

THE MET HOTEL BY ZEGE ARCHITECTS

Where **Thessaloniki, Greece**
Opening **March 2010**
Client **Chandris Hotels & Resorts**
Designer **Zege Architects** → p.090
Floor space **15,000 m²**
Capacity **212 rooms**

A new urban landmark
for art lovers.

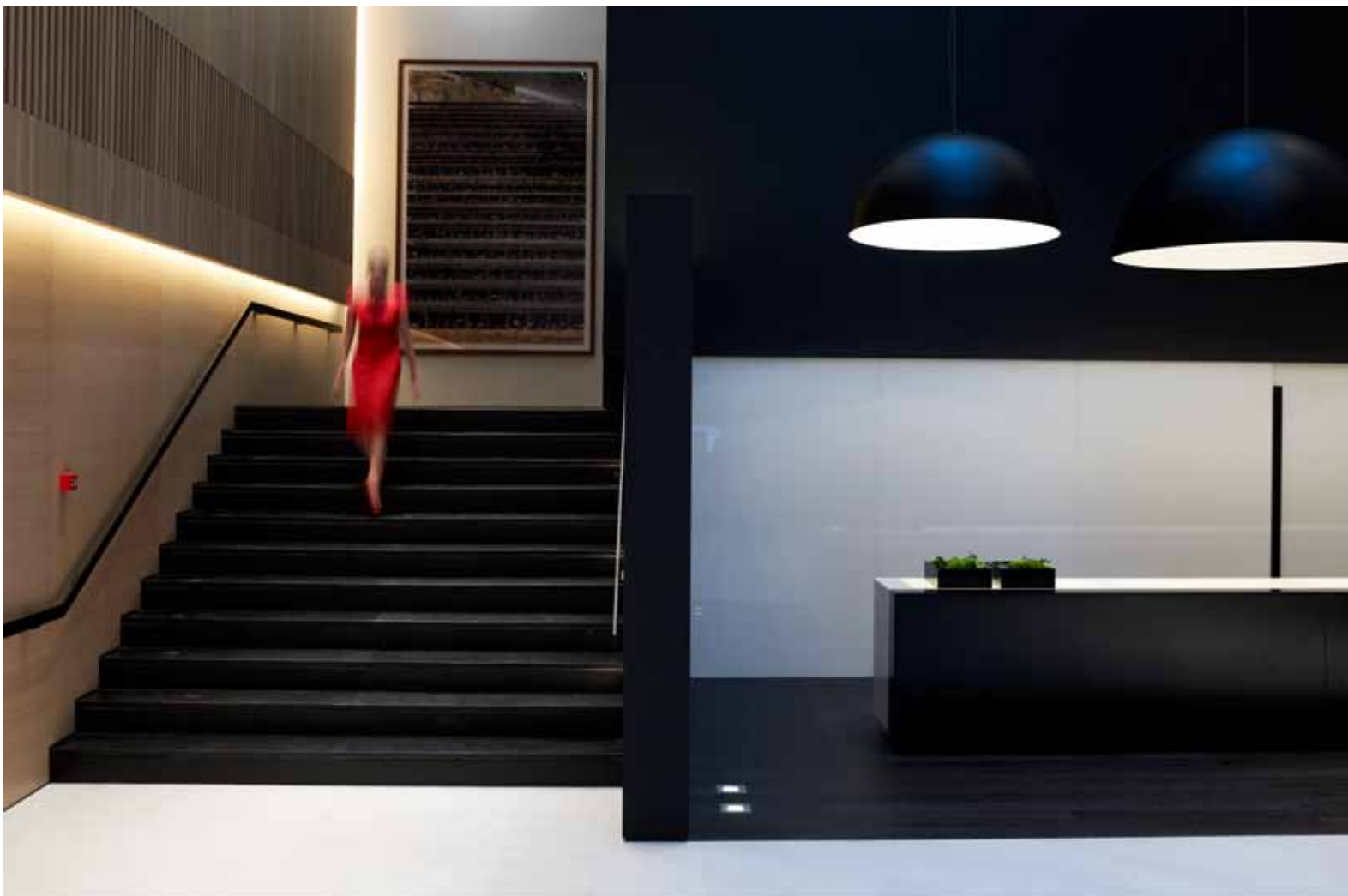
Photos **Vangelis Paterakis**

Guests can spot works of art
throughout the hotel, including the
Flying Car UFO by Austrian artist
Erwin Wurm.



Opposite top Sivec white marble tiles
create a high-gloss walkway underfoot.

Opposite botom A touch of golden
glamour is given to the wall behind
the bar in this angled, monochromatic
interior.



Opposite top Oak, walnut linings, black marble and glass are all used in the lobby décor.

Opposite bottom A muted grey colour palette is interspersed by splashes of rich purple.



The bedrooms are cosy havens for the guests.

THE SEA AND THE DOCKS LEND THE BUILDING ITS SPECIAL FORM



The Met Hotel is a five-star hotel designed entirely by Zege Architects for the Chandris Group and located in the port of Thessaloniki, Greece's second-largest city. The hotel has become a new urban landmark, attracting people to an industrial area that in the past was hardly ever visited by the public at large. It is contributing to the redevelopment of the port, setting an example of how to breathe new life into such environments.

The building is in a dialogue with its context: the sea and the docks lend it its special form. The wavy surfaces of its façades - made of black and white marble - challenge the standard hotel typology, and the zigzag lines of the bar, the reception desk and the restaurant create a sense of movement that prevails over the straightness of the enveloping spaces. Big windows and transparent bathroom walls in the rooms make the view of the port an integral part of the design and the visitors' experience.

The hotel's interior has a kind of futuristic atmosphere, with a darkly muted palette of greys and blacks, which turns cosy and warm with its contrasts of white and other pops of colour. In the corridors leading to the bedrooms, guests experience volume and warmth through the structural wood panel forms. Inside the bedrooms there is the presence of wood, lacquer and glass. These finishes are combined with smooth fabrics to create a luxurious but approachable space.

With the use of large surfaces of wood, marble and glass, the designers created an environment of clean aesthetics and discrete contrasts that allows visitors to quickly decipher the logic of the space and its uses. But as they move through the hotel, surprises await them: comfortable lounges, cosy fireplaces, quiet reading corners and exits to the inner courtyard, with its distinct clean lines and Mediterranean plants. Gold-leaf wallpaper behind the

bar, wooden walls in the restaurant and a deep black reception desk make these areas recognizable and add to the visitors' sense of direction. Works of art by artists such as Bill Viola and Erwin Wurm from the private collection of the Chandris family enhance the gallery-like atmosphere of The Met Hotel and make it a major attraction for art lovers. ●



Guests can reflect on the neighbourhood's industrial past as they take a dip in the infinity-edge pool.



Opposite A relaxing vibe is imbued in the spa area.

WORKS OF ART BY ARTISTS SUCH AS ERWIN WURM MAKE THE HOTEL A MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR ART LOVERS

Contemporary furnishing and glass dividing walls are essential aspects of all the guest rooms.

