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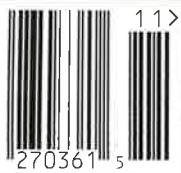
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LEFT: The outdoor dining area of a Montana mountain retreat designed by Markham Roberts.

ON THE COVER: The living room of a London townhouse designed by Patricia Sanchiz. Photography by Ricardo Labougne.

ELLE DECOR

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LEFT: The main lobby at the Four Seasons hotel in Dubai's financial district, designed by Adam Tihany. **BELOW, FROM TOP:** Silver glass pendants from the lobby's custom chandelier by Luum; bronze and gold mirrors for the lobby walls; and blue metal mesh for the windows.

DESERT STAR

In Dubai, a city known for over-the-top glamour and bling, Adam Tihany crafts a more refined version of luxury at the new Four Seasons. **BY PATRICK ROGERS**



Designer
Adam Tihany.

Adam Tihany is most often associated with the hushed ambiance of restaurants like Per Se and Daniel in New York and the respectfully redone Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles. So what's a nice guy like him doing in Dubai? "You do have a certain expectation that it's a city that puts a premium on wow and bling," says the New York-based designer, whose latest project, the Four Seasons Hotel at Dubai International Financial Centre, opened in April. But the United Arab Emirates city's tastes

are evolving, he adds. "A new breed of developer is starting to move past the need to do the biggest and the best."

At the new Four Seasons, a 106-room business hotel with the feel of a boutique, Tihany has addressed the call for more human-size spaces in today's Dubai. In one sense, he didn't have a choice: "The building was a bit compromised," admits Christopher Norton, the hotel chain's former chief operating officer, who first visited the property when it was a vacant office tower, far from the beach. "Some of the rooms were smaller than what we usually do. Some had views, but others looked into office buildings," he says. "It needed creativity."

The hotel's public spaces are modestly scaled but flow smoothly from one room to the next—"like the progress of a Florentine palazzo," says Tihany. He put the focus on high-quality materials—lacquered wood paneling, zebra-striped Italian onyx, a custom-made brass screen—and domestic touches, such as table lamps and area rugs that define intimate seating areas. The main restaurant is an upscale, glamorous rendition of the all-American diner, with leather banquettes and streamlined lighting. ▷

The rooftop pool. **LEFT, FROM TOP:** Fabrics by Janus et Cie, used in the pool cabanas, and Jim Thompson, for the lounge chair pillows; blue glass mosaic tiles by Bisazza line the pool.

