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NOVEMBER 2019

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Future Proof

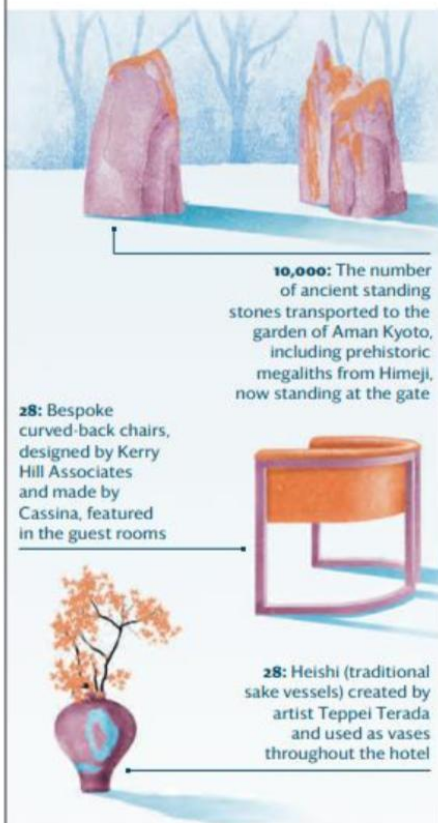
Our design-minded robo squad administer the ultimate taste test



ON THE ROAD Doug Aitken's 23-page journey into Americana
RETAIL REBOOT Saint Laurent's Rive Droite reinvention
WORK FLOW Kinder contract furniture and better-natured offices
OUTER LIMITS Pioneering houses from Patagonia to Pasadena

ARTFUL LODGER

Find pared-back wonder in the woods of Japan, a stargazing bed in the Namib Desert, and room to reflect beside Lake Zurich



10,000: The number of ancient standing stones transported to the garden of Aman Kyoto, including prehistoric megaliths from Himeji, now standing at the gate

28: Bespoke curved-back chairs, designed by Kerry Hill Associates and made by Cassina, featured in the guest rooms



28: Heishi (traditional sake vessels) created by artist Teppi Terada and used as vases throughout the hotel



Secret garden

AMAN KYOTO

The star attraction of Aman's new 24-room boutique property in Kyoto is its spectacular natural setting within a once-forgotten garden, and beyond that a 72-acre backdrop of lush forest. For his final project with the hotel group, the late architect Kerry Hill inserted a series of low-key pavilions over the garden's terraced platforms, which are laced with a tableau of moss-covered paths and fringed by a small stream and a wooded hill. Sticking to the Aman playbook, the interiors of the rooms and public spaces are understated, taking their cues from traditional Japanese architecture and highlighting the work of local artisans, such as the handcrafted *raku* tile panels in the Living Pavilion, home to the hotel restaurant. Order a bamboo picnic hamper to enjoy in the gardens, or indulge in the restaurant's *obanzai* (traditional Kyoto) fare, including a multicourse dining experience.

Lauren Ho

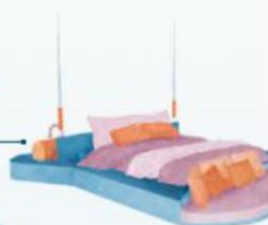
1 Okitayama Washimine-Cho, Kita-ku, Kyoto, tel: 81.3 4577 7920, aman.com/kyoto. Rates: from ¥130,000 (\$1,214)

Shifting sands

SOSSUSVLEI DESERT LODGE, NAMIBIA

Since 1999, nature lovers have descended on Sossusvlei Desert Lodge, a luxury property in the Namib Desert, for its splendid isolation, endless horizons and vast, rippling sand dune-swathed landscape. And now, following an extensive structural overhaul by architecture firm Alexander Walt and an interiors spruce-up by Johannesburg-based Fox Browne Creative, the 11-suite lodge is ready for its close-up. Occupying a series of glass, rock and steel pavilions, the suites each come with their own plunge pool, outdoor rainshower and retractable skylights for in-bed stargazing, while among the public spaces are a newly elevated gym, positioned to take in views of the sunrise, and a spa. Diversions include day trips to the Sossusvlei Dunes, quad-biking excursions, hiking and hot-air balloon rides – all of which should work up your appetite to enjoy the lodge's dining, which features dishes such as Namibian venison grilled on desert rocks. **LH Sossusvlei, Namib-Naukluft Park, Namibia, tel: 27.11 809 4300, andbeyond.com. Rates: from NAD9,265 (£506)**

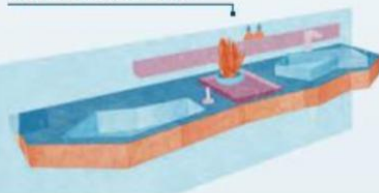
60: Components, including two built-in seats, in the custom-made beds, which were assembled on site



9,000: Clay 'leaves' used to make the 'Clay Pod' light pendants, inspired by the nest of the weaver bird, common in this part of Namibia



400: Weight in kilograms of each hand-cut marble vanity basin in the suites



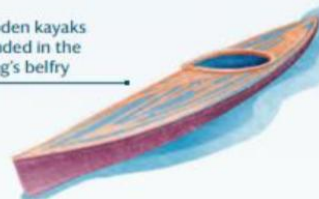
82: Tankards in the hotel's rooftop restaurant, reflecting Philippe Starck's yacht club-themed design



48: Size in sq m of a stained glass work by artist Ara Starck



5: Wooden kayaks suspended in the building's belfry



Making waves

LA RÉSERVE EDEN AU LAC, ZURICH

No one could accuse French hotelier Michel Reybier of taking it easy this year. The hoardings are barely off the recently refurbished La Maison d'Estournel, near Bordeaux, and he is already presiding over the unveiling of La Réserve Eden au Lac in Zurich. Featuring 40 rooms and suites, most with views of Lake Zurich, the latest addition to boutique brand La Réserve is housed in an ornately embellished, century-old pile in the French Empire style on the east bank of the lake, a few blocks from the Opera House and Pavilion Le Corbusier. Behind the façade of Corinthian columns and navy blue and white awnings, the interiors have been reimagined by Philippe Starck and feature mirrored detailing, comfy sofas and customised furnishings, while quirky touches include the insertion of a glass lift in the stone-lined lobby. The hotel's contrast of timelessness and modernity is, as Starck puts it, like 'dancing rock and roll with the Queen of England'. **Daven Wu Utoquai 45, Zurich, tel: 41.44 266 2525, lareserve-zurich.com. Rates: from CHF500 (€457)**