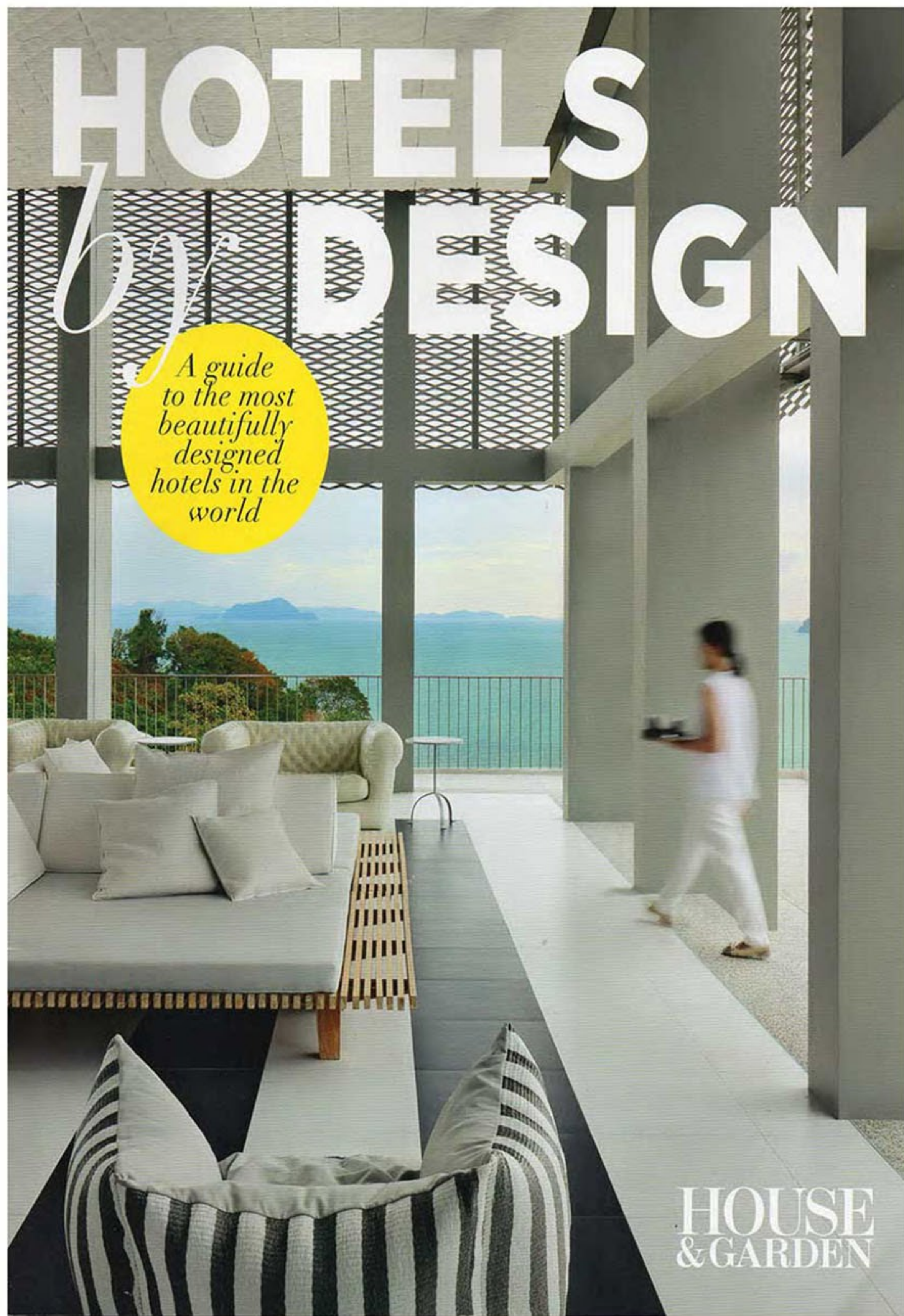


“In Rajasthan, equidistant between Udaipur and Jodhpur, the new JAWAI Leopard Camp has eight opulent tents decked out with chic interiors.”



Asia and Australasia

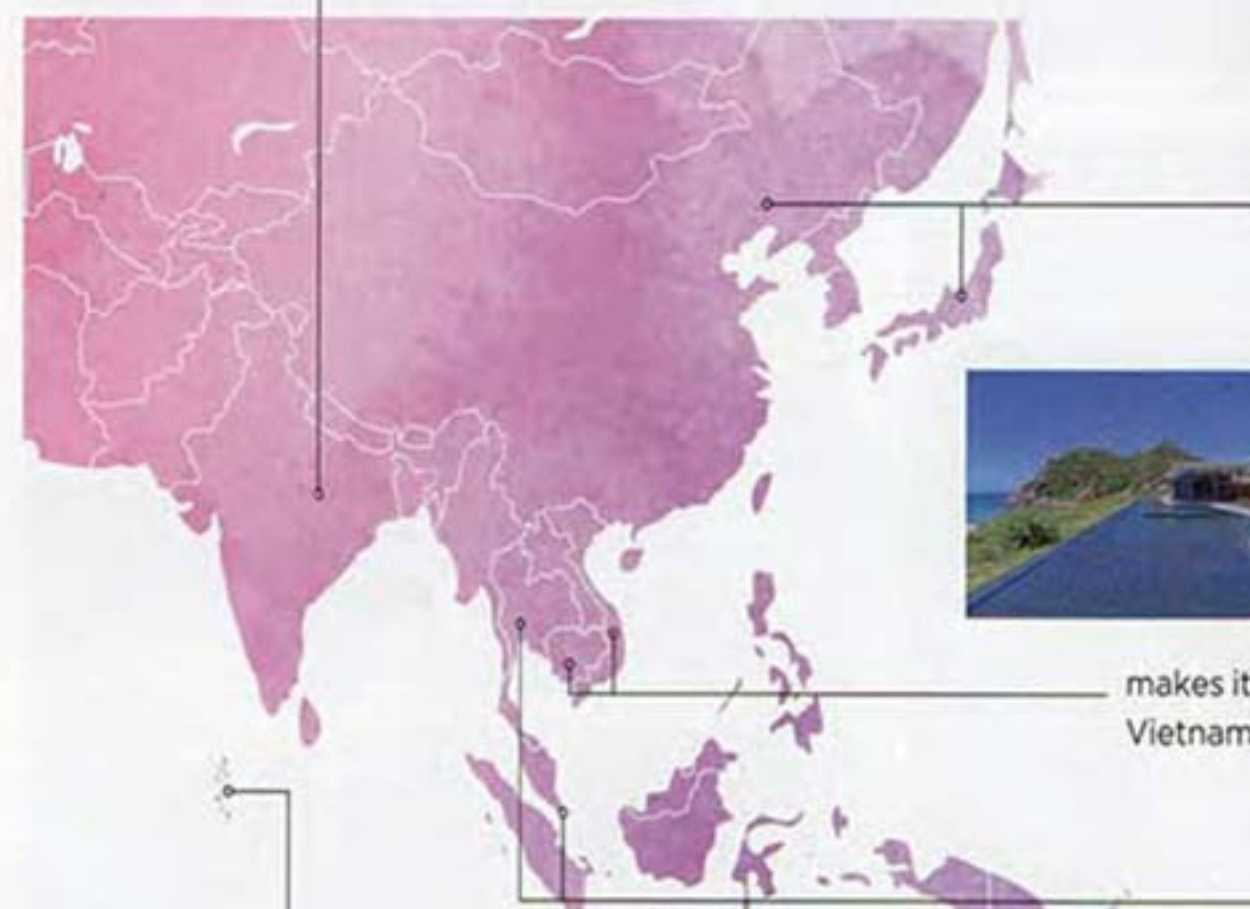
INDIA

In Rajasthan, equidistant between Udaipur and Jodhpur, the new **Jawai Leopard Camp** (below) has eight opulent tents decked out with chic, predominantly black-and-white interiors. Game drives reveal wolves, crocodiles, antelope and, of course, leopards. The camp can also be rented on an exclusive basis. In the foothills of the Himalayas a new resort, **Vana**, is tipped to become one of the world's leading well-being retreats. Describing itself as 'an ashram of the contemporary world', Vana brings together Ayurveda, yoga, Tibetan and natural healing, spa and fitness, and is set in a 21-acre estate perched on a hillside plateau amid forests and orchards.



CHINA/JAPAN

The Temple Hotel (right) - part art gallery, part restaurant, part bar, part event space and part hotel (eight rooms were opened last year) - is a haven of peace in the heart of Beijing. An exquisite, 400-year-old Chinese Buddhist temple, now restored, forms the centrepiece around which the rest of the complex operates. Go for a room in the old monks' quarters. The Opposite House, also in Beijing, and The Upper House in Hong Kong await the arrival of sister hotel **The Temple House** in Chengdu, due to open later this year. New to Kyoto in Japan is **The Ritz-Carlton**, where much of the interior design, featuring traditional latticework and cloisonné, was inspired by the eleventh-century fictional story *The Tale of Genji*.



VIETNAM/CAMBODIA

Amano'i (left), the latest launch from Amanresorts, is a contemporary beach resort overlooking Vinh Hy Bay - considered one of the four most beautiful bays in Vietnam. The hotel has 31 pavilions and five Aman villas. This autumn, a floating five-star hotel, the **Aqua Mekong**, makes its inaugural journey along the Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam. Three-, four- and seven-night cruises will be available.



SINGAPORE/THAILAND

Sofitel teamed up with fashion designer Kenzo for So Mauritius; now the company has employed Karl Lagerfeld to provide design flair and a little *je ne sais quoi* at the new **So Singapore**, which launches in May. At the lavish 10-room **Iniala Beach House** (left) on Phuket, a collection of the world's top designers has been brought together to create an extraordinary showcase of contemporary design. Check out Eggarat Wongcharit's astonishing 'floating' rattan bedroom.



MALDIVES

Another busy year in the Maldives. Cheval Blanc Randheli arrived on the scene, followed by **Velaa Private Island**, positioning itself as the most sophisticated - and almost certainly one of the most expensive - in the archipelago. The design is gorgeous, but its quirkiest USP is the two-man submarine (above). Then there's **Maalifushi by Como**, opening soon as the first luxury resort in the Thaa Atoll. Finally, Tom McLoughlin - who brought us Huvaafen Fushi - is working on two new hotels, **Amilla Fushi** and **Finolhu**, both in the Baa Atoll and slated to open later this year.



AUSTRALIA

Longitude 131° (right), the iconic, tented camp near Ayers Rock, has been taken over by Baillie Lodges - the team that manages Southern Ocean Lodge and Capella Lodge. All three are members of Luxury Lodges of Australia - worth checking out if you're off Down Under. Also under new management is **Hayman Island**, which opens after a refurbishment in July as a One & Only resort.



NEW ZEALAND/FRENCH POLYNESIA

On Banks Peninsula, on the east coast of South Island, the working farm **Annandale** has launched four private houses for rent, scattered throughout the 4,000-acre estate. Homestead, the grandest, has five bedrooms; then there's adorable Shepherd's Cottage, sleeping two; Scrubby Bay (below), on the outer reaches of the property, sleeping 14; and Seascape, a romantic retreat for two. Private hideaways don't come more remote or exclusive than **The Brando**, opening in July on Teti'aroa Island, Polynesia - once owned by Marlon Brando. Accessible only by private plane, it has impressive eco credentials. >

