

# BOUTIQUE design

## THE GOLD KEY ISSUE

WINNERS AND FINALISTS · THE BEST OF BDNV

WINTER  
2023/2024

HOSPITALITY REINVENTED



## FLYING HIGH

THE 2023 DESIGNER OF THE YEAR  
EMBRACES AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

*Megan Kennedy and Rob Blood, Elder & Ash*

**WINNER**

THE ST. REGIS KANAI RESORT,  
RIVIERA MAYA  
MEXICO

**The Highlights:** Suspended above a mangrove forest on the Sian Ka'an reserve—a UNESCO World Heritage site—with the different elements of the hotel connected by elevated walkways, resort guests are transported into the magic of Kanai with a multistory, open-air water installation leading into the main lobby. Floor-to-ceiling panoramic views of the mangroves give way to lush gardens and an expansive outdoor lawn. Drawing inspiration from ancient Mayan artistic and ceremonial manifestations, the sophisticated aesthetic features a rich palette of limestone, walnut, and layered textiles. Contemporary interiors are accented with bespoke elements, including custom furniture and artwork from local artisans, while the Mayan calendar is recreated through textiles with elements inspired by ceremonial garments.

**SOURCES:**

**DESIGN FIRM:** CHAPI CHAPO DESIGN, TORONTO  
**ARCHITECTURE FIRM:** EDMONDS INTERNATIONAL, MEXICO  
**CITY CLIENT AND PURCHASING:** GRUPO ALHEL **PHOTO:** RAFAEL LÜHRS



*“Our design narrative was a love letter to the ancient Maya civilization, inspired by their contributions of agriculture, pottery, hieroglyph writing, and their amazingly accurate timekeeping.” –Tatiana Sheveleva, Partner, Chapi Chapo Design*

**FINALIST**

KONA VILLAGE  
A ROSEWOOD RESORT  
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII



**The Highlights:** A reimagining of the resort that was destroyed by the tsunami in 2011, the design narrative rests on the various elements of the land and Hawaiian culture. A series of open-air buildings include the arrival, multiple restaurants and bars, a spa, and 150 suites and haies (meaning “home” in Hawaiian). All spaces flow into the landscape via finely crushed coral pathways that weave through the lush foliage down to the sands of Kahuwai Bay. Given its historical and cultural impact, designers partnered with the property’s cultural committee to work with native and local Hawaiians on a diverse art package that highlights Hawaiian creativity and artistry.

**SOURCES:**

**DESIGN FIRM:** NICOLEHOLLIS, SAN FRANCISCO  
**ARCHITECTURE FIRM:** WALKER WARNER ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO; AND DELAWIE, SAN DIEGO (ARCHITECT OF RECORD)  
**PURCHASING:** SUMMA INTERNATIONAL **CLIENT:** KENNEDY WILSON  
**PHOTO:** DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN

**FINALIST**

WILDFLOWER FARMS,  
AUBERGE RESORTS  
COLLECTION  
GARDINER, NEW YORK

**SOURCES:**

**DESIGN FIRM:** WARD AND GRAY, NEW YORK  
**ARCHITECTURE FIRM:** ELECTRIC BOWERY, VENICE, CALIFORNIA **PURCHASING:** WAIVADA CONSULTING **CLIENT:** AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION **PHOTO:** READ MCKENDREE

**The Highlights:** Located on a fallow tree nursery, the property’s light-filled architectural elements reflect the natural beauty around it. With a modern take on the vernacular farmhouse and barn typologies, buildings frame the surrounding mountains, while interiors, designed to make guests feel as if they have wandered into a friend’s country home, mix mismatched prints and textures with elements that play with scale and color for a collected-over-time vibe.

