

# THE WORLD'S BEST NEW HOTELS

Veteran travelers know it's not just the destination that makes a vacation. Accommodations are key. So which of the many luxe hotels that opened this past year are most worthy of a visit? *AD* enlisted a panel of tastemakers to weigh in on six award categories—from best overall design to best spa. Here, we present the wanderlust-inducing winners.



## OUR EXPERTS



**Nate Berkus**  
Interior Designer



**Douglas Friedman**  
Photographer



**Alexander Gilkes**  
Auction Impresario



**Lela Rose**  
Fashion Designer



**Temple St. Clair Carr**  
Jewelry Designer



**Bronson van Wyck**  
Event Designer



A view of the infinity pool and beach beyond from the cliff-top Amanera resort on the north coast of the Dominican Republic.



# TRAVEL AWARDS

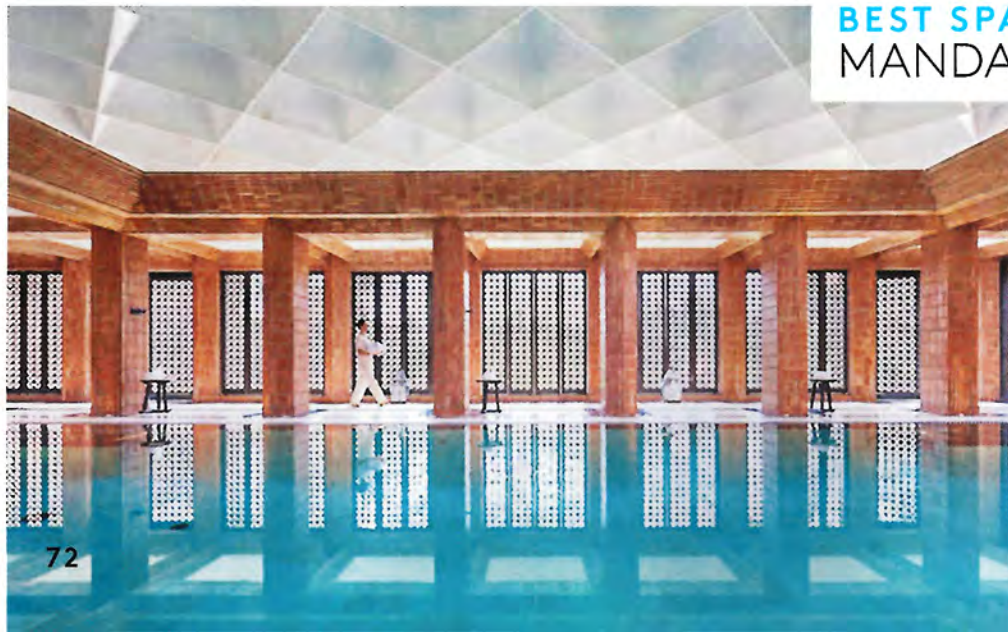


## BEST OVERALL DESIGN THE COTTON HOUSE HOTEL

Designer Lázaro Rosa-Violán crafted this enchanting boutique property, situated in a 19th-century landmark in the heart of Barcelona. “The interiors feel grand yet welcoming, with a great mix of styles,” says Lela Rose, calling out the sculptural lighting and preserved details, chief among them intricately carved original ceilings and the knockout 1957 spiral staircase (left). “Each room is its own jewel box,” she enthuses. [autographhotels.com](http://autographhotels.com)

## BEST SUITES AMANERA

Perched high on a cliff overlooking the Dominican Republic’s Playa Grande beach, this retreat features 25 stand-alone villas with sweeping sea views. To accentuate those vistas, designer John Heah outfitted each suite with broad window walls that retract for open-air living. Refined organic materials (rich teak, local coralina stone) likewise bow to the great outdoors. “You feel totally immersed in nature,” says Alexander Gilkes. [aman.com](http://aman.com)



## BEST SPA MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MARRAKECH

“Morocco is synonymous with spas, and this one does not disappoint,” Gilkes says of this sybaritic 19,000-square-foot haven. French firm Gilles & Boissier looked to the region’s famous wellness traditions when creating the facility’s two domed hammams and stunning pool room, which boasts elaborate brickwork and *mashrabiya*-style windows. Notes Nate Berkus, “The interplay of light and shadow really sets the mood.” [mandarinoriental.com](http://mandarinoriental.com)

FROM TOP: MERITXELL ARJAGUER (2); COURTESY OF AMANRESORTS; COURTESY OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MARRAKECH