

Trend
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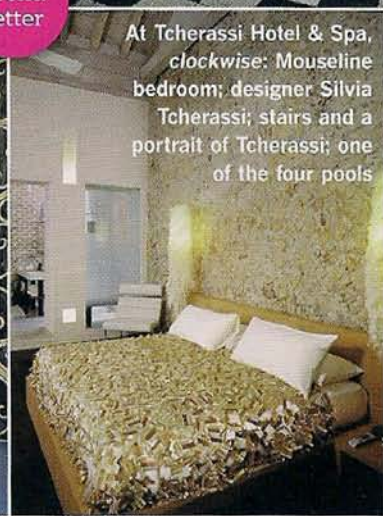
Fashion house

COLOMBIA A retreat in colonial Cartagena is a first for Colombia's favourite designer

Long the weekend playground of wealthy Bogotáians, Cartagena has recently caught the imagination of the outside world to become one of the hottest cities in South America. The new **Tcherassi Hotel & Spa** will only enhance that image, with its captivating mix of period romance, contemporary style and modern technology. Housed in a beautifully restored 18th-century colonial mansion in the old town, the hotel was designed by Colombia's most successful fashion designer, Silvia Tcherassi, who was born just outside Cartagena and has always felt an affinity with the city. 'It's so vibrant and colourful, you can almost smell the emotion and happiness,' she says. Reinforcing this sense of place was vital to the designer, who oversaw every aspect of the hotel, from the in-room scent to the staff uniforms (inspired by the traditional Colombian folk dance 'Cumbia'), and the vertical internal garden sprouting with thousands of native plants: 'I love the exuberance of nature,' says Tcherassi. The hotel also has a spa featuring indigenous treatments and products by Spain's Germaine de Capuccini, a chic Italian restaurant, Castaño, and four swimming pools (one on the roof terrace for guests only). Check it out during the fifth annual literary **Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias** (28-31 January), and keep an eye out for future Tcherassi openings.

FRANCESCA SYZ

00 57 5 664 4445; www.tcherassihotels.com. Doubles from US\$295. See also www.hayfestival.com/cartagena/



At Tcherassi Hotel & Spa, clockwise: Mouseline bedroom; designer Silvia Tcherassi; stairs and a portrait of Tcherassi; one of the four pools

Eco
smart

FAIR COP Delegates at the UN Climate Change Conference COP15 in Copenhagen are setting a good example, taking in the sights on new battery-operated CityCirkel buses (www.citycirkel.dk). **KIMBERLEY LOVATO**



CULTURAL TRIO

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THREE LOCATIONS WILL SHARE THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE TITLE. JILL STARLEY-GRAINGER GETS THE LOWDOWN

RUHR, GERMANY



The grand opening David Chipperfield's extension to the 1950s Folkwang Museum in Essen, in January

The exhibition A Star

is Born: Photography & Rock since Elvis Presley, Folkwang Museum, 2 July-10 Oct (00 49 201 884 5444; www.museum-folkwang.de)

The concert Classical and jazz pianist Fazıl Say, 10-13 March, Konzerthaus Dortmund (00 49 1805 181650; www.konzerthaus-dortmund.de)

The place to be Bermuda 3Eck ('Bermuda Triangle'), a lively nightlife district in Bochum

The hotel Alte Löhnhalle in Essen: sleek decor in an industrial building (00 49 201 3845/0; www.alte-loehnhalle.de). Doubles from €73

The website www.ruhr2010.de

ISTANBUL, TURKEY



The grand opening

The city's disused Hasanpaşa gasworks, due to open as an arts centre in the summer

The exhibition Time

Within Us, featuring work by top photographers from Turkey, Greece and Russia, at Istanbul Modern, 19 Jan-16 May (00 90 212 334 73 00; www.istanbulmodern.org)

The concert U2's 360° Tour gig at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium, 6 September (www.u2.com)

The place to be The buzzing Ortaköy area on the European side of the Bosphorus

The hotel The historic Pera Palace Hotel (00 90 212 222 8090; www.peralpas.com), reopening in April after a major renovation

The website www.en.istanbul2010.org

PECS, HUNGARY



The grand opening The Pécs Conference and Concert Centre, the Pannon Philharmonic's new home, in early 2010

The exhibition

Hungarians in Bauhaus, a showcase of influential artists, architects, photographers and designers, at the Modern Hungarian Gallery, 15 Aug-15 Oct (00 36 72 514040; www.jpm.hu)

The concert A series of classical concerts in November, with tributes to Mahler, in Pécs's new concert hall (www.pannonphilharmonikusok.hu)

The place to be The pedestrianised Király utca

The hotel Boutique Hotel Sopanac (00 36 72 517770; www.hotelsopanac.hu), which has spacious rooms and a spa. Doubles from €100

The website en.pecs2010.hu