

please don't feed the animals

firms: **axthelm rolvien architekten; lvg arquitectura; studio urquiola**
site: **berlin**

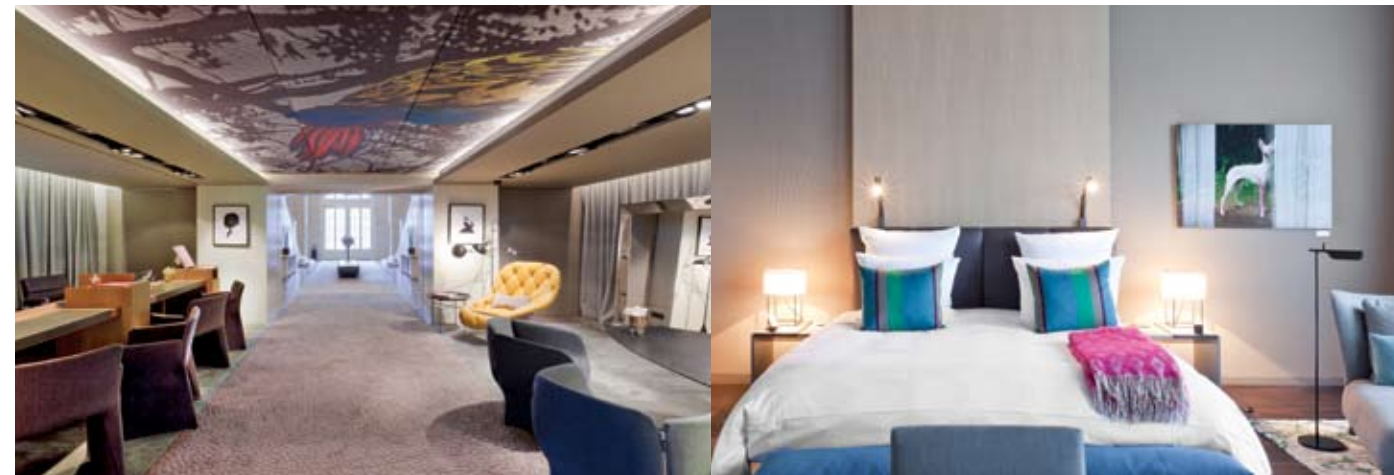


FROM LEFT: NOSHE; PATRICIA PARINEJAD

From left: A painted chicken-wire giraffe by Benedetta Mori Ubaldini looms behind a Studio Urquiola chair in the lounge at Das Stue. By the pool, chaise longues recline near a photograph by Aurora Fierro.



Clockwise from top left: The only modification to the landmarked 1940 limestone facade is a glassed-in entry. Custom-printed cotton covers part of the ceiling in reception, where seating is by Studio Urquiola. A guest suite's built-in headboard is cerused oak. The lobby features a bronze crocodile sculpture by Quentin Garel. A Studio Urquiola sofa in the lounge is strewn with pillows covered in wool-nylon.



hospitality

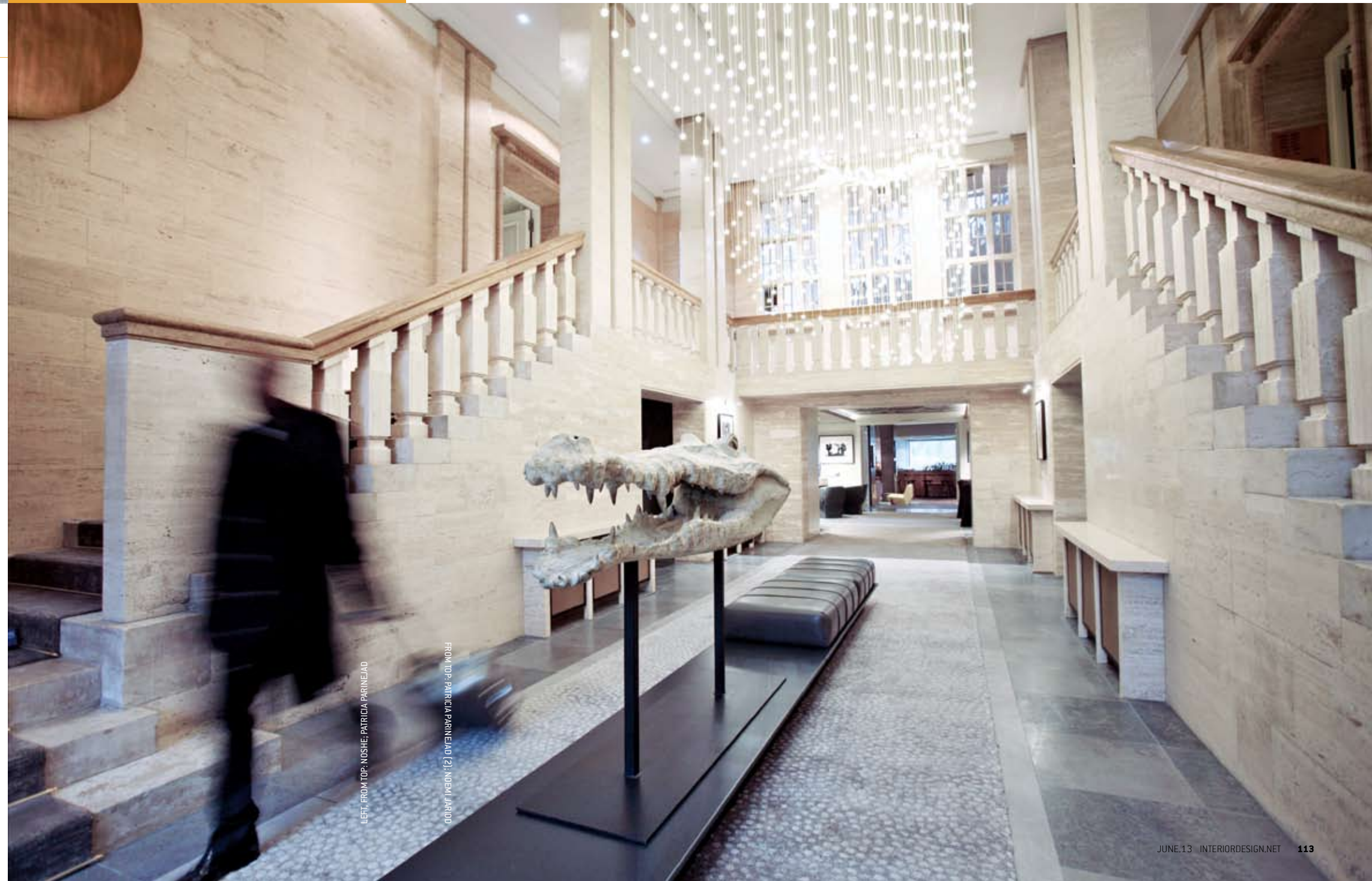
King Friedrich Wilhelm IV donated the first animals for the Zoologischer Garten Berlin. That was in 1844. In 1940, it got a neighbor, the Royal Danish Embassy, as a part of Adolf Hitler's Germania capital-building project. An embassy until 1978, then sold to the public housing au-

thority, the neoclassical landmark by Johann Emil Schaudt has now become the luxury boutique hotel Das Stue, meaning *the living room* in Danish.

Axthelm Rolvien Architekten gut-renovated the former embassy, patched its damaged limestone facade, and pressure-washed it. "There were bullet holes from World War II," Henner Rolvien notes. He and Annette Axthelm also constructed an addition bringing the total key-count to 80.

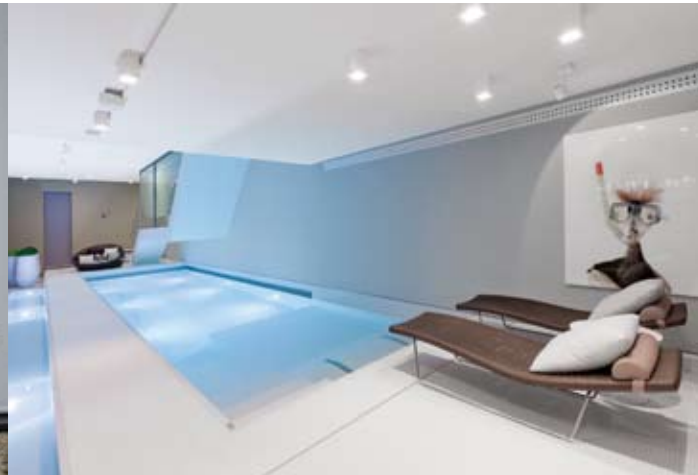
The cantilevered six-story addition is concrete and glass. "The idea was to make it as transparent as possible," Axthelm says. "Guests can watch the animals in the zoo, like a safari."

A Mediterranean restaurant and a pool area on the ground level of the addition are among Das Stue's public spaces by *Interior Design* Hall of Fame member Patricia Urquiola. Her firm, Studio Urquiola, also handled the bar, ▶



LEFT, FROM TOP, NOSHE, PATRICIA URQUIOLA

FROM TOP, PATRICIA URQUIOLA (2), NOEMI JARRO



hospitality

Clockwise from top left: On a terrace between the 1940 building and the addition stands a plastic sculpture. Halogen spots illuminate the 46-foot lap pool. Chairs by Branco Sobre Branco pull up to Studio Urquiola tables in the café. The addition is six stories. Tom Dixon pendant fixtures mingle with copper pots in the restaurant, 5-Cinco by Paco Pérez.



which connects the addition to the embassy building and, in the latter, the lobby, the reception area, the main lounge, and several small “library” lounges.

As if escaped from the zoo, animals are everywhere. In the travertine-clad lobby, Urquiola installed a 4-foot-long bronze crocodile underneath a constellation of pinpoint LEDs. In reception, a bird-and-tree pattern covers part of the ceiling. Colorful chicken-wire sculptures of a giraffe and gorillas hang out in the lounge. Footstools in the shape of rhinos and hippos graze in the libraries. “The animals contrast with the elegant austerity of the original building,” Urquiola says.

Nature references take a more figurative form in the guest rooms, designed by LVG Arquitectura. Headboards and floorboards are oak. Copper clads accent walls.

Furnishings by Urquiola, Arne Jacobsen, and others tends to the streamlined. “By minimizing the decoration, we made the view framed by the big windows the major focus of each room,” LVG Arquitectura principal Eugenia Linares says. The secondary focus could easily be the contemporary artworks, all from the private collection of one of the hotel’s owners. The subject? Animals, from orangutans to elephants.

—Mairi Beautyman

FROM FRONT MOROSO: SEATING, PILLOWS (LOUNGE), CHAIRS (RECEPTION), TABLES (CAFÉ). **GASTÓN Y DANIELA:** CHAIRES (POOL AREA). **THROUGH LAMBERT:** LAMP (RECEPTION). **B&B ITALIA:** TABLE (RECEPTION), CHAIRS (SUITE), SOFA (POOL AREA). **MARIO SIRTORI:** CURTAIN FABRIC, CUSTOM CEILING FABRIC (RECEPTION), BANQUETTE FABRIC (CAFÉ). **CONTARDI LIGHTING:** READING LIGHTS (SUITE). **METALARTE:** TABLE LAMPS. **FLOS:** FLOOR LAMP (SUITE), LAMPS (CAFÉ). **LICHTBAU:** CUSTOM CHANDELIER (LOBBY). **KVADRAT:** PILLOW FABRIC (LOUNGE), COLORED CHAIR FABRIC (CAFÉ). **XAL:** CEILING FIXTURES (POOL AREA). **KETTEL:** BLACK CHAIR (CAFÉ). **BRANCO SOBRE BRANCO:** COLORED CHAIRS. **LA FIBULE:** CUSTOM BANQUETTE. **TOM DIXON:** PENDANT FIXTURES



(RESTAURANT). **MUTINA:** WALL TILE. **ANDREU WORLD:** CHAIRS. **THROUGHOUT J&T BCN:** CUSTOM CARPET, RUGS. **ELEKTRO BECKHOFF:** ELECTRICAL ENGINEER. **BURO HAPPOLD:** MEP. **VIRIATO:** WOODWORK.

Go to interiordesign.net/dasstue13 for more images of the hotel.