



THE MYCONIAN K HOTELS
A NEW TWIST ON LUXURY
BY GM ARCHITECTS

MYKONOS, GREECE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS CONTACTS

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GM Architects is pleased to announce the stylish and unique re-design of the Myconian K-Hotels after six months of extensive renovations and interior refurbishment.

The trio of luxury top-end establishments belong to the Myconian Collection, a family-owned group of leading resorts that are located on the beautiful Greek island of Mykonos. The three K-Hotels consist of the five-star 'Kyma', the magnificent 'Naia' as well as the Relais & Chateaux endorsed 'Korali'. Renowned for their impeccable service and exceptional location these luxurious hotels are all situated on the edge of Mykonos town, overlooking the iconic Alefkandra windmills.

"I am a great believer in the power of architecture to positively impact upon our ability to get the most out of life..."
Galal Mahmoud, founder of GM Architects

In June 2016, the architecture and design firm GM Architects that has offices in Beirut and Abu Dhabi, completed the renovation and refurbishment of the high-end luxury boutique destinations, giving each one its own individual character. Working closely with the Daktilydes family - the owners of the Myconian Collection, the brief consisted of constructing the brand-new Naia establishment as well as dramatically transforming the existing Kyma and Korali hotels.



Courtesy GM Architects



Courtesy GM Architects

The project included a major re-design of all the interiors as well as a restructuring of the guest bedrooms extending them by three meters to allow for larger, airier spaces to echo the expansive landscape. Communal areas such as the outdoor pool of the Korali hotel were renovated in order to cater for the construction of the Naia hotel.

Adopting a contemporary and fresh approach to the Greek Mediterranean, Galal Mahmoud drew inspiration from Mycenaean and Cycladic culture to help him come up with a new concept for the location’s overarching architectural vision. Combining old and new to create timeless elegance, escapism and spaces to connect to the beautiful natural surroundings, the K Hotels are highly unique with each destination embodying a different theme.

“I design my architectural spaces, both interiors and exteriors, to be experienced as pathways to well-being, at one with their surrounding environment and the natural world.”

Galal Mahmoud

The Naia seduces with rustic stonewalls, four-poster beds, panoramic verandas and private pools that blend seamlessly with the ocean’s horizon line. Generous proportions and handsome design carefully considered to the finest detail come together to create unparalleled comfort and atmosphere.



Courtesy GM Architects



Courtesy GM Architects



Courtesy GM Architects



Courtesy GM Architects

Equally stunning, the Kyma is an all white two-story hotel with ample spaces and scenic balconies with spectacular views overlooking the arid landscape. The spirit of Mykonos is present in every shape, every contour and even the very fabric of the hotel. A place of open spaces and clean lines, Galal Mahmoud has remained true to classic ideals of beauty: shades of royal blue that contrast with the purity of white.

Meanwhile a more contemporary and fresh aesthetic was adopted for the Korali where urban-inspired furniture and colourful fabrics fuse together to create a more vibrant “art de vivre” approach. Some of the items were custom-designed and produced by famous local manufacturers such as Artemide who created the “Achineo” (sea urchin in Greek) bedside lamps, specifically designed for the interior setting of the hotels. Others were directly sourced from well-known design brands giving all the three locations a signature and personalized feel.

With a great affection for Greece, and the island of Mykonos in particular, Galal Mahmoud was proud to be a part of this large-scale and extensive project.



Courtesy GM Architects



Courtesy GM Architects



Courtesy GM Architects

'LIVING OUT THE GOOD LIFE' BY GM ARCHITECT'S A CONTEMPORARY AND MULTICULTURAL APPROACH



Galal Mahmoud © GM Architects

Born to Egyptian parents and having an English grandmother and Lebanese citizenship, architect Galal Mahmoud lived in France for several years, after fleeing the civil war in Lebanon with his family in 1976. He graduated from the Ecole d'Architecture de Versailles in 1986, opening his first architects' practice in Paris the following year. In 1996 he founded GM Architects in Beirut, specializing in the luxury hotel and upscale seaside resort markets.

During his many trips to Asia, Galal Mahmoud experienced true well-being and witnessed at first-hand Asian societies' approach to living in the shape of lifestyles that are equally comfortable in an outside environment as inside a house. Galal Mahmoud takes this approach and fuses it seamlessly with the architecture 'for living out the good life' that is so characteristic of the Mediterranean region.

These experiences are at the root of Galal Mahmoud's philosophy and approach to architecture, where the concepts of 'well-being' and multiculturalism are key.

CONTEXTUAL IMMERSION

Galal Mahmoud's culturally diverse background has naturally led him to adopt a multicultural approach to all his projects. His ability to apprehend the essence of a place, to be alive to the diverse influences that shape it, imbues all his projects with a unity of vision, one that is genuinely informed by its immediate context.

'Contextual immersion' therefore lies at the heart of GM Architects' way of thinking. Galal Mahmoud steeps himself in the geographical, historical and cultural environment of each project. He makes these contextual components his own, reworking them in a way that is relevant to and easily comprehensible by contemporary society, but also respectful of the identity and culture of the location in question.

AN INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWNED ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN FIRM

GM Architects architecture and design firm specializes in the field of high-end tourism, notably in the creation of luxury hotels and resorts. It is one of the largest such firms in Lebanon. The company employs 40 professionals including architects and interior designers and is managed by Galal Mahmoud in partnership with Randa Chahine, Anwar Hajj and Elie Waked.

The firm has bases in Beirut and Abu Dhabi and is active worldwide. Its completed projects may be seen in France, Africa, the Middle East and throughout the Mediterranean region.

GM Architects initially specialized in interiors for the luxury and residential markets. It has since branched out and its expertise now encompasses interior design, landscape architecture and site evaluation and analysis in seafront locations. The practice is currently working on a Sofitel in Morocco, a Sheraton Resort in Dakar and three hotels in Mykonos.

GM Architects is the only architecture and design company in the Middle East to work regularly with Accor, Rotana, Starwood, Jumeirah and Rezidor.

This is due to the high standards of service it delivers, the painstaking care it takes both in the development of a wider vision for each individual project and in the execution of its finer details and its ability to deliver projects that meet the standards of the international hospitality sector and the requirements of the major hotel chains. The firm's creative approach to projects embodies the distinctive philosophy of French-Lebanese architect Galal Mahmoud.

The 'Museum of Civilizations' project designed by GM Architects and presented at the 2014 Venice Biennale was selected for the 'Future project of the year' category at the World Architecture Festival, Singapore in 2014. In March 2015, it scooped the 'Cultural Regeneration' category at the 26th MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects awards, before winning an 'International Architecture Award' in 2015.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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