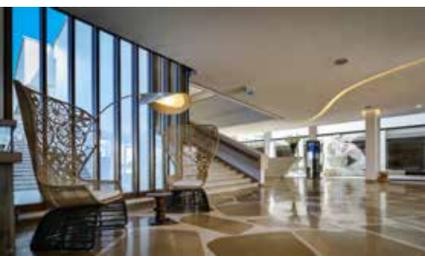


Design is Everything

At a time when hotels strive for new standards of luxury worldwide, service and location are no longer enough. Today's must-have are exquisite interiors allying comfort, art and innovation – and hotels in Israel are no exception to this trend

Julie Eltes

For thousands of years, the region has been a cultural hub of civilizations – each one building on top of the other. This unique heritage, which inspires architects and artists from all over the world to this day, expresses itself across modern Israeli society. Hotel designers have taken advantage of this priceless gift of History to imagine luxurious new ways to impress increasingly demanding clients. Here is a selection of Israel's most beautiful hotel interiors.

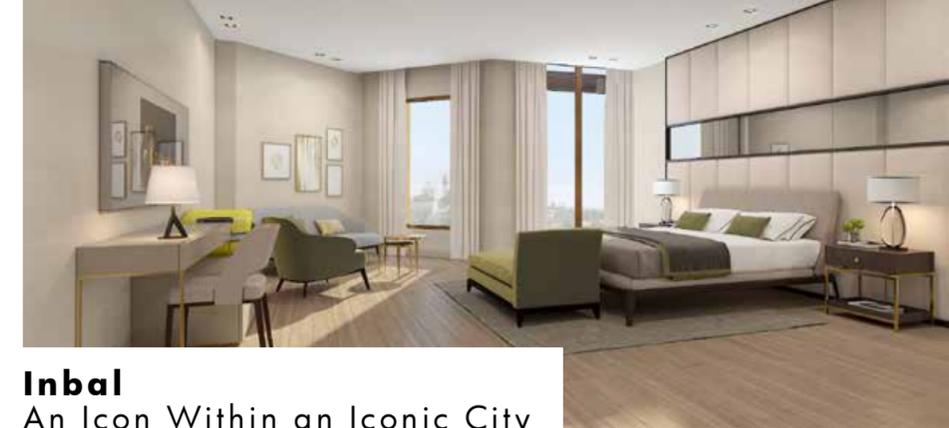


Dan Accadia Inspired by the Sea

Situated in an emblematic Art Deco building of the Herzliya shoreline, the Dan Accadia has been an oasis of calm and tranquility for vacationers for the past fifty years. Through the decades, the hotel has maintained its high standard of luxury. From its gorgeous lush garden to its impressive pool overseeing the Mediterranean, the resort has always pleased highly demanding clients with its clean contemporary, yet warm and inviting design. Recently, the Dan Accadia has undergone major renovations, during which all of its sea view rooms and suites were completely refurbished.

The new rooms, inspired by the hues of the sea, display a combination of intense colors and natural materials that exude a sense of holiday. The language of the interior brings together different design elements in the room: the headboard and opposite wall are covered in fabric and natural wood, while works of art by Smadar Eliasaf and Larry Abramson hang on the walls. In the main building, The Yaron Tal studio redesigned the dining room as well as the two event halls, opening up the space to the sea and offering a breathtaking view.

www.danhotels.com



Inbal An Icon Within an Iconic City

Another jewel adding to the beautiful landscape of Jerusalem, Inbal hotel is a combination of sophisticated elegance, warmth and comfort. The hotel has been undergoing full renovation since January, which included the construction of two new floors with fifty brand new luxury rooms and suites – most of them facing the Old City. Following renovation, this hotel has become a real masterpiece. Imagined by Israeli interior designer Michael Azoulay, the new décor reflects the conceptual language of Jerusalem: gold hues, olive tree imagery, sunny spaces, and earthy colors.

The hotel was originally designed by world-famous architect Yaakov Rechter over three decades ago. Architect Michael Schwartz, who was chosen to extend to the existing structures of the hotel and to complete the original work of art, respectfully upgraded the building. "Renovations are a collaboration between architects of several generations: one has to be generous to where the building came from, be mindful and infuse it with where you think it can also go". These spectacular results only add to the iconic status of the Inbal hotel.

www.inbalhotel.com



ELMA When Art Meets Hospitality

After eight years of extensive restoration, the ELMA Arts Complex Luxury Hotel opened in Zichron Yaakov, on the rim of Mount Carmel Ridge overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. It is housed in an iconic, undulating building for which Yaakov Rechter won the Israel Prize for architecture in 1972. ELMA's cultural center and luxury hotel are intertwined in a single site, a complex including 95 indulgently appointed rooms and suites, two world-class performance halls, 750 square meters of gallery space dedicated to Israeli and international artists, the superb Oratorio restaurant and bar, a sumptuous spa and two swimming pools.

Throughout the restoration, ELMA's team kept Rechter's vision intact, re-emphasizing the sobriety and restraint of the original design. They chose minimalist elements and practical materials including exposed cement, white plaster, walnut details and restored, original floors. The public areas are made of clean, classic lines from the ground-up; the ceiling in the passageway leading from the entrance to the performance halls incorporates the hallmark wave pattern which is characteristic of the building's exterior. Although the ELMA Arts Complex is lively and vibrant, buzzing with performances and exhibitions, the rooms of the hotel are a place of quiet retreat, designed in a spirit of softness. Terrazzo floor tiles, cement surfaces and oak highlights complement the natural landscapes outside. Each room is decorated with original artwork by Israeli artists.

www.elma-hotel.com



Mamilla Let The Sunshine In

Thanks to its focus on providing Jerusalem's finest first-class accommodations, Mamilla Hotel is part of The Leading Hotels of The World (LHW) - a prestigious collection of the world's most exclusive hotels. Located in the heart of the city with magnificent views of the Old City walls, the Tower of David and Jaffa Gate, the hotel is a quintessentially urban place. "It is a combination of historic buildings and contemporary architecture rising out of the network of alleys which connect the walled Old City of Jerusalem and the new city. It combines the pattern of the old with cutting edge modernity", explains Moshe Safdie, the architect of the Mamilla Hotel.

Inside, the dark colors of the public areas are broken up by the intense daylight coming from outside. Mamilla's well-known Italian interior designer Piero Lissoni plays with light throughout the hotel, inspired by the strong Jerusalem sun. Intimacy and simple sophistication are key, with the manipulation of light designed to create unique and special experiences. A heterogeneous approach to furnishing sees modern alongside antique, and Chinese pieces next to Italian. It produces a rich and detailed aesthetic that is at the same time quiet and clean, toned down with simple finishes and the pervasive, uplifting Jerusalem light.

www.mamillahotel.com

The Norman Colonial Nostalgia

This acclaimed hotel uses specific architectural elements from the two superb houses built in the heart of Tel Aviv in 1925, together with a combination of textures and materials set out to create a rich tapestry of luxury. The public areas offer stylish surroundings with the comfort and warmth of timber and dark patinated bronze, and antique, hand-finished mercury mirrored glass. The library bar reeks of intimacy and glamour, thanks to its original artwork, feature chandeliers, wall lamps with horsehair shades, gently revolving ceiling fans, billowing drapes and combination metal.

The sense of sophistication captured by the essence of British Colonial nostalgia from the 20th Century goes on to the rooms where the original design of the two Bauhaus buildings was reinterpreted. Intricate embroidery and hand-woven floor rugs sits alongside nostalgic photography and original artwork selected specifically for each room. In the bathrooms, elegant stone clad spaces come together with hand painted historic floor tiles. In short, the Norman revives the romanticism of travel in a bygone period, and the luxury and style of last century's grand hotels.

www.thenorman.com



Publica Business and Leisure

The brand new Publica is the latest addition to the Isrotel's world-renowned chain of 19 hotels. Publica is the first hotel in Herzliya to host a Social Club, bringing business and leisure together – a new concept surely set to change the face of the Israeli sphere of professional hospitality. This new urban and contemporary hotel has strategically opened its doors close to the city's most prominent hi-tech complexes, serving as a home away from home for businesspeople visiting the area. The hotel's eclectic and contemporary design uses "homely" items, furniture and lightning, offering guests an authentic sense of home. These come together with the industrial design, clean patterns and concrete, to create a lovely and unique atmosphere.

And because Publica was designed as a social platform, the public areas are a sort of hub for inter-personal meetings: from the rooftop swimming pool to the vast lobby, every space of the hotel invites to meet and spend time with other guests. The dining experience in the hotel is no exception to the rule - the bistro restaurant conveys the same idea, with its friendly, cozy design and large tables where people can sit and eat together.

www.isrotel.com/publica-isrotel