



# Milk

## DECORATION

**Featuring:** Lukas Cober — Anna Karlin — Gallery Fumi  
Sophie Lou Jacobsen — Kim Haddou & Florent Dufourcq

**STYLE:** THE KELLY WEARSTLER PHENOMENON

**TRENDS:** LIGHTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

**ARCHITECTURE:** VISITING LE CORBUSIER

*Style and inspiration for contemporary tribes*

**Porto Bello.** — Five-star hotel The Rebello opened this summer on the banks of the Douro in the former industrial district of Vila Nova de Gaia: luxury and comfort meet the creative and cosmopolitan spirit that epitomises Porto.

TEXT: LAURINE ABRIEU — PHOTOS: FRANCISCO NOGUEIRA



Photo: Francisco Nogueira



Interior designer Daniela Franceschini found inspiration in the building's historic soul to create this space that celebrates art and creativity. Clean lines, bold textures and captivating little details—together with a mix of artisanal crafts and both vintage and contemporary furniture truly set this interior apart.

Competition is fierce in Porto as to who has the best rooftop space. In our opinion, the most beautiful views are to be had from the roof of The Rebello, a new 5-star hotel on the banks of the Douro looking across to the centre of Porto. The hotel is situated in Vila Nova de Gaia near the main port wine cellars and comprises four buildings: two newly-built central sections and two rehabilitated 19th century industrial buildings. The site—previously a kitchen utensil factory—had lain abandoned for years, but when Portuguese firm Metro Urbe took charge of the architectural project, they took care to preserve historical features, such as the facades and stone walls.

In fact, the entire project was guided by an attention to the area's industrial past, from the name of the hotel itself (a tribute to the famous rabelos, the wooden boats that used to transport barrels

of wine from Porto to the port at Gaia), to the decorative scheme orchestrated by interior designer and Quiet Studios founder Daniela Franceschini. For her project celebrating art and creativity, she looked to the way in which artists and makers have always occupied industrial spaces throughout history, fashioning an eclectic decor with a carefully thought out play of materials and textures. Vintage and contemporary furnishings mix harmoniously with bespoke furniture and, above all, countless artworks and creations by artisans.

The narrative inspired by the neighbourhood's rich past has been divided into four themes: water, wine, wood and industry. Examples abound, such as the tapestry by Edurne Camacho featuring a mermaid that hangs above the deep blue sofa in the lobby, or the pampas grass (as found along the banks

Photos : Francisco Nogueira



of the Douro) that guides guests towards the spa. In the rooms, the headboards evoke ripples on the river's surface and the washbasins are inspired by ancient water tanks. *"My inspiration and decision to use these materials, shapes and colours came from what I saw in the original construction before building work began"*, the architect explains. And the gem of a spa is no exception. *"We found the remains of an ancient Roman villa under The Rebello. I went to see it while the archaeologists were cataloguing their finds and closing it off. It became my inspiration for the spa. I wanted to create a space that made use of the double height ceiling to create the impression we were in a Roman bath."* Boasting a heated pool, sauna and tranquillity lounge, the spa's offer looks to the principles of traditional Chinese, Japanese and Indian medicine to create bespoke wellness therapies. We would

Photos : Francisco Nogueira

definitely recommend getting the signature "Tranquillity massage", which you can enjoy while the children are at the club organised just for them. The establishment comprises a total of 103 apartments ranging between 37 and 195 m<sup>2</sup> in size, in addition to a gym and meeting rooms. The ground floor restaurant Pot & Pan offers both a total experience and a shorter à la carte menu. The latter comprises hearty dishes to share that are served in small casserole dishes and pans and based on *"traditional Portuguese cuisine, but with a modern touch and made from the very best seasonal produce"*, according to chef André Coutinho. And the icing on the cake is Bello, the rooftop bar which, as we have already mentioned, is certainly one of the best places in town to enjoy a cocktail or a glass of local wine while admiring this picture postcard views of Porto. ●

