



firm: **a2arquitectos**  
site: **porto cristo, spain**

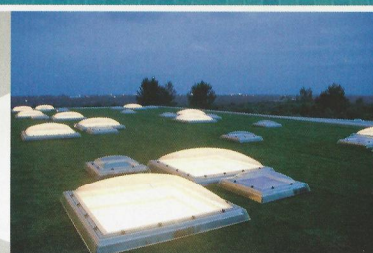
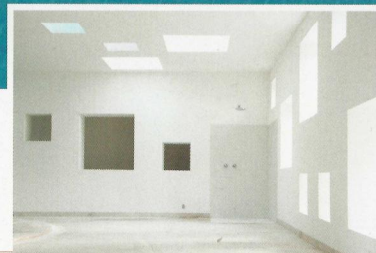
**Clockwise from top:** Of the two wings at HamSpa in Porto Cristo, Spain, the larger houses the pool. The reception desk is Carrara marble. Glass covers the roof of the pool wing. Glass mosaic tile lines a shower area.



#### Sleepovers at hospitality

hot spots are all in a night's work for A2Arquitectos partners Juan Manzanares Suárez and Cristian Santandreu Utermark. "On every trip we take, we stay at new hotels," Santandreu says. "And with every hotel, something stays with us." Encounters with the penthouse bar at the Standard High Line NYC and the facade of the Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace Budapest, to name two memorable examples, have influenced the firm's projects.

A2 reinterpreted Budapest's Turkish baths, built during the Ottoman occupation, when designing HamSpa at the Hotel Castell dels Hams in Porto Cristo, a resort town on the Spanish island of Majorca. (Nothing to do ➤





with dry-cured *jamón*, the word *ham* means *fishhook* in the local Catalan dialect.) The ground-up 7,500-square-foot building comprises two intersecting wings, one housing the swimming pool and the other devoted to treatments rooms, a sauna, and the like.

Alongside the swimming pool, with its curvaceous edge, are what looks like capriciously punched openings. In fact, they're carefully calibrated sprays of windows. Manzanares arranged them to frame restorative views or create what he describes as a daylong "dance of light and reflections."

While the natatorium dazzles, the rest of the spa is a series of Zen moments. But the attention to windows

continues, even from a treatment hot tub or the sauna. Behind the marble reception console is the only simulated outdoor view, a wide-angle panoramic photograph of a Mediterranean inlet.

—C.C. Sullivan ➤

RUT PRIETO: PROJECT TEAM.

**From top:** Custom massage tables combine resin and ceramic tile. Ipe paneling surrounds a hot tub. The sauna's wall, floor, and ceiling tile is glass.

