

FOR LEISURE ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, INVESTORS & DEVELOPERS

## MATTEO THUN

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Ennead Architects' Shanghai Planetarium

The Japanese ryokans getting a modern makeover

## Miami

Bold projects are changing the face of the city

## Nicolas Moreau & Hiroko Kusunoki

The Guggenheim Helsinki competition winners step out of the shadows

# PHILIPPE STARCK

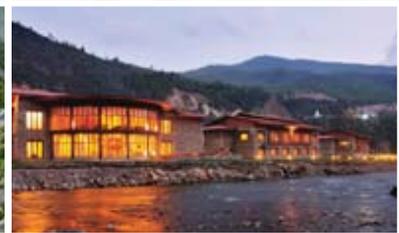
ON HIS 'INFLATABLE' FRENCH HEALTH CLUB



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*We have created GOCO Spa Venice.  
The largest spa in Venice on the island  
Isola delle Rose.*

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## › INTERVIEW: MATTEO THUN



The 1,750sq m GOCO Spa at the JW Marriott Venice Resort + Spa is housed in an early 20th century building. It features an indoor pool that extends outside via sliding walls



**Ingo Schweder**  
Founder & CEO  
GOCO Hospitality

### What was the vision for the JW Marriott spa?

My vision is to transform the typical hotel spa, so that it's not seen as a by product, but becomes part of the DNA of the property. GOCO Spas add a new dimension to the traditional spa experience, creating an urban escape designed with the guest in mind.

GOCO Spa Venice offers a dedicated focus on wellness. The tranquil setting invites guests to

relax in one of the world's most picturesque destinations, while the wellbeing menu authentically reflects the spa's location.

### Can you describe the design of the spa?

We designed the spa in collaboration with Matteo Thun & Partners. Our GOCO Design Studio has been primarily responsible for the vision of the spa, developing an area programme and

concept that maximises the value of the site, the building and the view over the lagoon, while creating a variety of treatment spaces.

We wanted to harmoniously integrate modern design elements within the existing structure, highlighting the beauty of the historic architecture and creating a sense of place on the Venetian island. The design uses warm, natural local materials, such as Vicenza stone, oak, brick and wood



from the existing building, brushed brass and white marmolino finishing.

The overall monolithic architecture of the spa takes advantage of the high-ceilinged spaces, converting these into key design features and connecting the interior with its surroundings.

The use of smooth, neutral, untreated surfaces and antique brass details communicates lightness and transparency, creating a refreshing atmosphere.

**How did the location of the spa influence the design of it?**

Isola delle Rose offers beautiful natural surroundings that were perfect for the creation of this spa. Stunning panoramic views and the sounds of lapping water immediately give visitors a sense of place. Guests arrive by water and are greeted by buildings designed to offer their own visual experience.

The use of water, both indoors and outdoors at the spa, also gives

a constant reminder of the integral part that water plays in the life of this historic city.

**Are you pleased with the final product?**

I am very proud of GOCO Spa Venice, it looks spectacular and the view from the vitality pool is breathtaking. Italy has a strong heritage of spas, so rather than this spa changing the landscape, I feel it adds a significant destination, which

I hope will be viewed as a leader in Europe as a whole.

**What sets it apart?**

Its location is truly stunning. Venice is one of Europe's most historic and unique cities, and the spa is only 15 minutes from St Mark's Square by boat. GOCO Spa Venice reflects the history of its location – it truly has a sense of place, rather than being a luxury spa that could be in any hotel or resort environment. ●