

# INTERNI

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 **MONDADORI**



*Interni. Da 60 anni racconta IL FUTURO DEL DESIGN.  
Interni. 60 Years DOCUMENTING THE FUTURE OF DESIGN.*

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"I'm still fascinated by objects or spaces that can be functional and magical at the same time". This one sentence summarises Mathieu Lehanneur's philosophy. Lehanneur is a French designer based in Paris and the creator of a series of eclectic projects that are often surprising and striking. His latest work was made for Pullman Hotels, the international hospitality brand of the French Accor group, with a network of 80 hotels, mostly for business travelers, which just opened this London facility between the Euston and King's Cross stations, close to the Eurostar terminal of St. Pancras. The hotel offers a bar, a restaurant, a fitness room, a space for events and a theater with 446 seats, as well as a meeting room on the 15th floor with a breathtaking view of the towers of the City and of London, to the southeast. Pullman asked Mathieu Lehanneur to work on the "Business Playground" room, as the official press release calls it. The name already communicates the idea that this is not a convention place for meetings. For this first version (the second will be in Paris), Lehanneur has interpreted the hotel chain's motto "Work Hard, Play Hard" in a rather ironic way, designing a meeting table in fiberglass and DuPont Corian® with borders in beige leather, clearly based on the design of poker tables in gambling establishments. The businessmen at the meetings will sit comfortably on the Softshell military green upholstered chairs by the Bouroullec brothers for Vitra, and they can lean forward to rest their arms on the soft border of the table: all to encourage a 'game of ideas' involving the same kind of concentration as an engaging game of cards. The stationery is stored inside the custom Tool Boxes, while on the wall the lacquered Curiosity Boxes with mirrors inside contain objects and books that reflect the cosmopolitan spirit of the brand, encouraging guests to share in it. For breaks between sessions, Lehanneur has also created an informal lounge known as Canopy Break, with Lounger seating in beige fabric, and small ceramic tables. As usual, Mathieu mixes design and technology with a bit of fable to offer a surprising sensory experience: from the dodecagonal central table covered in beige leather, stitched with a geometric design, a projection rises upward of a metaphorical forest. The sensation is that of being inside a bubble, and Lehanneur says it is like "being somewhere else, outside, under the trees." Considering the fact that we are about 50 meters above the traffic of London, the spell is easily cast. (Massimo De Conti)



*In the center of LONDON, a NEW HOTEL HOSTS the latest project by MATHIEU LEHANNEUR, who introduces details between play and fantasy in the serious world of business of the English capital*

## STARTING HAND



VIEWS OF THE BUSINESS PLAYGROUND ROOM DESIGNED BY MATHIEU LEHANNEUR FOR PULLMAN ST PANCRAS, THE FIRST NEW CONCEPT HOTEL OF THE ACCOR CHAIN. ABOVE, THE INFORMAL RELAXATION AREA WITH THE LOUNGER SEATING BY JAIME HAYON FOR **BD BARCELONA DESIGN**, IN BEIGE FABRIC, AND SMALL CERAMIC TABLES. FROM THE DODECAGONAL CENTRAL TABLE COVERED IN BEIGE LEATHER WITH GEOMETRIC STITCHING, A PROJECTION RISES UPWARD OF A METAPHORICAL FOREST. TO THE SIDE, THE MEETING TABLE IN FIBERGLASS AND **DUPONT CORIAN®** FLANKED BY **SOFTSHELL** CHAIRS BY THE **BOUROULLEC BROTHERS** FOR **VITRA**.