

# flair

1st Arab International Luxury Living Magazine

Kid Rock's  
Rock 'n' Roll  
Sanctuary

Fall  
fashion  
Preview

Person  
of Flair

Naomi  
Campbell



Egypt's  
New  
Talents

Holy  
Luxury

FENDI  
fever



## GOING, GOING, GONE

In Christchurch, New Zealand, 10 massive optical illusion-inducing mixed-media art pieces by Mike Hewson pay homage to the former Christchurch Normal School which opened in 1876. The building, completely renovated for apartment and retail use in 1981 and renamed Cranmer Courts, was damaged badly in the February 2012 magnitude 6.3 earthquake and it is now destined for demolition. Before it is gone forever, Hewson wanted to pay homage to the building that used to house a vibrant community. He covered the total of 130 square meters of plywood with mixed-media images depicting artists and others who lived and worked in the building. Private donations and Hewson's own money covered the \$15,000 installation costs. New Zealand-born (in 1985) Mike Hewson is a civil engineer, graduate of Canterbury University (2007). He has worked as a civil engineer in Port Hedland in Western Australia, but has travelled regularly to New Zealand to complete works of art there.

[www.mikehewson.co.nz](http://www.mikehewson.co.nz)



## BUBBLES AND CHEESE

The perfect match has arrived to London and its made in France. Champagne + Fromage is a true Gallic love affair offering, a shop-cum-bistro selling the best of both in Covent Garden. There is a shop, a café and evening the possibility of champagne tasting evenings to get those taste buds soaring with the delicious produce on offer. Displays of Champagne, cheese and charcuterie make for quite the chic centrepiece, whilst mismatched furniture and reclaimed materials — including bright red chairs sourced from Parisian bistros and old wine crates from drunken days gone by — add a stamp of authentic French flair. The focal point, however, is a fabulously oversized fromagerie that has foodies tripping over themselves to fall inside. Champagne + Fromage: rustic French fare and fizz in London, served the French way.

[www.frenchbubbles.co.uk/Champagne-Fromage](http://www.frenchbubbles.co.uk/Champagne-Fromage)

## HOME SWEET HOME

This month unveils an interesting exhibition at The Architecture Foundation in London. This summer, for their first solo exhibition outside of North America, Chicago-based architecture practice Bureau Spectacular will transform The Architecture Foundation's Project Space into an inhabitable installation and a graphic sequence of imaginary worlds, through the studio's trademark mixture of built structure and cartoon. The installation can be thought of as an abstract hotel, with Bureau Spectacular's founder Jiminez Lai himself calling it home over the London Festival of Architecture period, during which he will produce a mural over the walls of the Project Space to introduce further characters from the Cartoonish Metropolis to the gallery. Later in the exhibition a series of invited guests will take up residence in exchange for hosting a range of public events — from film-screenings to dinners, lectures to discos, workshops to art works.

[www.architecturefoundation.org.uk](http://www.architecturefoundation.org.uk)





## BACK TO THE FUTURE

Zhouzhuang Blossom Hill Boutique Hotel is located in Zhouzhuang, the water town of Southern China positioned 1.5 hours away from Shanghai. This ancient town, known as the "Venice of the Orient," has a history of more than 900 years and still retains the style and pattern of its ancient village. This hotel is a renovation of three old separate Ming Dynasty-style buildings. During the 19th century the three sons of Dai built the buildings that, at the time, served as living places, as well as a space to conduct business. After many years, these buildings were divided into four parts before the renovation: a Museum, a Tea House, a Guesthouse and an abandoned structure. Dariel Studio has reconstructed and transformed them into a 20-suite heritage hotel. The renovation aims to restore the initial spatial unity of the building, while also to preserve the architectural heritage. In order to apply the feeling of history and Chinese culture, designer Thomas Dariel created the "one sensory travel through the seasons" concept for this boutique hotel. The inspiration comes from the 24 seasons from the Chinese traditional solar calendar. In ancient China, the solar year is divided into 24 terms according to Chinese traditional farming habits, with each term corresponding to the Sun's particular position.

[www.blossomhillinn.com](http://www.blossomhillinn.com)

## HARVESTING THE BEAUTY

Recently opening in the heart of the Eastern Algarve, Fazenda Nova is a secluded luxury country house located near the beautiful historic coastal town of Tavira. Fazenda Nova is an original Portuguese country house that has been lovingly renovated in a modern style while retaining its original features and traditional architecture. Fazenda has ten large suites with nine of the rooms offering private gardens or terraces providing the perfect space to sit, relax and enjoy the Portuguese countryside. Formerly a family home and farm, the house sits on ten hectares of land with its own orchard, vegetable and herb gardens. In spring it is abundant with wild flowers growing among almond, carob and olive trees and during harvest time guests are welcomed to take part in harvesting the produce. The gardens are simple and romantic and surround the house and annexes with a series of paths leading to undiscovered, wilder areas. A Cozinha, Fazenda's restaurant offers seasonal menus reflecting the produce grown in the kitchen garden and orchard. The menu will feature predominantly traditional Iberian cuisine, using the area's fantastic fresh fish. Enjoy freshly baked breads from the 200 year-old bread oven for breakfast taken outside on the terrace by the pool. Located just twenty five minutes from Faro airport and moments away from the beautiful beaches and Ilhas of the Eastern Algarve the Fazenda is welcoming all year round, with the prospect of blue skies even in winter.

[www.fazendanova.eu](http://www.fazendanova.eu)



## ALGERIAN GRANDIEUR

Diego Gronda of Rockwell Group Europe's latest project hits the grounds of Algeria. The recently completed Le Meridien Oran Hotel is a splendid addition to the country's dynamic growth. The deep-rooted, vibrant history and culture of Oran provided inspiration for Rockwell Group Europe's design for this ground-up Le Meridien. The property features a vast three-level glass box lobby that rises up from pools of water at the base of the hotel tower. Inside, artistic motifs cover the glass and two 40-foot-tall lantern like tents serve as lounges for guests. The "library box" includes works by the "Le Méridien 100," a distinctive collection of artists, thinkers, and designers. Among the hotel's three restaurants is Latest Recipe, inspired by recipes from around the world with huge wooden peg-board walls displaying daily menu ingredients and running the length of the entry hall. There is also an outdoor seating area, surrounded by reflecting pools; an 8,600-square-foot spa; and two presidential suites among the 300 guest rooms, all of which are sophisticated, sleek, and ruby-red accented.

[www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)