

DOLDER WALDHAUS HOTEL
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND
2014

A design vision
for one of the finest
business hotels in Zurich

The Dolder Waldhaus in Zurich is a hotel designed by Swiss architects Meili Peter on the outcome of a competition held in 2012. This was followed by a shortlist competition specifically for Interior Design held in two stages during 2014 and between Luis Laplace (Paris), Marcio Kogan (São Paulo), Patricia Urquiola (Milan), Guilherme Torres (São Paulo), Amanda Sullivan (New York), Arthur Casas (São Paulo) and which was ultimately won by 3lhd (Zagreb). The design scope included hotel public areas (lobby, cigar lounge, bar, restaurant and Spa) and private areas (guestrooms, suites and serviced apartments).

Our proposal was based on the narrative of the 'club'; design-wise a concept to be imbued in a discreet and non-intrusive way. In terms of space, it reconciles two key public conditions: a memorable arrival experience, with comfortable spaces where people can feel relaxed. This *Raumgefühl*, so to speak, is achieved by transitions of form and shape with corresponding combinations of material, surface, colour and texture. An atmosphere of warmth and smoothness obtains from a physical palette of soft-tone combinations of *terrazzo* and stone, cork, hardwood siding, *stucco lucido*, leather upholstery with brass hardware and framing.

Seeking a design characterized by comfort and simplicity seamlessly integrating form and material, this concept of 'club' is equally reinforced through carefully selected pieces of furniture that bring an overall feel of cultural authenticity to Dolder. Furnishing would include a collection of timeless pieces from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, some still in production and others restored and reused vintage, from a broad range of designers such as Joaquim Tenreiro, Sérgio Rodrigues, Joe Colombo, Dieter Rams, Finn Juhl, Gio Ponti, Hans Wegner, Eugenio Gerli or Ico Parisi and also from Swiss designers, like Hans Bellmann or Max Bill.

Artworks are mostly site-specific; working on the idea of 'conversation and social gathering', our proposal features a series of engraved phrase installations in guestroom mirrors and neon pieces in other public places by British artists Wood and Harrison. In addition, Brazilian artists Detanico and Lain focused on the Spa corridor, with a sound piece and a graphic alphabet metal floor engraving called *amplitude* bearing a transcript of the famous Japanese Haiku poems of Bashō, evocative of the sound of water.



Location: Zurich, Switzerland

Client: Dolder AG

Operator: Dolder Hotel AG

Architects: Meili Peter Architekten, Zurich

Interior design Architects: Promontorio, Lisbon

Interior design local architects: Steiger Architekten AG, Baden

Project management: Fanzun AG

Scope of services: Interior design

Project brief: 4-star boutique hotel and spa with 92 keys and 18 serviced apartments

Gross built area: 12,000 sq. m

Project status: 2014 (invited competition, 2nd-prize)

