

KOHLER Magazine

A global discussion on design ⑥



KOHLER Magazine

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Writers

Mitra Anderson-Oliver, Eric Baldwin, Hannah Frances Boulton, Ana Degenaar, Christopher DeWolf, Rebecca Gross, Jeyup S. Kwaak, Nina Milhaud, Kara Patterson, Samia Qaiyum, Chris Schalkx, Warren Singh-Bartlett, Nicola Leigh Stewart, Sanjay Surana, Vaishnavi Nayel Talawadekar, Sarah M. Vasquez

Photographers

Mark Allan, Iwan Baan, Carly Banegas, Brandon Barre, Christian Brailey, Duda Breda, Fabien Charuau, Max Colson, Beth Evans, Douglas Friedman, Jiayuan Hu, Mariell Lind Hansen, Ana Hop, Xufeng Jing, Lizette Kabré, Azhar Khan/iStockphoto.com, Louise Long, Alex Marks, Jean-Philippe Mesguen, Bethany Nauert, Nikada/iStockphoto.com, Fredrik Nilsen, Heiko Prigge, SeanPavonePhoto/iStockphoto.com, Laurent Segretier, Nick Simonite, Ada Smith, Andrea Tabocchini, Kohei Take, Team Picsfast/pexels.com, Tupai Photography, WBB & Co., Lorenzo Zandri, Liroy Zeballo

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hello@fifthblack.com
fifthblack.com

Head of Editorial Philip Annetta
Head of Creative Suzy Annetta

Contact Kohler Co.

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Since the last issue of *KOHLER Magazine*, most of the world has emerged from the pandemic and begun to rebuild and reconnect. One of the better outcomes of this time in history is a focus on the personal. Many of us were forced to turn inward (and indoors), and with drastic changes to our ways of life, we began to examine our personal desires, needs, and values. Words like “hybrid”, “flexi,” and “balance” have taken on new significance and become inextricably linked to ideas of wellness and well-being as we embrace our diverse needs. To this end, the ability to personalize our lives and surroundings is both empowering and exciting, and developments in design, architecture, and the built environment reflect this movement.

This optimistic and innovative aspect of personalization is our focus in the sixth issue of *KOHLER Magazine*. Personalization in design and architecture considers the complexity of the human experience and offers thoughtful ways to create a human-centric environment. In this issue, we bring you projects, people, and places that champion personalization, human-scale approaches, and individual stories. From the micro (artist Jaiprakash Lakhiwal's miniature paintings for KOHLER Artist Editions sinks) to the macro (Green Tower, the tallest building in Bolivia), the stories in this issue explore the many facets of personalization in design.

As always, we hope you find this edition of *KOHLER Magazine* uplifting and enriching.

Sincerely,

Larry Yuen
Group President — Kohler Kitchen & Bath

On the cover

Dubai's Museum of the Future, designed by architect Shaun Killa. Image courtesy of Museum of the Future

Once Upon A



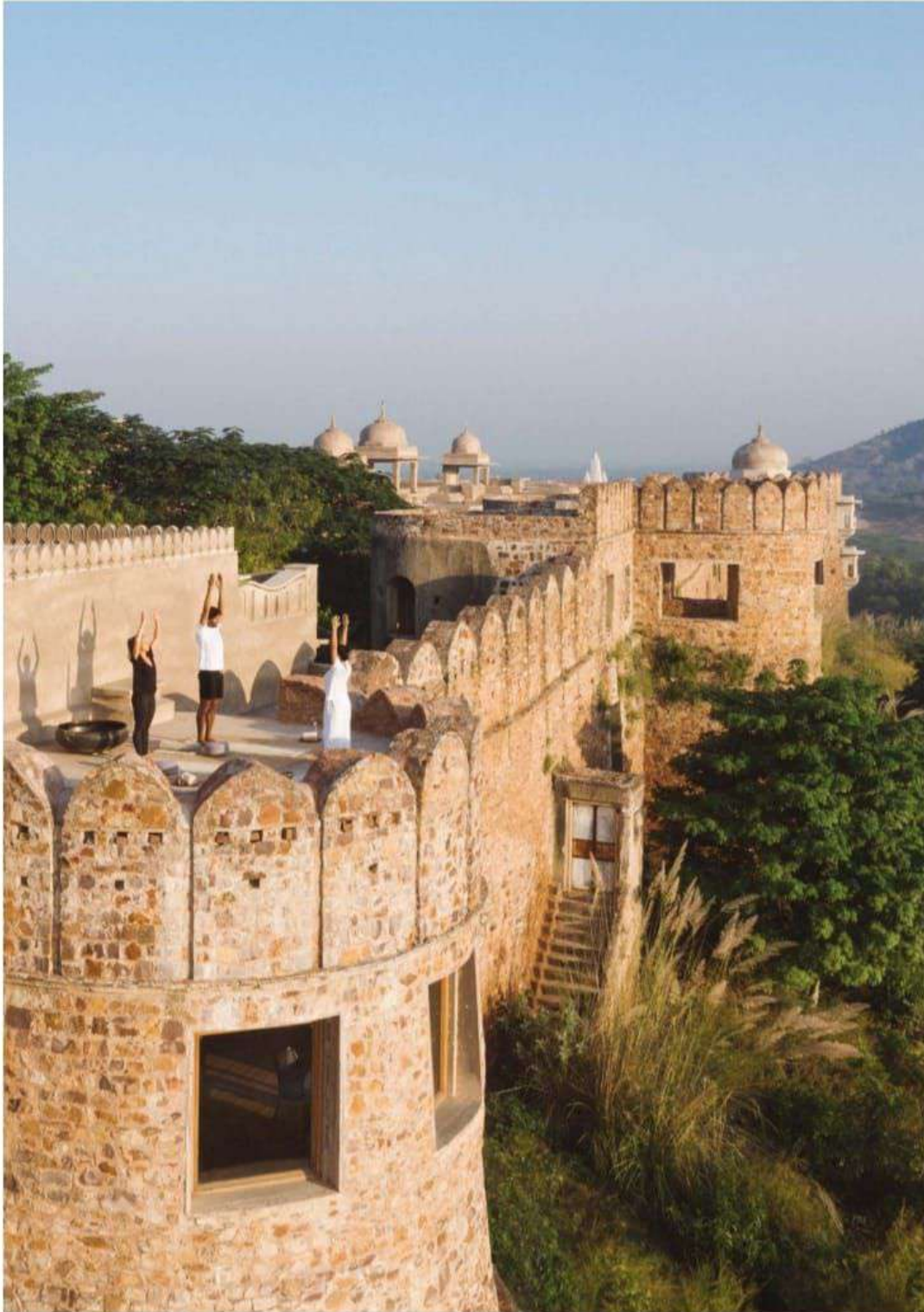
A

Palace



Amid the imperial palaces, centuries-old forts, and storybook landscapes of Rajasthan, one fort has been reborn as a majestic modern-day resort.

By Vaishnavi Nayel Talawadekar
Images courtesy of Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas



B

Previous spread

- A In Rajasthan, a 14th-century citadel was restored and revived to become Six Senses Fort Barwara, a majestic resort composed of two palaces and two temples

This spread

- B-E The resort offers a range of cultural, wellness, and nature activities to suit guests' personal interests, including opportunities to explore local culture and the nearby Ranthambore National Park

The restoration of a 14th-century citadel to become the spectacular Six Senses Fort Barwara was undertaken by Ahmedabad-based conservation practice Panika, in collaboration with Melbourne-based interior architecture and design studio Mitchell & Eades and Jaipur-based firm Architects Shalini Amit. Together, they revived the faded complex with attention to local materials and crafts.

Once owned by a Rajasthani royal family, Six Senses Fort Barwara is composed of two palaces and two temples, all filled with sumptuous details that nod to their royal past and Six Senses' time-honored sustainable luxury ethos. The fort's restoration, completed in 2021, was led by conservation practice Panika, the team from Architects Shalini Amit was responsible for designing the guestrooms and suites, and Mitchell & Eades focused on the interior design of the lobby, restaurant, library lounge, banquet hall, spa, and other public spaces.

The design teams established a singular design language informed by the fort's traditional elements. Floors, ceilings, and forms were conceived to evoke traditional Rajasthani architectural proportions, inspiring a scale and narrative befitting the fort's royal heritage. Likewise, the landscape was embedded with charcoal-infused water channels, inspired by an ancient regional rainwater harvesting technique.

The architects strove to preserve as much of the original structure as possible, fortifying the foundations and rebuilding the ruins brick by brick. The new structures were woven into the fort's architectural fabric, with materials and colors that stay true to its bones. "The entire fort wall was meticulously restored. Some old buildings and the temples within the compound were also repurposed to serve as functional spaces," says Amit Gehlot, Partner at Architects Shalini Amit.



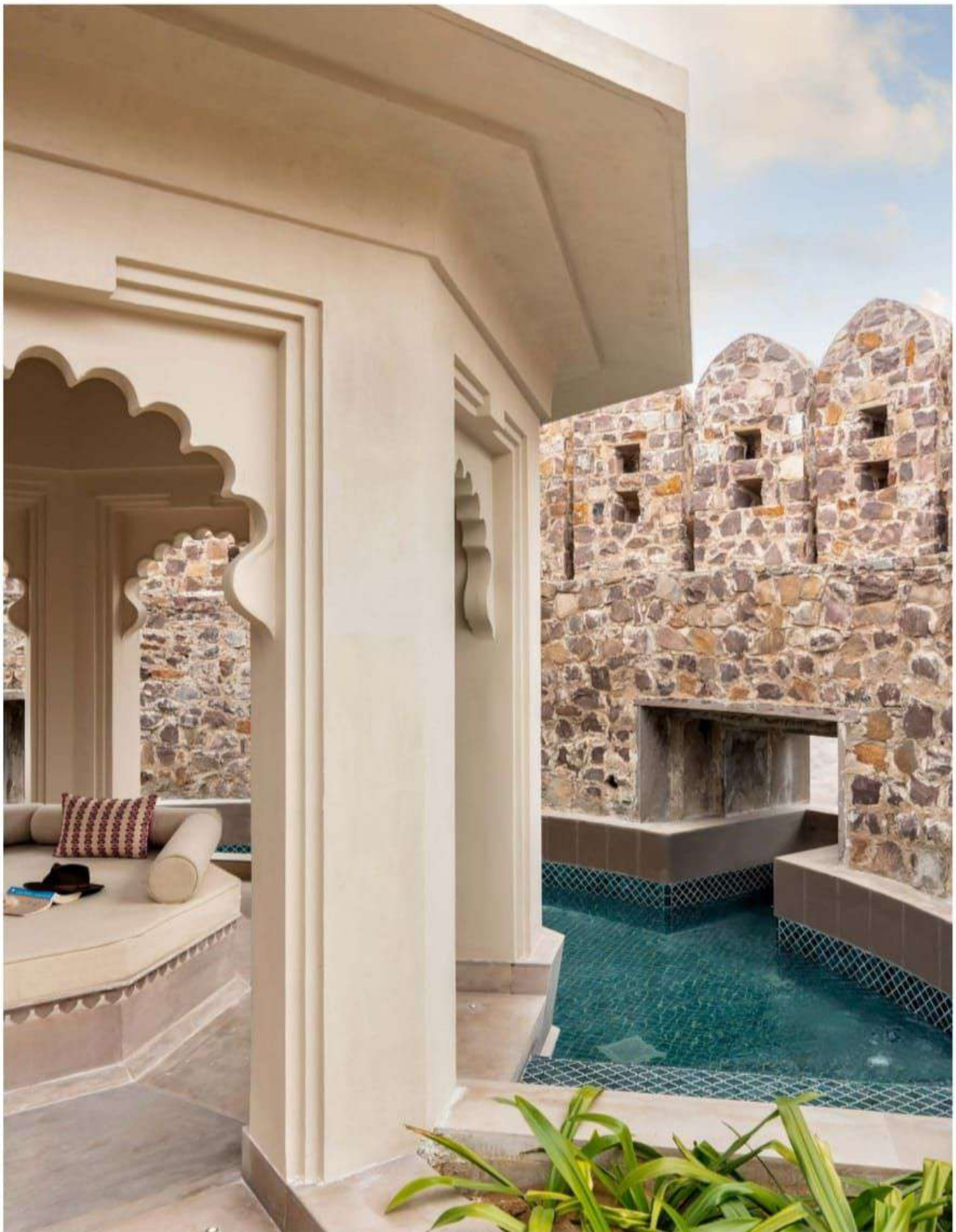
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E



F

This spread

- F The Raja Man Singh pool suite is the epitome of opulence and comes complete with its own private pavilion and pool
- G Designed by Architects Shalini Amit, the guestrooms and suites combine traditional and modern features
- H The hotel's spectacular architecture offers ample spaces for rest and relaxation
- I Public and private spaces were designed to evoke traditional Rajasthani architectural proportions

As Hayley Mitchell, Principal at Mitchell & Eades, explains, she and her team “worked very closely with Panika, the Heritage Lead, and Architects Shalini Amit to ensure that everyone honored the architectural legacy of not just the fort itself, but also the region.” For the architects, however, there were more than a few surprises. “The banquet hall, for example, ended up being set in a space that wasn’t discovered until years into the project,” recalls Mitchell, adding that the end result sees many of the amenities given pride of place in the two erstwhile temples.

The sophisticated room interiors are modern while evoking their lineage. Sinks are crafted from beaten silver, while elements such as door handles and robe hooks are fashioned to resemble traditional artifacts. Some are emblazoned with quirky Rajasthani mustaches — luxuriant, upturned whiskers in the state’s traditional style — that serve as a whimsical counterpoint to the old-world flourishes. “We layered tones and textures across fabrics, floors, and wall finishes to elevate the traditional setting into a soothing oasis,” says Gehlot.

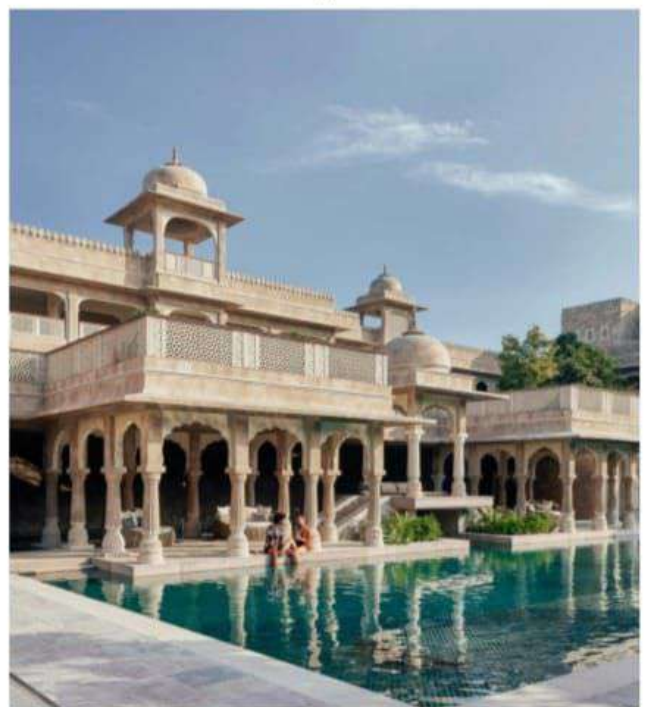
Also involved in the design process were several artists and artisans, each of whom added a unique element of vernacular craft, leaving each space with a unique story waiting to be uncovered.



G



H



I