AFRICA & ARABIA'S BEST 2021-2022

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A International is renowned for creating exquisite interiors for the hospitality market. The company has established an enviable clientele with longstanding relationships reflecting its commitment to perfecting unique interiors.

With a passion for ancient Egypt, WAI's client wanted to mirror specific elements throughout the design of Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk. The building itself is shaped as an immense obelisk standing 51-storeys tall in the heart of Dubai. Impressive pharaonic columns stand tall within the 18-metre high entrance lobby, carved with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. A nine-metre wide golden falcon sculpture takes centre stage over the reception desks. The falcon symbolises the Egyptian god of the sky Horus, representing immense power. Falcons are also the UAE's national bird and a potent symbol of the nation's strength and heritage.

The French restaurant's design elements include luxurious Egyptian motifs and bold colours such as white, black and gold. Fluted columns, plaster reliefs and bulbous light fittings appear throughout. The client also wanted WA International to deliver an English gastropub. The design concept was inspired by the client's fondness for cats, therefore the cat goddess Bastet became the Egyptian reference. Her story is carved in hieroglyphic stone panels, while large images of her silhouette adorn the rear walls.

The executive club offers an impressive 360° view of Dubai. The colours were kept light and fresh with touches of pale green. Mirrored columns with art deco palm leaf patterns were used to reflect the views throughout the space. Touches of French sophistication and contemporary ancient Egyptian accents are also evident. All these interior elements blend to create a truly spectacular design.

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