

Word of mouth

WIZARDS OF OZ

Hotels and artists make frequent bedfellows these days but an edgy bolthole in Canberra takes the relationship to a whole new level

ADAM & AMY COOMBES

Owners of Kloke fashion label

Rather than produce a hotel uniform, the designers came up with a 'wardrobe', modelled by them, *above*, in a public space at the hotel. 'The objective was to create multiform garments that flatten the traditional hierarchy of service roles.'



HOW MANY CREATIVE SPECIALISTS DOES IT take to make a hotel? The answer: as many as you can get your hands on if you're Nectar Efkarpidis, developer of **Hotel Hotel**, opening this month in **Canberra**. The pedigree of the design team behind the 68-room property is impeccable, from architects Fender Katsalidis (MONA Tasmania) to landscape sculptor Steven Siegel. And by using artists and artisans, many of them local, to create almost every internal element, from light fittings to staff uniforms, the aim is to give the striking new building a strong sense of location. 'What matters most is not the achingly beautiful design, but a level of authenticity in what's being delivered,' says Efkarpidis, who came up with the hotel's concept while wandering around the bush musing on the importance of context. Canberra may not have the most exciting reputation, he admits, but if his plan to create 'a vessel for delivering cultural and social change' is realised, Hotel Hotel looks set to be at the heart of the city's fast-changing artistic scene. *Doubles from about £155 (+61 2 6287 6287; www.hotel-hotel.com.au)*

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ANNA-WILI HIGHFIELD

Paper sculpture artist

Inspired by the local flora and fauna, her work for the hotel, including moth- and owl-shaped chandeliers, is a playful interpretation of native animals.



ADAM GOODRUM

Industrial designer

Goodrum's concrete bench, pictured, *above*,

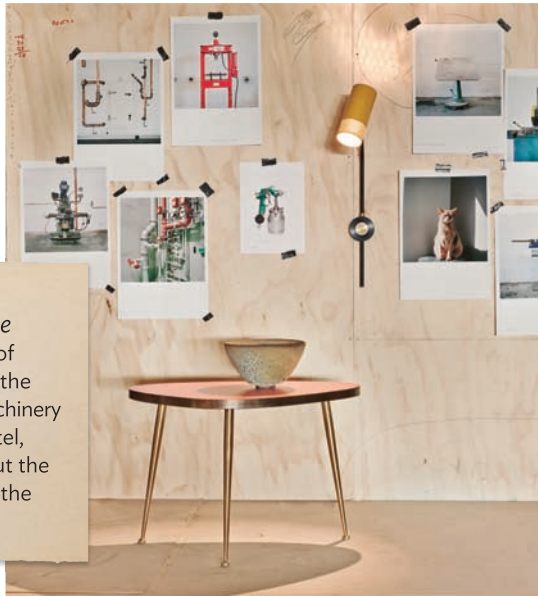
with vintage handmade tiles and glassware, 'references the stonework detailing found in the architecture of Walter Burley Griffin [one of the original designers of the city]'.
CONCEPT & CREATIVE DIRECTION: NECTAR EFKARPIDIS. PHOTOGRAPHS: SCOTTIE CAMERON. ART DIRECTION: DON CAMERON WITH KEN NEALE



LEE GRANT

Photographer in residence

Grant's imagery – portraits of people in relation to space, the textures of building material and machinery – documents the making of the hotel, and will appear in rooms throughout the building. 'My portraits deconstruct the elements that make up culture.'



DON CAMERON

Video editor and designer

Approaching the interiors as though he was building a film set, Cameron was inspired by the Australian vernacular of shack-as-dwelling (familiar, domestic, relaxed). His brass tables reflect the colours, shapes and textures of the property's vintage furniture.

