

VISIONS

From the Drawing Board

01-1 Cross section of a room at *The Invisible Hotel*; guests enter directly from the lift.

01-2 In this hotel room, the floor opens to reveal a swimming pool.



01-1



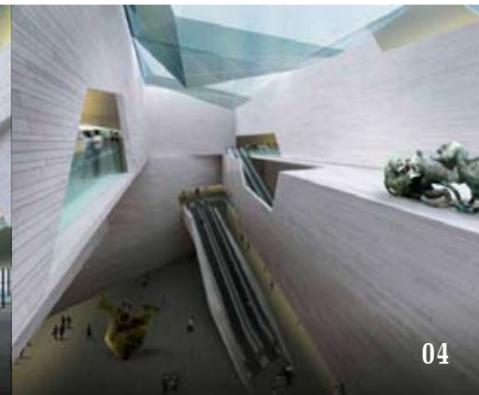
01-2



02



03



04

The Invisible Hotel

Tucked into the vertical crevice of a rock face—in an area marked on no map—the *Invisible Hotel* envisioned by **Nikolas Travasaros** of **Divercity Architects** invites guests into a realm of anonymity.

Words [Dara Lang](#)
 Renderings courtesy of [Divercity Architects](#)

Please explain the concept.

I wanted to design an extraordinary, extremely luxurious hotel featuring illicit activities and illegal transactions that don't occur within the ordinary scope of things. Inspired by Sin City, I focused on creating a magical moment that allows guests to escape their everyday commitments and break away into anonymity and secrecy.

Why did you choose this specific location?

The hotel is on the outskirts of Loutraki, a seaside town in Greece known for its red-light district and its casinos—including one of the largest in Europe—two aspects that are reflected in the illicit nature of the hotel.

How secretive is it? Are the guests 'invisible' too?

Begin by picturing hotel rooms on floors with no corridors—guests enter a lift that takes them straight to their room. They can be as discreet and invisible as they like. Even the lobby has its secrets. It's formed from the craggy landscape and partly hidden behind a web of metal mesh attached to the natural rock face.

What's special about the rooms, in comparison with those in an ordinary hotel?

All 50 hotel rooms face the canal, so guests can enjoy a view of boats on the narrow waterway. What's more, floors in some of the rooms have dual functions. An example is the floor that opens to reveal a private swimming pool right there in the room!

Will the concept be realized one day?

Possibly. If we do build the hotel, it will be completed in 2011.

www.divercityarchitects.com

03 Vauxhall Sky Gardens

Who [Amin Taha Architects](#)
www.amintaha.co.uk
 Photos by [Nick Guttridge](#),
 renderings [Amin Taha Architects](#)
 What Residential units and office space, including nearly 2325 m2 of communal gardens earmarked for both recreation and food production
 When 2015
 Where London, England

04 Yunnan Museum

Who [Davis Brody](#)
www.davisbrody.com
 Rendering [Oceanpic](#)
 What Cultural museum (sited in a natural landscape) that speaks of past and future in the voices of Yunnan
 Competition entry
 Where Kunming, China

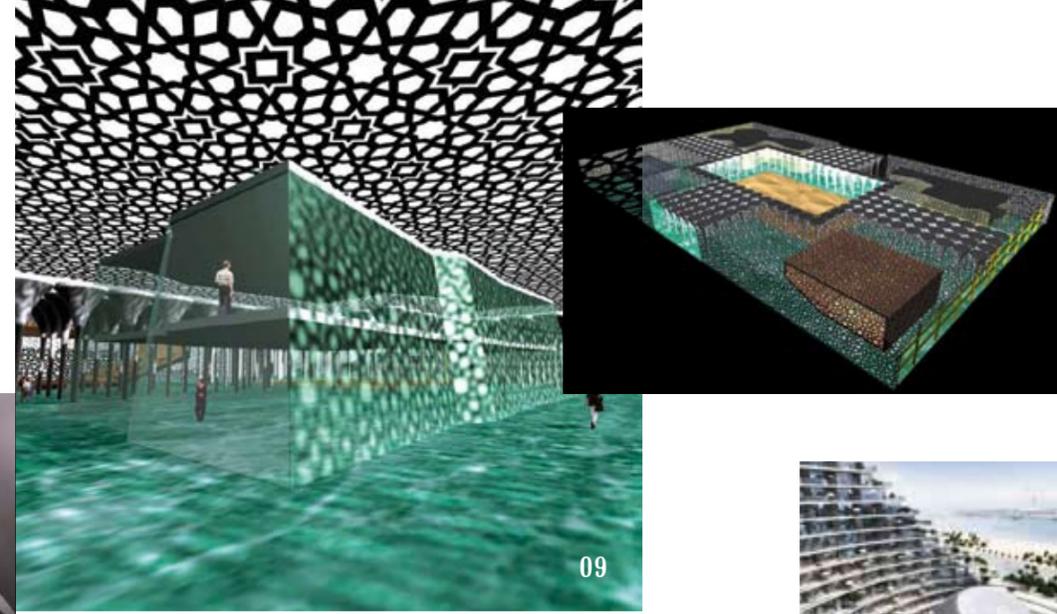
02 A Day Dream

Who [Assistant](#)
www.withassistant.net
 Renderings [Assistant](#)
 What Temporary pavilion created to convey the image of modern women in Japan through architecture, fashion, art and philosophy
 Competition entry
 When April 2009
 Where Tokyo, Japan

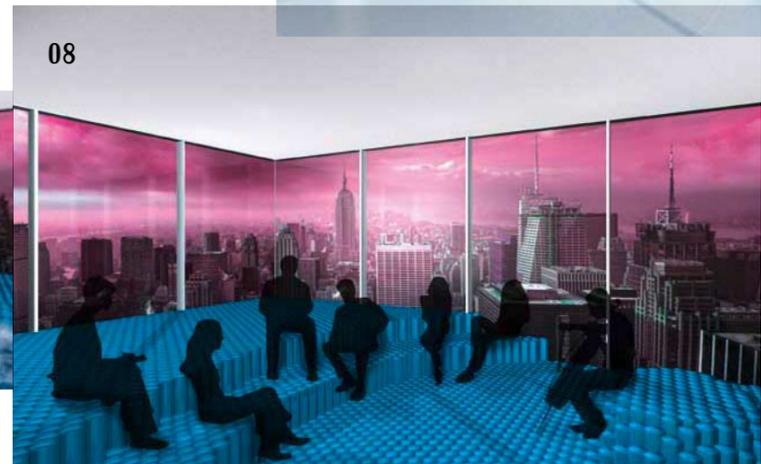
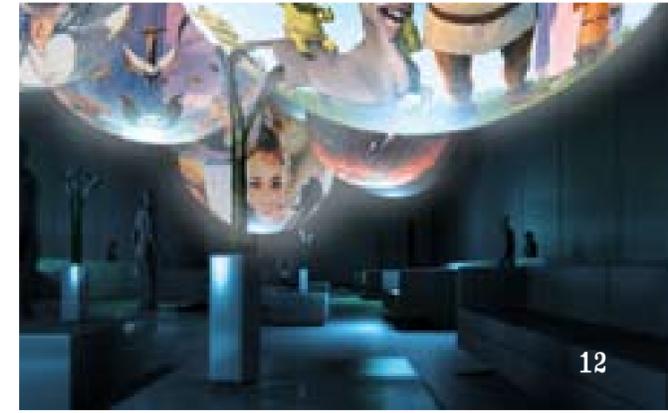
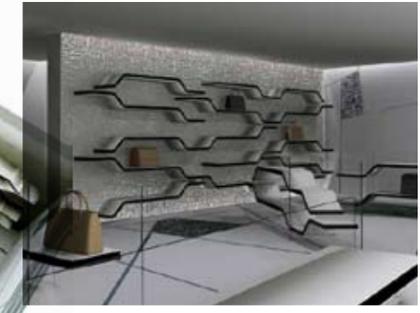
05 **GINA**
 Who Students Justin Chen, Ignacio Gonzalez Galan and Megan Panzano
 www.rmjm.com
 What Harvard Students Design Housing research project, which explores housing concepts based on the new 'elastic skin' technology GINA developed by BMW's Munich design studio
 Where London, England

07 **Alpine Capsule**
 Who Lovegrove Studio
 www.rosslovegrove.com
 What Self-sufficient living unit made from acrylic resin with a reflective coating; the residence provides a spectacular 360° view of the Italian Alps
 When 2010
 Where Alta Badia, Italy

08 **Pin Up Pin Down**
 Who Carlorattiassociati—Walter Nicolino & Carlo Ratti
 www.carloratti.com
 What Mobile floor that can be personalized to suit individual needs, thanks to a system of digitally controlled linear actuators
 When November 2009
 Where Milan, Italy



06 **Aerotel**
 Who Alexander Asadov
 www.asadov.ru
 What Space-age aquatic structure resting on a three-pronged base and featuring cafés, restaurants and a winter garden
 When Completion date undisclosed
 Where Anywhere in the world



09 **Arab Cultural Center**
 Who Monolab
 www.monolab.nl
 What Islamic-Arab cultural complex geared to America's pre-eminent grid city; included are a theatre, exhibition spaces, a library, classrooms, and research and catering facilities
 When Completion date undisclosed
 Where Washington, DC, USA

10 **Oyster Hotel**
 Who Hadi Teheran
 www.haditeherani.de
 What A symbol of the new and modern Abu Dhabi, offering views of the sea, the Deira Corniche waterfront promenade and the evolving metropolitan skyline
 When 2012
 Where Abu Dhabi

11 **Mandarina Duck**
 Who Pierluigi Piu
 www.pierluigipiu.it
 Renderings Arch. Antonio Cuccu
 What Shop and brand-renewal concept based on 'The dream of travelling evoked with lightness and transparency'
 When Completion date undisclosed
 Where Mandarina Duck stores worldwide

12 **Paramount World**
 Who Tino Schaedler
 www.tinoschaedler.com
 What A cloudy sky of projections on fabric-clad spheres suspended from the ceiling created for Paramount Picture's upcoming film premieres in Munich
 When April 2009
 Where Munich, Germany