

Wallpaper*

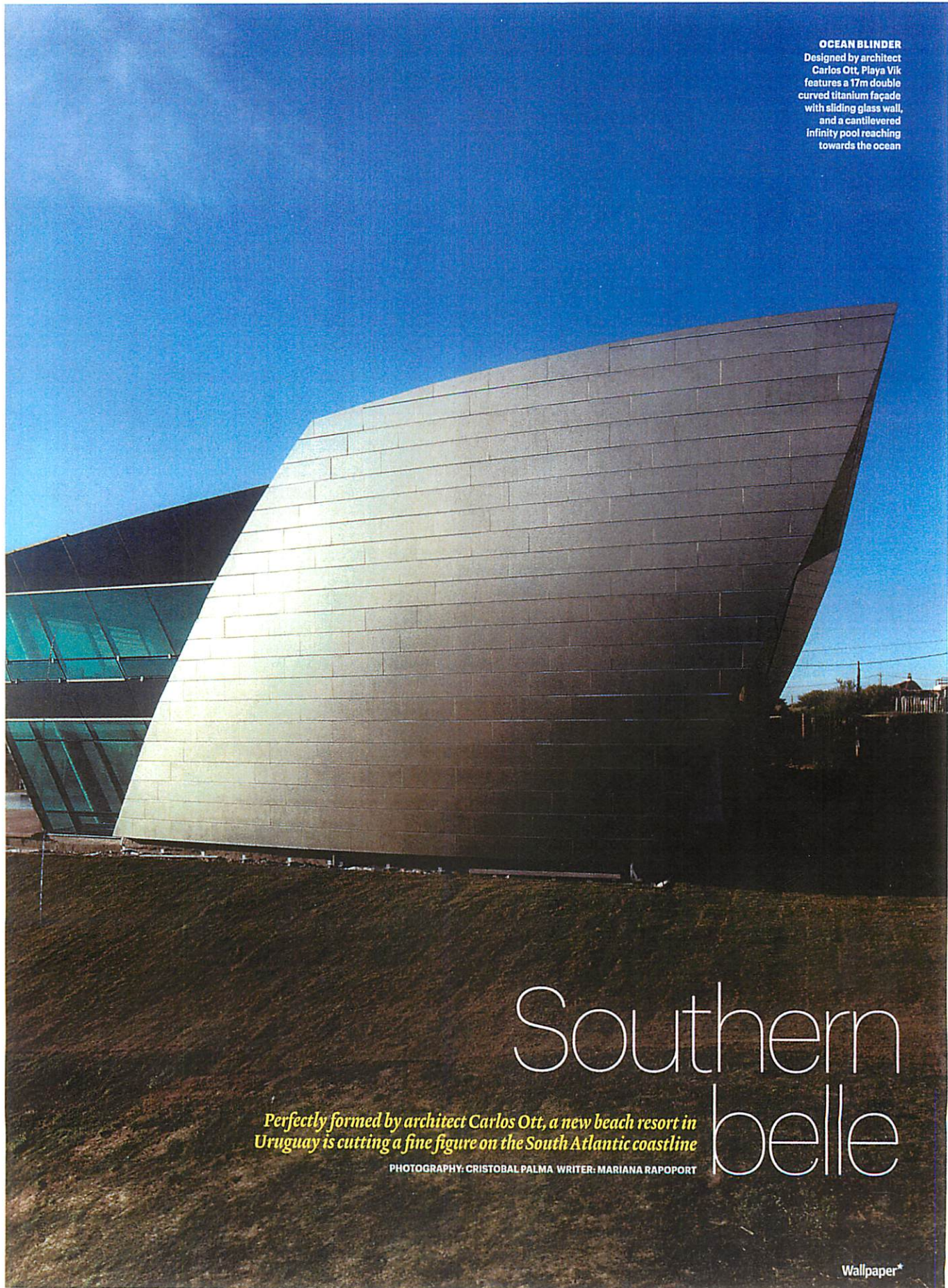
JANUARY 2011

*DESIGNINTERIORSFASHIONARTLIFESTYLE

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OCEAN BLINDER
Designed by architect
Carlos Ott, Playa Vik
features a 17m double
curved titanium façade
with sliding glass wall,
and a cantilevered
infinity pool reaching
towards the ocean



Southern
belle

Perfectly formed by architect Carlos Ott, a new beach resort in Uruguay is cutting a fine figure on the South Atlantic coastline

PHOTOGRAPHY: CRISTOBAL PALMA WRITER: MARIANA RAPOPORT

Born to a Uruguayan mother and a Swedish father, Alex Vik, and his wife Carrie, opened their first retreat, the ranch-style Estancia Vik, in the hills of Jose Ignacio on Uruguay's southern coast, in February 2009. Their passion for this part of the world, close to Punta del Este, had them swiftly embarking on a second.

Just 9km away, overlooking the dramatic South Atlantic coastline, Playa Vik Jose Ignacio is a contemporary, 18-suite beach resort designed by Uruguayan architect Carlos Ott, who designed L'Opéra Bastille in Paris. His key concern was integrating the building into the surrounding landscape and keeping it eco-friendly by minimising the use of energy, recycling water, and employing innovative solar technologies.

A massive sculptured bronze door, by Uruguayan artist Pablo Atchugarry, leads into the main central building, dubbed The Sculpture, which is divided into several public areas boasting works by the likes of Zaha Hadid, James Turrell and Anselm Kiefer. The 17m façade is forged from double curved titanium and features a sliding glass wall that opens up onto the dramatic ocean view. Outside, an infinity pool made of black granite features a fibre optic celestial map of the southern hemisphere.

The Sculpture contains three suites, and is also surrounded by six private casas, which feature two or three bedrooms, art-filled interiors, a living room with fireplace, macassar ebony ceilings, hand-painted floors, wooden baths carved by local artisans, and retractable glass doors that open onto private gardens or terraces.

An area under some of the casas has been carved out to create The Pavilion, which houses a wine cellar, gym, spa and games room with table tennis, movies, Wii and chess. There is also an indoor dining room that opens out onto a terrace with stunning beach views. Here diners can watch the sun set while enjoying one of Uruguay's famous barbecues, accompanied by a house cocktail, the legendary caipiroska mixed with Christiania vodka.

Outdoor pursuits include riding on the beach, canoe fishing on the river or nearby lagoon, whale watching, bird watching (and hunting), and stargazing the amazing constellations of the southern hemisphere. ✪

*Calle Los Cisnes y Los Horneros,
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Rates: from \$1,100*

