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A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES CORREA BY BV DOSHI
EXCLUSIVE WITH TALATI & PANTHAKY ASSOCIATED DESIGNERS
DESIGN INSIGHTS BY MARIO BELLINI, NEK CHAND, SAFOMASI

GETAWAY PARIS

Parked in the redesigned lobby is a 1984 Rolls Royce Corniche owned by a soccer star who commissioned graffiti artist JonOne to spray paint it. In the background, white reception desks with gold trims take inspiration from Art Deco jewel boxes

Right, from Top Molitor's heated outdoor pool was once the birthplace of the bikini and a graffiti temple. Parts of the 2012 film *Life of Pi* were shot here and the main character, of course, is named Piscine. The chambers retain the original yellow and blue colour scheme, resembling an ocean liner; The lobby is filled with mismatched flea market finds





THE NEW LIFE OF PISCINE

*French designer Jean Philippe Nuel
dives into styles from different eras to
reinvent Hotel Molitor by MGallery
while preserving its iconic pool and
recreating street art in unique ways*

TEXT BY **RISHA MERCHANT**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **GILLES TRILLARD** and **CHRISTOPHE DUGIED**
COURTESY **AGENCY NUEL**



GETAWAY PARIS



Clockwise, from Left The lobby corridor is a piece of modern art with the yellow and black covering by Design Nuel and the Elletra chair from Arflex; Silver ventilation ducts crawl above the meeting room. The street art inspired backdrop by American graffiti artist Futura 2000 complements the eclectic furniture from La Cividina; In another part of the meeting room more artwork by Nunca and Vhils; In the spa area, vintage style tiles by Vicalvi Contract and wall covering by Design Nuel create a dizzying effect Right The bar gets its retro look from the Onkel sofa from Normann Copenhagen and cushions upholstered in fabrics from Lelievre, Kvadrat and Dedar



Yellow, ochre and white, the original hues of the building's facade, formed the leading colour palette



GETAWAY PARIS



Clockwise, from Top Left Historic images of swimmers adorn the corridors; View of the guestroom through a clearing from the bathroom glass wall; The trendy salon features wall mirror and lamp, from Gubi, Copenhagen and hairdresser chair from Manutti in Belgium; Bold graphic printed canvas wallpapers by Muzeo adorn the spa cabin Right Rooms overlook the iconic Piscine. The yellow Ventura armchair from Poliform stands apart within the black, taupe, grey and brown palette. The lights, table and chair are all Design Nuel's creations

Situated in the 16th arrondissement, close to Rolland Garros, the legendary public bath now hotel, acts as a reminder of the city's fashionable past. Inaugurated in 1929, Piscine Molitor, the iconic pool was a magnet for starlets and the people of Paris. Did you know that the first bikini was unveiled here and that the main character of blockbuster *Life of Pi* was named after this lido? After its abandonment in 1989, the dilapidated pool became a canvas for graffiti artists, igniting the street art movement. Now, 25 years on, with interior designer Jean Philippe Nuel at the helm, the structure was resurrected with most of the architecture including its mosaic walls, stained glass windows and the Art Deco vibe intact. He elaborates....

ELLE DECOR: How did you salvage the original features?

Jean Philippe Nuel: Some of the decorations have been conserved and some rebuilt as before by historic preservation specialists Perrot and Richard. Areas like the winter pool, ceiling, stained glass windows of the restaurant and the entrance of the spa where the historical counters of Piscine, the lido were located, have been restored. Yellow, ochre and white, the original hues of the building's facade, formed the leading colour palette. Round portholes in the guestroom and as the bookshelf in the spa, represent '30s architecture.

ED: How much of the graffiti has been retained?

JPN: Fortunately, many reproductions have been created from the photographs taken before its demolition and used in the project – some in a very didactic way, while others more figurative by zooming on them to create abstract artworks. ♦



