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Gearbox Montreal: pop culture and 90s nostalgia

Patriarche has conceived a unique office space showcasing a robust visual identity and skillfully leveraging diversity and contrast

Gearbox, a leader in the video game industry, has recently opened its newest studio in the heart of the industrial district of Montreal's Old Port. Designed by Patriarche, the space is a sanctuary of innovation, igniting creativity and pushing the boundaries of design. Defined by its elongated, rectangular floor plan, Patriarche

meticulously designed the studio's layout to foster a dynamic atmosphere, while creating distinct reference points dispersed throughout the space. The architectural firm's design strategy involved creating distinct rooms by using contrasting colors to define the various spaces, thereby enabling seamless team orientation and promoting intuitive



Architecture, Interior architecture,
signage, graphic design: Patriarche
Partners: Planifitech
Furnishings: Artopex, Global, Teknion
Lighting: Eureka, Flos, Kartell, Moooi, Sisternalux
Flooring: Interface
Fabrics: Maharam
.....
Author: Teo Sandigliano
Photo credits: Mano Photographe





circulation throughout the studio. The space features 208 open-plan workstations, 11 enclosed offices, 12 meeting rooms, and 11 lounge areas, each meticulously designed to cater to specific needs, promoting collaboration, individual focus, and relaxation. Drawing inspiration from the urban energy of the city and the neighborhood in which it is located, the visual identity of the space infuses pop culture and 90s nostalgia with street art elements and retro colors. The signage, for example, takes cues from the iconic Super Mario Bros video game, featuring retro lettering and a pixelated aesthetic, while the contrasting interior areas have bright, vibrant colors and furnishings. To infuse the project with a touch of originality, each piece of furniture was carefully chosen to

imbue a natural ambiance and provide contrast to the 90s style. Stools reminiscent of tree trunks and a large meeting table with legs crafted from wooden boughs were chosen to introduce organic elements into the space, with these pieces being interspersed with sleek, elegant, and modern furniture elements to provide an additional contrasting effect. To further elevate the space and raise awareness of more contemporary issues, Patriarche also partnered with artist Julien Lebargy, with a reproduction of his work Little Boy Bomb prominently displayed near the office entrances. Patriarche has achieved a remarkable feat in crafting a space which, amidst its diversity, exudes a distinct and compelling identity, resulting in a welcoming yet wholly original environment.



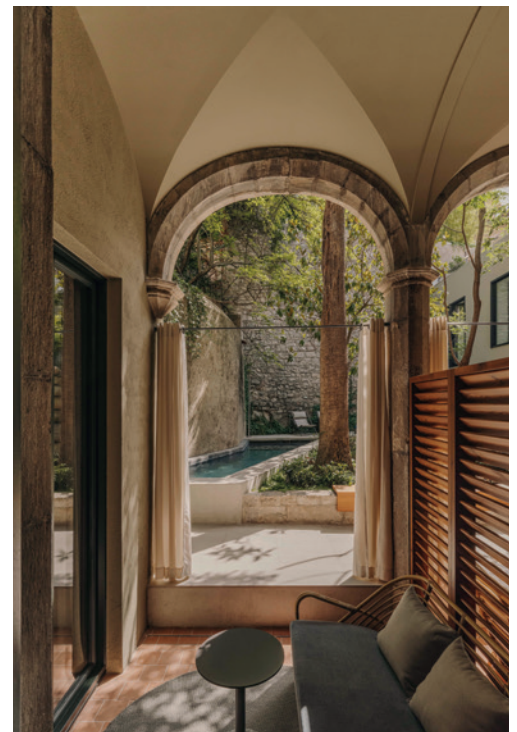




A beguiling history

Palau Fugit, a historic building, has been converted into a delightful boutique hotel and returned to Girona's city life. Interior design by El Equipo Creativo

Set amidst the Gothic arches and alleys of Girona in Catalan, Palau Fugit is in the midst of Barri Vell's historic center. An 18th-century building that had fallen into disuse, now it has become a new destination for travelers and the local community alike, infused with new life. Isern Associats Studio transformed its architecture into a beguiling boutique hotel and El Equipo Creativo oversaw the interior design. The hotel is equipped to tell the stories of the past and present with a restoration project emphasizing Girona's lightness. Though its 18th-century architecture is still dominant, El Equipo Creativo's designers took inspiration from elements like the colors of the townhouses along the





Onyar River and the city's famed spring celebration El Temps de Flors (The Time of Flowers) to give a noble family nest, a warm, eclectic atmosphere. Modern works of art and handcrafted objects heighten the effect of these influences. The studio's founders, Oliver Franz Schmidt, Natali Canas del Pozo, and Lucas Echeveste Lacy, say: "Our goal was to create a sense of high-level but unpretentious luxury. We wanted, of course, to respect the original architecture but also achieve fresh, elegant, and unexpected atmospheres, with some surprising twists. The building is laid out in two sections, welcoming guests to La Placeta, a cozy, secluded inner courtyard that includes a reception area, with a custom-made Yves Klein blue casual reception desk with a floral-themed golden chandelier over it; a restaurant; a cocktail bar, surrounded by the vestiges of the building's old walls; and a small spa for personal use. La Placeta immediately conveys the hotel's spirit, a place to meet and have a chat sitting on the brightly





Client: Marta Granés + Stéphane Rouze

Architecture: Isern Associats

Interior design: El Equipo Creativo

Furnishings: &Tradition, Casamania, Enoki, Ethnicraft, Fern, Frag, Gervasoni, Gubi, Hay, Hoffmann, Honore, Missana, Palmira, Ondarreta, Sancal, Sika Design, SP01, Verges, Viccarbe. Distributor: Idees

Lighting: And Light, Estiluz, Gervasoni, Modular, Roll & Chill, Santa & Cole, Venicem, Vibia. Distributor: Ca2i

Fabrics: Cotlin, Ege, La Madrid, Moooi, Nanimarquina

Artworks: Frederic Amat,

Joana Santamans, Andrea Torres

Author: Manuela Di Mari

Photo credits: Salva Lopez



colored armchairs. It is a balance of history and modernity, formality and casualness in a unique, inviting atmosphere as a home base to experience Girona's abundant history and culture. This is also the starting point of the original staircase leading to the guest rooms, reinvented with sumptuous fin de siècle decor. Curving chaise longues, custom-made rattan headboards, and modern lighting. Strategically placed surfaces and fabrics – velvet curtains to mirrors – are all invitations to relax. A made-to-measure marble sink cabinet is in every room, a monolithic version of the tocador (vanity) of yore. The color palette of natural stone colors and soft blues, grays, and powders create an elegantly contemporary setting breathing new life into original elements like the ceiling rose windows and the carved shutters on the balconies. The hotel is completed by a terrace connecting its two parts with a small pool, abundant ferns, and a poetic sculpture in the center (Font de Gararotes) by renowned local artist Frederic Amat.



