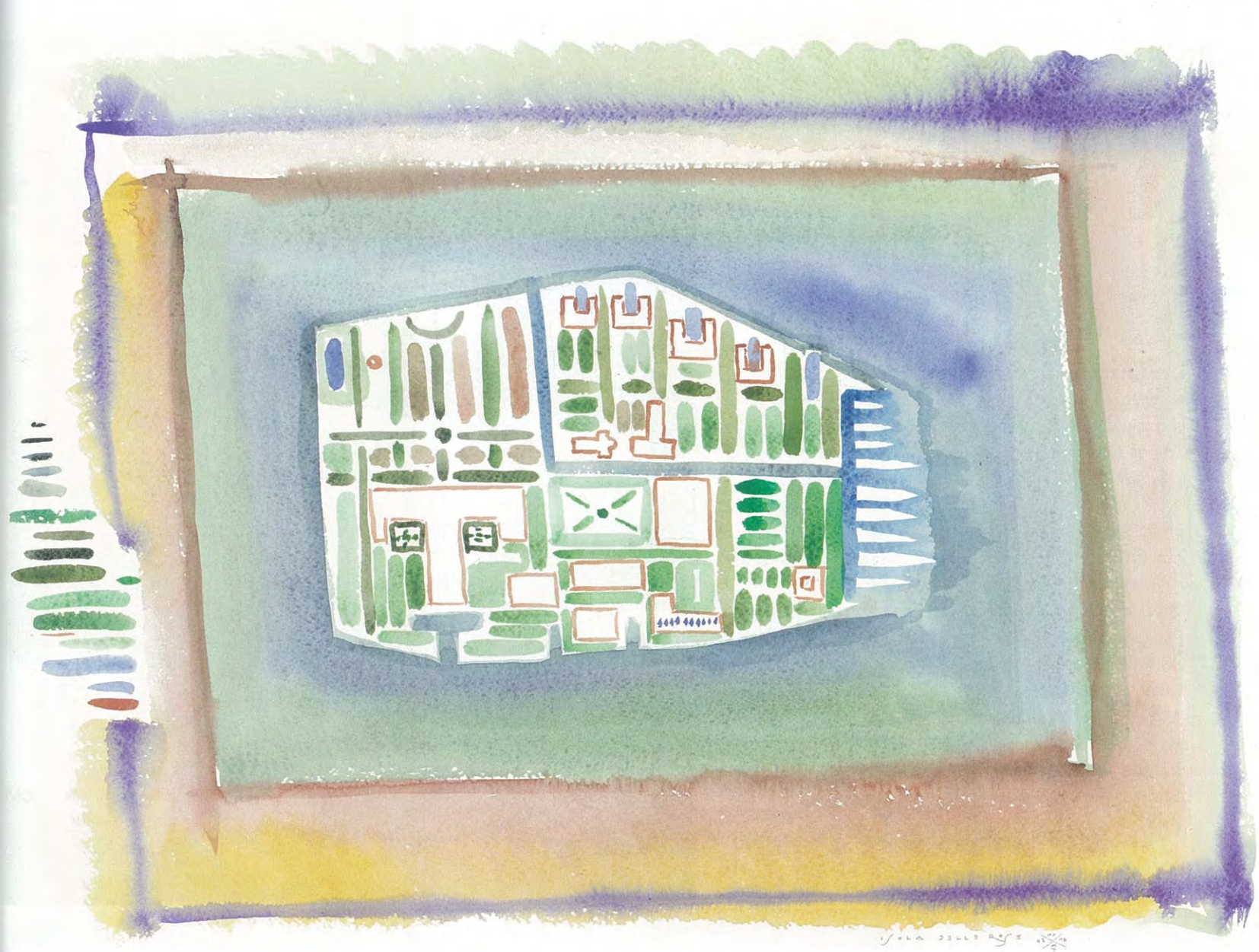


It may be the world's most unique city and an obligatory destination for international tourism, but it's still possible to find little-known places where the charm of Venice is even more intense. One particularly beautiful example is the Isola delle Rose, and here JW Marriott, the luxury brand of the American international luxury hotel group Marriott International has opened a new, exclusive resort with a shuttle service that leaves from the private jetty in St Mark's Square and crosses the lagoon in just a few minutes.

The project was based on a unique concept – to build a new hotel on an island that is home to a series of historic buildings dating back to the 1930s, standing in a wonderful natural setting. The task was handed over to Matteo Thun & Partners. Matteo tells the story in this way: “The island of Sacca Sessola, now the Isola delle Rose, is an artificial island in the Venetian lagoon we have transformed into a luxury resort with extensive green areas, and it has a long history.

A careful analysis of the environment enabled us to persuade the authorities to accept our plan and rejuvenate a unique location, surrounded by nature and away from the frenetic bustle of Venice, but still somewhere visitors can breathe the city's unique atmosphere. We've been very careful to use local materials for the architectural redevelopment in the interiors, which are in a contemporary Venetian style, while avoiding nostalgia”.

We asked what environmental and construction challenges had been faced. “The island's limited landscape hosted a number of buildings dating back to the first half of the 20th century, a hospital with associated facilities. It wasn't just a single plan, but rather a collection of twenty-one projects reflecting the twenty-one buildings, all different and all with their own story to tell. Applying the “Box in the Box” principal – working on the interiors without touching the old exterior - we succeeded in retaining the original



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brick walls of several of the pavilions, safeguarding their history. It was a wonderful experience!" In this oasis where nature reigns supreme are five buildings offering 266 rooms and suites divided into twelve types, four restaurants, including the Michelin-starred Dopolavoro and the multi-award winning GOCO Spa Venice.

A church for private ceremonies and a rooftop swimming pool with breathtaking view embody the idea of hospitality embodied by the hotel - which itself has won several awards - and architect Matteo Thun, who describes the hotel in three adjectives - "Quiet, authentic and luxurious". With a view of St Mark's Square, but existing in a parallel world. Here the sea, plants and flowers seem to stretch space and time, creating a place to to be pampered in a hotel where luxury and style coexist.

www.jwvenice.com



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