

asia surface

DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE / FASHION / ART / CULTURE

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TAIWAN ON TOP

THE ISLAND STATE LINES UP AS A
FUTURE DESIGN CAPITAL

PLUS: ASIAN DESIGNERS DOMINATE
IN MILAN, ART HK SELLS OUT AND
HERMÈS AND SC GLOBAL MARRY AT
THE MARQ IN SINGAPORE

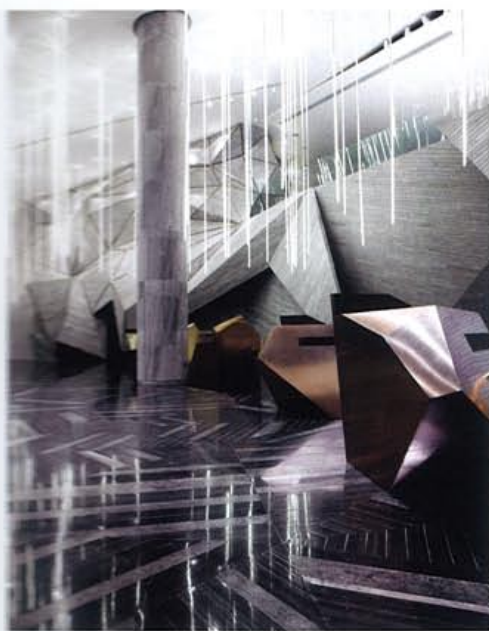
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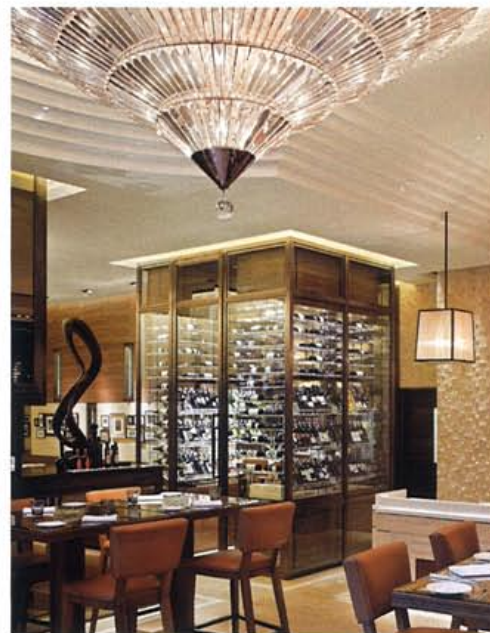
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RUGGED INDOORS

The futuristic design of this 1,600sqm sales office in Chongqing, China, deliberately channels the city's surrounding mountainous landscape. Envisioned by Ajax Law and Virginia Lung of Hong Kong-based practice One Plus Partnership, the design is centred on the rock-strewn, natural environment of Nanshan District, where the office is located. Opting to jettison ordinary room partitions, the designers created barriers through the implementation of slanted, triangulated volumes. Most resembling a miniature indoor mountain range, these geological forms, crafted out of marble and Corian stone, serve to further emphasise One Plus Partnership's inspiration. Combined with a cavernous stairway linking the two-level structure, and a set of LED lights rigged to conjure up the delicate imagery of falling rain, this is nature refined. **AC**



PRIME LOCATION

Jojo, the Italian restaurant at Bangkok's distinguished St Regis Hotel, is notable for its conspicuous use of classical materials and strategically fitted lighting. Brought to life by Thai practice Orbit Design Studio, the establishment recalls the modern elegance of Carlo Scarpa's designs. The drama begins at the entrance and saunters its way through the remainder of the premises: a seamless transition from the hotel lobby to the restaurant is facilitated through a layering of strong geometric lines that unravel nimbly across the expanse of the walls, with layers of travertine and leather sandwiching custom metal light boxes. Made with a light-hued stone, the floor tiles, wall cladding and bench-tops aim to evoke the feel of a more splendid bygone era, while starkly contemporary details, such as a cone-shaped LED chandelier and peek-a-boo black timber panels, bring you back to the present. Divided into three main sections, a more casual dining area is decked out with mirrors and chalked blackboards detailing daily specials, while the main dining room remains noticeably more upscale, flanked by carved wooden sculptures and lit with softly diffused lighting. An outdoor terrace and lounge area completes the package, giving patrons a diverse array of ambiances to settle into. Those looking to soak up the interior with a fine vintage can find respite at Jojo's elegant wine bar, a sophisticated nook situated near the restaurant's entrance. **EDR**



MIU MIU'S NEW ITALIAN-DESIGNED OUTLET IN GINZA IS KITTED OUT IN OPULENT DETAIL THAT'S BANKABLY SURE TO PLEASE THE LABEL'S DEVOTED FANS.

Japanese fashionistas' tongues are wagging thanks to the launch of Miu Miu's new flagship outlet in the Tokyo district of Ginza Echogoya. The seventh such store to be established in the city, the glittering three-storey space features arresting interiors by Roberto Baciocchi, the Italian architect who has realised the commercial and corporate environments for Prada Group brands Miu Miu, Church's, and Prada since 1982. Referencing Miu Miu's signature luxury materials of gold damask, brass and glass, Baciocchi's bank vault-theme revolves around a dazzling façade rendered in crystal and back-lit damask, and a dramatic revolving door. Shiny safety deposit boxes done up in gold and metal reference the brand's playful opulence, and highlight the store's purpose as a treasure trove of candy-coloured, beautifully-designed gems. **AC**