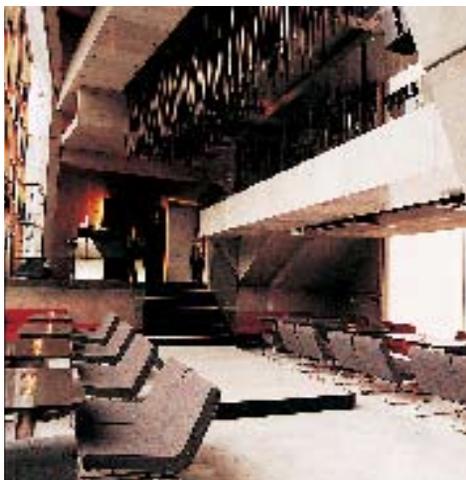




DEPARTURE INFO: BARS &

Vodka shots in Berlin, snap shots in London and a shot at Saarinen style in Seoul

PHOTOGRAPHERS: JASON LANG, MARTIN MUELLER, WARREN SMITH



SUPER NOVA

NAOS NOVA, SEOUL ▲

New Seoul bar Naos Nova is the work of talented designer Jeon Shi Hyung, who created a four-storey space of glass, steel and concrete that recalls Eero Saarinen's TWA terminal at JFK. Interior design was kept to a minimum with a marble bar, love seats and couches in black, white and red. **Robert McKeown** 448-120 Huamdong Yongsanku, Seoul, tel: 82.2 754 2202, www.naosnova.com

FORWARD THINKING

6VORNE, BERLIN ▲

Hot local designers Murat Top and Alen Aronov have bought up one of Berlin's most famous bars, M'aurél-Drinx, and transformed it into 6vorne (translates as 'six forward'), a sleek, contemporary space stocking a selection of 50 vodkas, more than any other drinking establishment in the city. With seven other projects under their belts, including the Studio bar (W*84), the pair have now perfected their distinctive style, and the bar's atmospheric orange and green lighting, white leather seating, dark wooden detailing, and DJs from Wednesday to Saturday are attracting the residents of the swanky neighbourhood of Wilmersdorf in their droves. **Jeroen Bergmans** Hektorstrasse 11, Berlin, tel: 49.163 606 1666, www.6vorne.de

HONG KONG NIGHT LIFE

The city is the new hub of Asian clubbing. Check out the angular walls at Sugar (1st Floor, On Hing Building, Central, tel: 852.2131 2222); the terrace and pool two floors up at Hei Hei (tel: 852.2899 2068); and a warren of graphical rooms at Volar (D'Aguilar Street, Central, tel: 852.2810 1272). RM For more bar, hotel and restaurant info, visit www.wallpaper.com/travel



PHOTO FINISH

THE DONOVAN BAR, LONDON ▲

Hotel designer Olga Polizzi has devoted the bar in the newly refurbished Brown's Hotel in Mayfair to British photographer Terence Donovan. The intimate alcoves, lined with his iconic prints, are the best place to sample the hotel's signature cocktail, Box Brownie, and the extensive menu of champagne by the glass. **JB** Brown's Hotel, Albemarle Street, London W1,



DEPARTURE INFO:

Courtyard cubes are illuminating in Paris, Moooi tubes shine in Prague and Tokyo has a new highlight

KUBIC SPACE

KUBE ROOMS, PARIS »

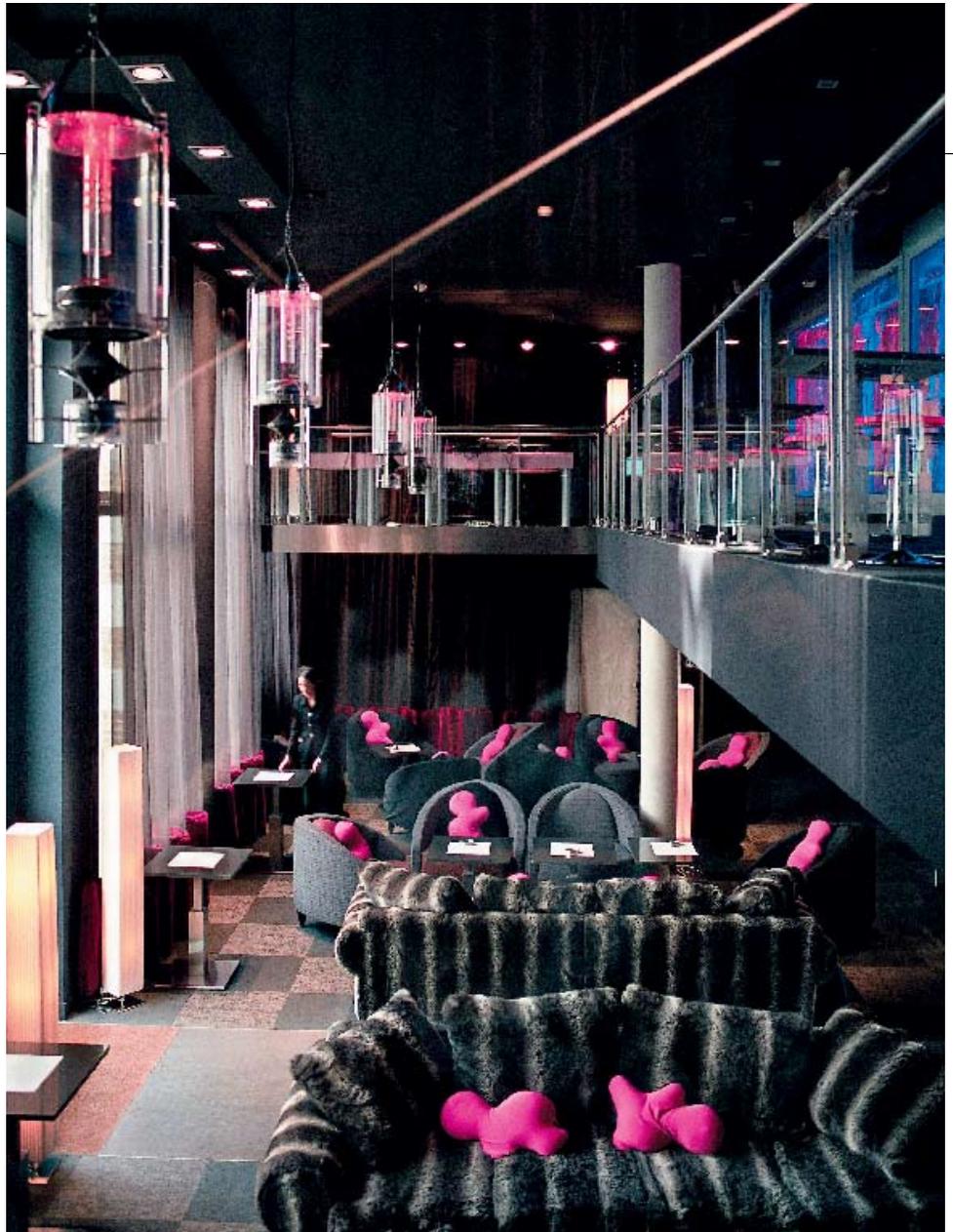
Before entering the lobby (pictured), guests arriving at the new Kube hotel pass through an illuminated glass cube that dominates the courtyard of this historic Montmartre building. The 41 guest rooms, designed by Raymond Morel, creator of Murano Urban Resort, contain a host of cubic features, including bathtubs, bedside tables and even the beds, which are underlit, so they appear to float above the floor. **Guy Dittrich** 1-5 Passage Ruelle, Paris 18e, tel: 33.1 42 05 20 00,



CZECH PLEASE

HOTEL YASMIN, PRAGUE ^

A team of Czech creatives, including artists from Studio Najbrt and designers from local firm Mimolit, have turned a neoclassical building near Prague's Wenceslas Square into a super-modern, Asian-inspired hotel. The restaurant is divided by abstract red steel sculptures, the bedrooms are lit by Moooi tube lights and, in the bathrooms, multiple mirrors reflect black tiles in a space punctuated by Starck fittings. **James Wallman** Politických Veznu 12/913, Prague, tel: 420.234 100



PHOTOGRAPHER: JOE FLETCHER

SPEND THE NIGHT IN FRISCO

ST REGIS, SAN FRANCISCO <

Few architecture firms do hip luxury interiors like Canadians Yabu Pushelberg, and the firm's latest tour de force, the skyscraping St Regis San Francisco, confirms its status as king of large-scale hotel cool. The 260 rooms are among the city's largest and there's also a 9,000 sq ft spa with limestone walls. **David Kaufman** 125 Third Street, San Francisco, tel: 1.415 284 4000,



HEAVENLY IN HELSINKI

Helsinki finally has hotel accommodation worthy of the Finnish capital's design scene. **Klaus K** (tel: 358.20 770 4700, www.klauskhotel.com), a 137-room hotel with day spa, is Design Hotels' first in the city, while **Kolo** (Tehtaankatu 19F, tel: 358.40 522 1411) is a boutique guest house furnished with the best of contemporary Finnish furniture mixed with some classic Aalto pieces. **Nick Vinson**

TOKYO ROSE

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, TOKYO ^

Tokyo's latest luxury hotel has contemporary interior styling by Reiko Sudo, famous in Japan for her textile company Nuno. Stop by for weekend dim sum brunch, or head for the 38th floor lounge, which serves up afternoon tea with spectacular views. **Fiona Wilson** 2-1-1 Nihonbashi Muromachi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, tel: 81.3 3270 8800, www.mandarinoriental.com/tokyo. Room rate: from ¥62,000 (\$534)





DEPARTURE INFO:

Food with a view – from a balmy Tel Aviv seascape to an unbeatable New York skyline

ISRAEL LIGHT

ROCCA, TEL AVIV

Perched on a cliff above the balmy Mediterranean, the two-level Rocca is housed in a listed villa that was once the Cuban embassy. The restaurant pairs contemporary Levantine cuisine with classic 1930s modernist décor from local architect Gad Halperin, a graduate of New York's Pratt Institute. DK 8 Ramat Yam, Herzliya Pituach, Tel Aviv, tel: 972.9 951 5129



PHOTOGRAPHERS: MICHAEL WEBER, CLAUDIA WIENS

TO THAI FOR

STICKY RICE, SINGAPORE

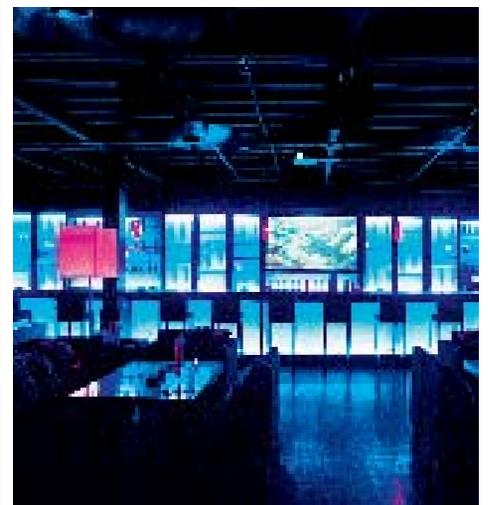
This glamorous Thai restaurant is the fulfilment of a lifelong dream for its creative agency owners, Jeffrey Tay and Edward Tang, who personally custom-designed everything from the uniforms and smoky mirrors to the blood-red lacquered panels and carved screens that recall the eponymous rice grain. Daven Wu 5 Kensington Park Road, Serangoon Gardens,



BOAT SHOW

BLISS, CAIRO

The well-heeled residents of the exclusive island of Zamalek, in the heart of Cairo, no longer need to cross the Nile for their fix of Asian fusion fare. Local designer Dora El-Chiaty's modern restaurant space, in the bowels of a moored boat illuminated by vibrant pink and moody blue lightboxes, serves classic Thai dishes, as well as modern takes on Japanese cuisine. JB



VIEW FROM THE TOP

BG, NEW YORK

New York's beautiful people have a new hangout in the form of BG, on the seventh floor of Bergdorf Goodman. The interior, by Californian design guru Kelly Wearstler, is a contemporary tribute to the social salons of a bygone age, and the restaurant offers one of the city's best views of Central Park. Charles Mellersh

NEW ON THE WEST COAST

Among the best new restaurant openings are Joël Robuchon's The Mansion and L'Atelier at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, www.mgmgrand.com; and Michael Mina's elegant Stonehill Tavern, at St Regis Monarch Beach Resort, with a modern American menu, www.stregismonarchbeach.com.

