

SUNDAY. 16/7/2023

Monocle Weekend

Edition: Sunday

Time to explore

Ready to roll? We start by welcoming an **exciting new voice to Monocle Radio** before settling in at beautiful **new Palazzo Luce in Puglia**. We also visit a revamped classic for **seafood in Stockholm** and rustle up a zingy **starter of grilled summer vegetables and whipped feta**. Plus: meet the **entrepreneur who went to Austria** and stayed to start a hotel. But first, Tyler Brûlé starts us off with a **clean sweep of city spaces**.

WEEKEND PLANS? / PALAZZO LUCE, LECCE

Out of the past

“I wasn’t looking to buy a palazzo,” says Anna Maria Enselmi, founder of Palazzo Luce in the city of Lecce in Puglia (*writes Laura Rysman*). “Someone brought me to see this place and I fell in love.” Enselmi decided to transform this 14th-century palace of an aristocratic family into a hotel and a space to house her collection of art and design. Alongside Nina Yashar, the design-world taste-maker behind Milan’s Nilufar Gallery, Enselmi enlisted the help of gallerists Lia Rumma and Rossella Colombari, and a network of Italian talents including Storage Milano, Giuliano Andrea Dell’Uva Architetti and Martino Gamper to decorate the space. Gamper contributed various custom pieces and worked on the hotel’s bar, finished with fragments of green and white linoleum. Guests will spot furnishings from Carlo Mollino, Franco Albini, Luigi Caccia Dominioni, Osvaldo Borsani and Ettore Sottsass, as well as photos by Marina Abramovic and Vanessa Beecroft. There’s also a vast rug by Joseph Kosuth covering the music room.



Image: James Mollison



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Enselmi's love of all things Gio Ponti is evident in the hotel's headboards, shelves, yellow floor tiles, Superleggera chairs and pink-and-green porcelain toilets with matching bathroom fixtures. Eyeing a lacquered wooden table by Ponti, she says, "I hope that no one ever puts a hot cup on here. But I think guests will respect the specialness of the place."

Her concern is understandable. Palazzo Luce is not like other hotels that are made to withstand the wear and tear of strangers. It's a temple to Enselmi's passions that she entrusts, rather than rents, to visitors. Enselmi, who is of Pugliese descent and lives in Milan, explains that it was her "philosophy to maintain as much of what remained here as possible": fishbone cotto floors, majolica tiles, carved wooden doors painted with dainty flowers and other remnants of the building's 700 years of life. "I wanted a space for contemporary art and design but with a soul and a past – a place specific to Puglia that could never exist in New York or London." What better place to rest for the night?

palazzolucelecce.com

For our full Puglia roadtrip, pick up a copy of our July/August issue of Monocle.