

INTERIOR DESIGN

JUNE
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A perspective view of a hallway with a bright yellow carpet. On both sides, there are tall, narrow, glowing picture frames. The frames are illuminated from within, casting a warm, golden light. The frames contain various images, including portraits and abstract designs. The hallway leads to a doorway at the end, which is also framed and illuminated. The overall atmosphere is modern and artistic.

the
many
faces of
creativity



history comes alive

per il nuovo edificio
del museo, apre

hospitality

Opposite, from top:
A walkway, part of a
Spanish city walk, now
contains a duplex suite at
the Caro Hotel in Valencia,
Spain. The reception desk
contains marble and metal.

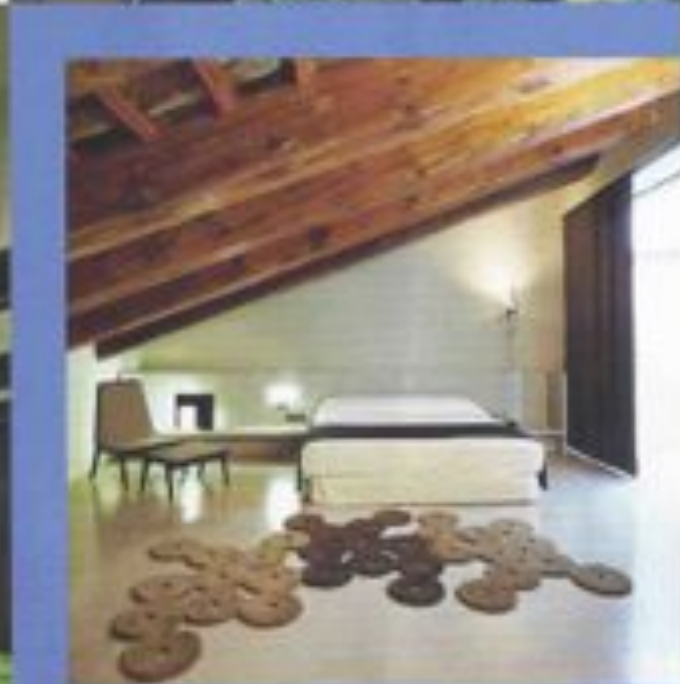
Right: The painted stone
street facade dates to the
13th century.



Excavation is a job that usually falls to archaeologists. But it was Francisco Rife Studio's namesake director who helped the dig integral to the renovation of the Caro Hotel in Valencia, Spain. Though the hotel looks at first glance like any respectable 19th-century town mansion, that's literally just a facade—a neoclassical one. Other exterior walls date to the 13th century, when they were built by the Moors as part of the city's fortifications. "History was the axis around which the project revolved," Francisco Rife says. "Without losing sight of original elements, we designed a space in the vanguard." ➤

Decorative floor tiles architectural fragments are installed on a wall in the lobby. Structural glass forms the floor of a stair landing. Francesco Rizzi arranged rug tiles on a suite's floor of epoxy finished concrete. The mosaic garden surrounds glass, allowing light into a stairwell.

His captivating interior scenarios, a study in Iberian heritage, begins in the lobby. Along one sidewall, he installed architectural fragments spanning the second to 15th centuries, while the opposite sidewall, whitewashed Moorish brick, is punctuated by a lava-stone archway leading to the bar. The grand staircase at the rear of the lobby leaps all the way up to 1919. Then it's simultaneously backward and forward in the 20 guest suites, where 19th-century coffered ceilings and crown moldings or rough wooden coffers and ceramic fabrics encounter stylishly distilled furnishings, many of them Rizzi's production pieces. ➔



Flax says 19th-century sofas, tables, and tufted beds furnish a suite with a 19th-century ceiling fresco. In another suite, the tub and sink are built together. The chess desk, and accents in a suite are also fab.

"Tower," Flax says, "comes from the contrast of eras and materials." What could be more dramatic, in this setting, than a stair landing's floor of dark gray structural glass? This showpiece tempers the powerful Mediterranean sun, allowing it to bathe a moss garden below. It's a memorable and clever moment, certainly unexpected here. —C.C. Sullivan

FROM FRONT TO REAR: SOFAS, TABLES, AND TUFTED BEDS FURNISH A SUITE WITH A 19TH-CENTURY CEILING FRESCO. IN ANOTHER SUITE, THE TUB AND SINK ARE BUILT TOGETHER. THE CHESS DESK, AND ACCENTS IN A SUITE ARE ALSO FAB.



hospitality

