

REAL PILOTS USE DIALS: WE REPORT ON AN INTREPID ANALOGUE APPROACH TO AFRICAN AVIATION

# MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

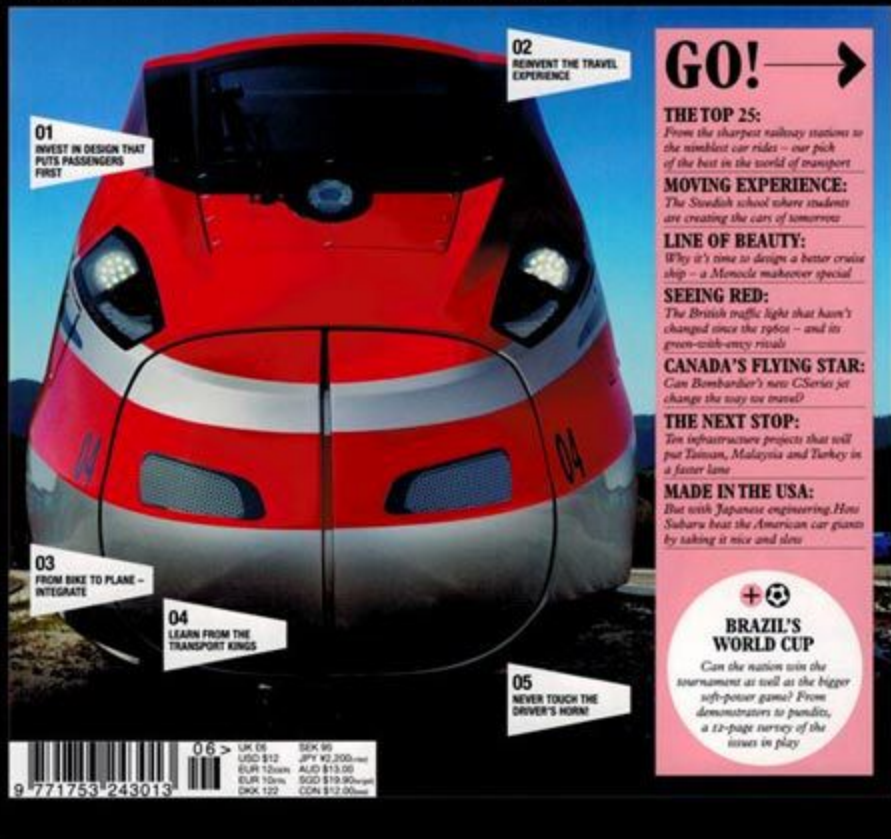
TRANSPORT  
SURVEY

## Strap in, sit back & settle in: getting the world back on track

The rising design stars and the new transport hot spots that are charting a course for a new world of mobility – a MONOCLE SPECIAL

issue 74 . volume 08  
JUNE 2014

- A** AFFAIRS Growth potential: why China has the munchies for Aussie farms
- B** BUSINESS How Vancouver triggered its 'made in' revival
- C** CULTURE Mile-high cinema club: the very best of in-flight entertainment
- D** DESIGN The French media brand redesigning your city
- E** EDITS A bed in a bank, a pad in Palma and it's chicken or beef for Pam Ann's Last Meal



**01** INVEST IN DESIGN THAT PUTS PASSENGERS FIRST

**02** REINVENT THE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

**03** FROM BIKE TO PLANE - INTEGRATE

**04** LEARN FROM THE TRANSPORT KINGS

**05** NEVER TOUCH THE DRIVER'S HORN!

**GO!** →

**THE TOP 25:**  
*From the sharpest railway stations to the nimblest car rides – our pick of the best in the world of transport*

**MOVING EXPERIENCE:**  
*The Swedish school where students are creating the cars of tomorrow*

**LINE OF BEAUTY:**  
*Why it's time to design a better cruise ship – a Monocle makeover special*

**SEEING RED:**  
*The British traffic light that hasn't changed since the 1960s – and its green-with-envy rivals*

**CANADA'S FLYING STAR:**  
*Can Bombardier's new CSeries jet change the way we travel?*

**THE NEXT STOP:**  
*Ten infrastructure projects that will put Taiwan, Malaysia and Turkey in a faster lane*

**MADE IN THE USA:**  
*But with Japanese engineering. How Subaru beat the American car giant by taking it nice and slow*

**BRAZIL'S WORLD CUP**  
*Can the nation win the tournament as well as the bigger soft-power game? From demonstrators to pundits, a 12-page survey of the issues in play*

06 ▶ UK £6      SEK 90  
USD \$12    JPY ¥2,200 (est)  
EUR 10 (est)    AUD \$13.95  
EUR 10 (est)    SGD \$19.90 (est)  
DKK 127      CNY ¥123.00 (est)

9 771753 243013

## Vaulting ambition Istanbul

### Preface

Layers of history have been peeled back to turn a bank into a haven in the heart of the city.

### Writer

Sophie Grove

### Photographers

Serra Akcan, Tolga Sezgin

Istanbul's Bankalar Caddesi was once the centre of the Ottoman Empire's financial world. This grand street, not far from the Golden Horn, was host to the Sultan's stock exchange and Ottoman central bank. In the late 1960s, Henri Cartier-Bresson photographed besuited clerks on their way to work on the imposing Camondo steps, a local landmark bequeathed by a Venetian-Jewish financier.

When the area fell from favour this well-heeled crowd migrated to the towers of Maslak and Levent and the street lost its lustre. But Istanbul – and particularly this corner of it – is a city in transition. The street's venerable architecture and enviable location, near a clustering of modern galleries and the old city's Unesco-protected sites, has made it a desirable spot for hospitality entrepreneurs bold enough to take on restoration projects here.

The most recent transformation can be found at number 5 Bankalar Caddesi, a building that has housed a succession of banks: Credit General Ottoman, Deutsche Bank and one of the cornerstones of Atatürk's economic revolution, Sumerbank. This palatial corner site and its adjacent building, the Cemaat Han, had languished empty for years when Yilmaz Ulusoy Holding, a Turkish investment group, bought it in 2010. Since then the consortium has teamed up with Istanbul boutique hoteliers House Hotel to create an elegant new property. "I first came here in 2010 when this building was empty," says the group's vice-president Mehmet Ulusoy over an espresso in the hotel's restaurant. "But we could see the potential. We just got this feeling. There are layers of history here. When my father first saw it he said, 'We're going to create a masterpiece in Istanbul.'"



01



02



03

### Conversion rate

The architects' story  
Transforming an Ottoman Bank into a modern hotel presented a huge challenge to the architects. Where to put the spa, kitchen and conference facilities, for example? Mimarlar architects used advanced construction techniques to dig out three floors under the bank's vault to create the service areas of the hotel. They also made room for a new guest lift next to the main staircase as well as the necessary fire exits. The only extension to the structure is the penthouse floor, where a sublime view of the Bosphorus can be enjoyed from a giant bathtub. "The floor plans were meant for office use," says Han Tumertekin who has twice won Turkey's National Architecture award. "On each floor the main structural walls divided rooms." A small part of the renovated Cemaat Han will remain offices and Monodie's new Istanbul bureau has found a home here in a mezzanine space with separate street access.



04



05



06



07



08



09



10



11



12



13



14

Vault hotel exterior  
Penthouse suite  
Entrance of Vault hotel  
Waiting staff  
Meeting room  
Lobby  
Executive-suite bathroom  
View from the penthouse  
Sinan Kafadar and Asi Cakir of Metek Design  
Lobby telephone  
Zeynep Berik, curator  
Eit Chocolate confection  
Restaurant  
Staff member in the spa  
Time for an espresso  
Lokum: Istanbul products



15



16

Since then the group has spent €27.5m restoring and adapting the site. It's been a painstaking project helmed by the Turkish architect Han Tumertekin with interiors by another local well versed in the restoration of old buildings, Sinan Kafadar.

Like the hotel's name, Vault Karakoy, Tumertekin and Kafadar have paid homage to the building's first function in their design. The bank's painted ceilings and ornate floor tiles have been replaced with copies using local artists and ceramic specialists and they have used one of Sumerbank's vast safes to construct a cocktail bar in the lobby: a semi-circular sheath of locally made glass forms a bar that wraps around the open safe, adapted to store bottles and cocktail shakers. The interior brings out the grandeur of the original structure with modern accents, from the Irish green marble and porcelain roll-top baths to the wool upholstery of Turkish-made armchairs. The cage lift is fully restored, there's a grand piano in the lobby and a library of fine-art books to peruse in front of a large fireplace.

Vault isn't just about the area's cosmopolitan history. Zeynep Berik, of Turkish art magazine *Ice*, is the hotel's curator and a conduit to the artistic communities of nearby Karakoy and South Galata. She has worked with Istanbul's ascendant artists to create original works for the restaurant and lobby.

Berik intends to use her ties with various festivals to host events alongside the city's arts calendar, as well as throwing an esoteric party now and then. One pre-opening soirée was a *Diner Noire* curated by French artists Charles Arsene-Henry, Tristan Bera and Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, and attended by octogenarian dominatrix Catherine Robbe-Grillet.

This hotel is designed to be a place of contrasts. It's no museum: the piano is meant to be played and the elegant interior will host the city's contemporary culture – financiers and artists both. — (M)

[thehousehotel.com](http://thehousehotel.com)