

## **Special Mention. Interior Design**

**Hotel Kimpton Los Monteros** (Marbella, Spain)

### **EL EQUIPO CREATIVO**

Photography: Veerle Evens

## **DESIGN REPORT: HOTEL KIMPTON LOS MONTEROS**

EL EQUIPO CREATIVO has re-imagined the public areas of the Kimpton Los Monteros Marbella, blending the glamour of the hotel's 1970s origins with the vibrant essence of Andalusia. Inspired by the region's natural landscapes, its artistic heritage and Mediterranean spirit, the design incorporates lush vegetation, a prominent use of ceramics and hand-painted murals alluding to Picasso, who was born locally. From the sculptural courtyard to the iconic Azul Bar and the Escondido rooftop bar, each space balances retro elegance with contemporary comfort. The result is a dynamic and artistic environment that honours Marbella's cultural identity, offering guests a stylish and immersive experience.

The commission consisted of the complete refurbishment of all public spaces at Hotel Los Monteros in Marbella, in order to give this historic property a new identity while respecting its local heritage and architectural roots. The client sought a concept that would reflect Marbella's cultural wealth and Mediterranean spirit, featuring a welcoming and contemporary aesthetic that would resonate with both international guests and local residents. A key requirement was the integration of the existing 1970s architecture into the new design, enhancing functionality and offering a unique, experience-driven atmosphere aligned with the Kimpton brand.

EL EQUIPO CREATIVO opted to apply a strong emphasis on the cultural narrative and architectural integrity, creating a concept guided by the landscapes, colours and textures of Andalusia, and drawing inspiration from Marbella's natural surroundings as well as its artistic legacy. This translated into a palette of greens, blues and warm earth tones, as well as materials such as wood, ceramics and hand-painted murals evoking Spanish artisanal crafts and artists like Picasso, who was born in Malaga.

Rather than a constraint, the building's original 1970s architecture was seen as a design asset. The geometric patterns, integrated niches and filtered-light elements were conserved and reinterpreted with contemporary sensitivity. Each space was carefully designed for both aesthetic and functional value, creating an inviting atmosphere with Mediterranean white tones, vibrant retro furnishings and works of art.

Functional zoning also played a key role. Flexibility in the use of space and adjustable privacy in lounge areas were carefully considered in order to respond to guests' evolving

expectations regarding versatility and intimacy over the course of the day. For example, the lobby, lounges and library feature sliding wooden elements for adaptable privacy.

The immersive blue theme and artistic elements of the **Azul Bar** set it apart as a standalone experience. **Escondido**, the rooftop bar, maximises views and atmosphere with a multi-level layout and retro references that allow a seamless transition from day to night. Outdoor areas were redesigned to deliver both comfort and impact. **The Costa Club Pool Bar** and **Jara Restaurant** further the concept, with terracotta tones and Andalusian tile patterns that add a sense of local colour. The swimming pool, together with its pool bar, introduces a topographic platform design that creates social and private zones around the pool, in a chic Mediterranean style with splashes of colour. Ceramic floor tiles feature throughout **the hall and adjacent circulation areas**: stoneware tiles with a design that reinterprets all the charm of classic encaustic cement mosaics, creating a stunningly beautiful design, combined with all the durability and mechanical resistance required in a high-traffic hospitality setting.

### **Ceramic tiles used**

Cerámicas Aparici (Danube Otto Natural, 60x60cm)

Cevica

Harmony

Realonda

Equipe

Dune

Porcelanosa