



Porto Fira Suites
Santorini

“Design can be a couple of stones from the sea”

An Interview
with Interior Designer Stamos Hondrodimos
Owner & Head of Design at Interior Design Laboratorium

Mr. Hondrodimos, tell us a few things about your office.

Interior Design Laboratorium was created in 2009 as a creative office for interior design and furniture design. The office is based in Athens, and comprises accomplished professionals from various

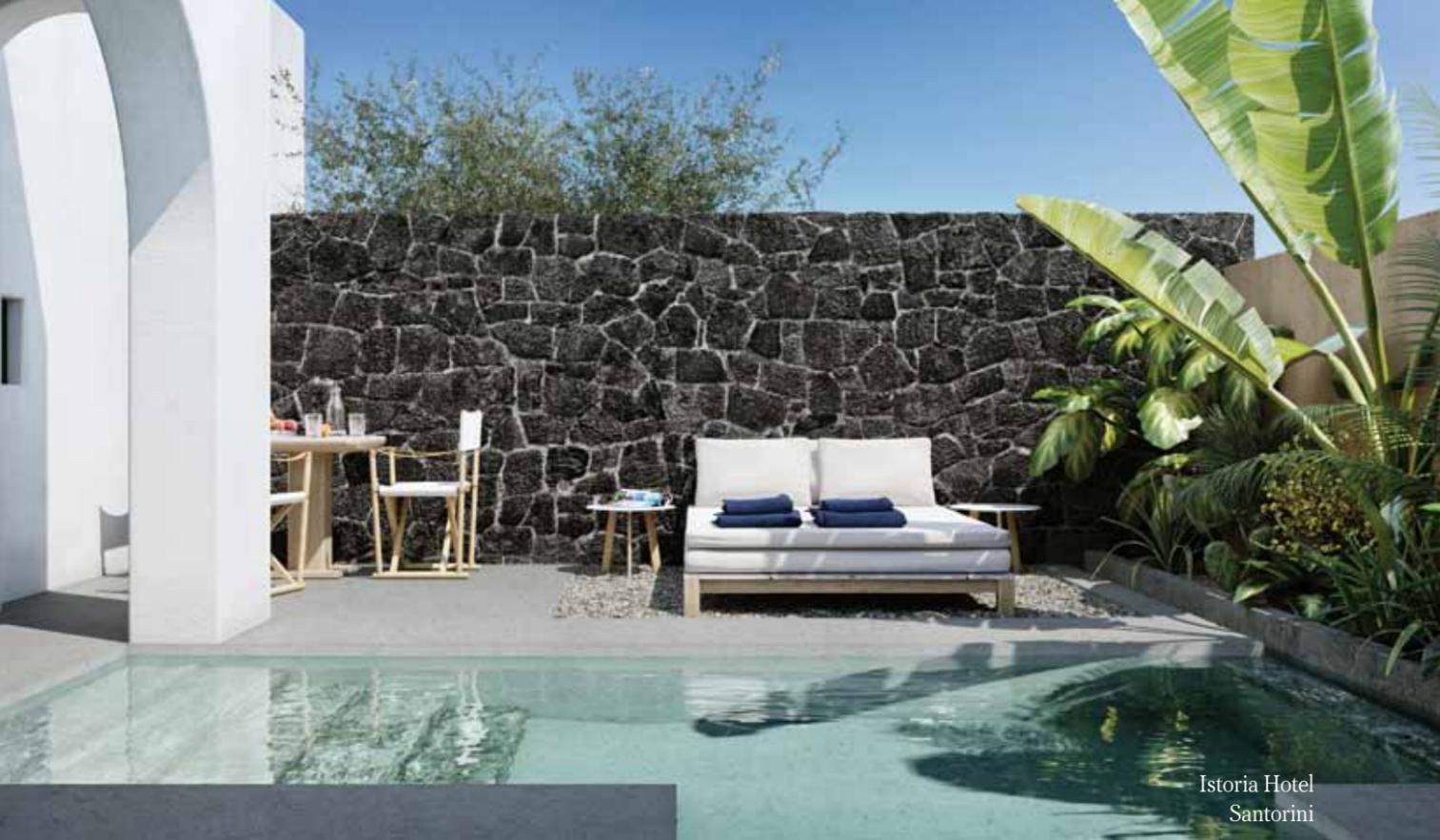
fields, including architects, interior designers, lighting designers and graphic designers.

Most of the projects involve the comprehensive design of unique hotels, private and commercial projects in locations with a distinct geographical and historical char-

acter, both inside and outside Greece. Authentic design, studied simplicity that does not coincide with mannerism, emphasis on detail and a particular relationship that the team develops with each project, are a common denominator in all our works.



Honeymoon Petra Villas
Santorini



Istoría Hotel
Santorini

Are you known for a particular style?

The concept of a “particular style” is something which every professional in our field should dismiss early on. “Styles” and “mannerisms” are shackles that limit creativity. Interior design is a service that shapes images and spaces which—in my opinion— should have their own identity. The location and the environment, combined with the users and the functions of each space, create a singular narrative which forms the basis on which we determine and develop our unique concept for each project.

Are there times when you wonder if your work will manage to stand out the next time round?

I’m not consumed by such worries. I know very well, like all professionals in our field, that, for a project to stand out, it requires hard work. The responsibility and the enthusiasm

with which we address our projects are equally important elements, in order to ensure a unique result.

Is interior design a luxury?

Absolutely not. Design can be a couple of stones from the sea. We need interior design to improve the images we see around us. We are the ones who choose how far we want to take it.

For example, when dealing with commercial projects such as hotels, interior design plays a leading role—if the entrepreneur wants to be competitive. When dealing with private projects, on the other hand, interior design is purely related to the owner’s personality, as well as his personal desires and needs.

Are the projects you design related to the energy of a space?

The energy to which you refer is the first element we seek on our first visit to the site. It is usually

also affected by its surroundings, i.e. the particular area where the property is located. Most of the projects we undertake are situated in unique locations and this happens because the energy of each place—what the user sees— combined with the space we will be creating, stimulates our team’s imagination and creativity.

What is your job’s strongest asset and what might deter you from undertaking a project?

Our asset is our professionalism. Our team’s true asset, however, is that we are in love with interior design. I think it’s remarkable and rare in our days for people to do what they love and for this I feel very lucky. The strongest reason for not undertaking a project is when someone who has contacted us does not respect our work. Mutual respect and trust are always necessary.



Lena Mare Boutique Hotel
Corfu

Which trends in contemporary interior design do you find the most interesting?

In recent years, there has been a strong trend in interior design towards "honesty", both in terms of forms and materials. The return to a material's natural form is all around us now. This creates wonderful images, as all the elements of a space seem more real, they undergo less processing and the result is definitely closer to nature.

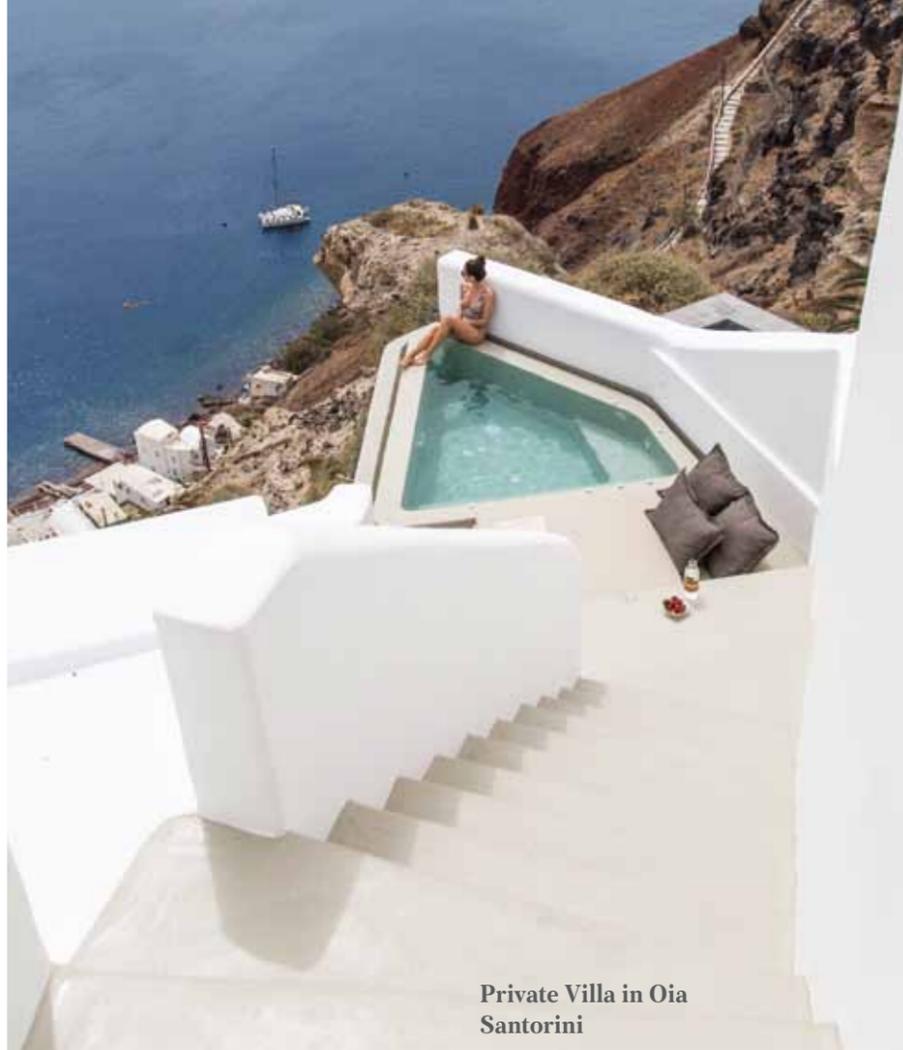
From the very start, our office philosophy has been based on studied simplicity and this is the approach it serves. The directness and honesty of a space is what touches the users and allows them to attune to it.

Do you believe Greek interior designers can upgrade our country's hotel sector?

In recent years, Greek designers have created great projects in Greece and abroad, rendering our country's image more beautiful and competitive on a global scale. I believe a Greek designer or architect, if given the proper tools, can create significant projects with a Greek identity. At the moment, large hotel companies have been developing in Greece, with tourism and its services reaching very high standards, and this has all been the result of numerous factors. One of the most important factors, however, is architecture and interior design.

Tell us about your future plans.

As an office, we want to continue creating interesting and varying projects and complete them in harmony with our clients. It is very important to build substantive relationships with each client and address each project with equal seriousness.



Private Villa in Oia Santorini



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Residence in Athens