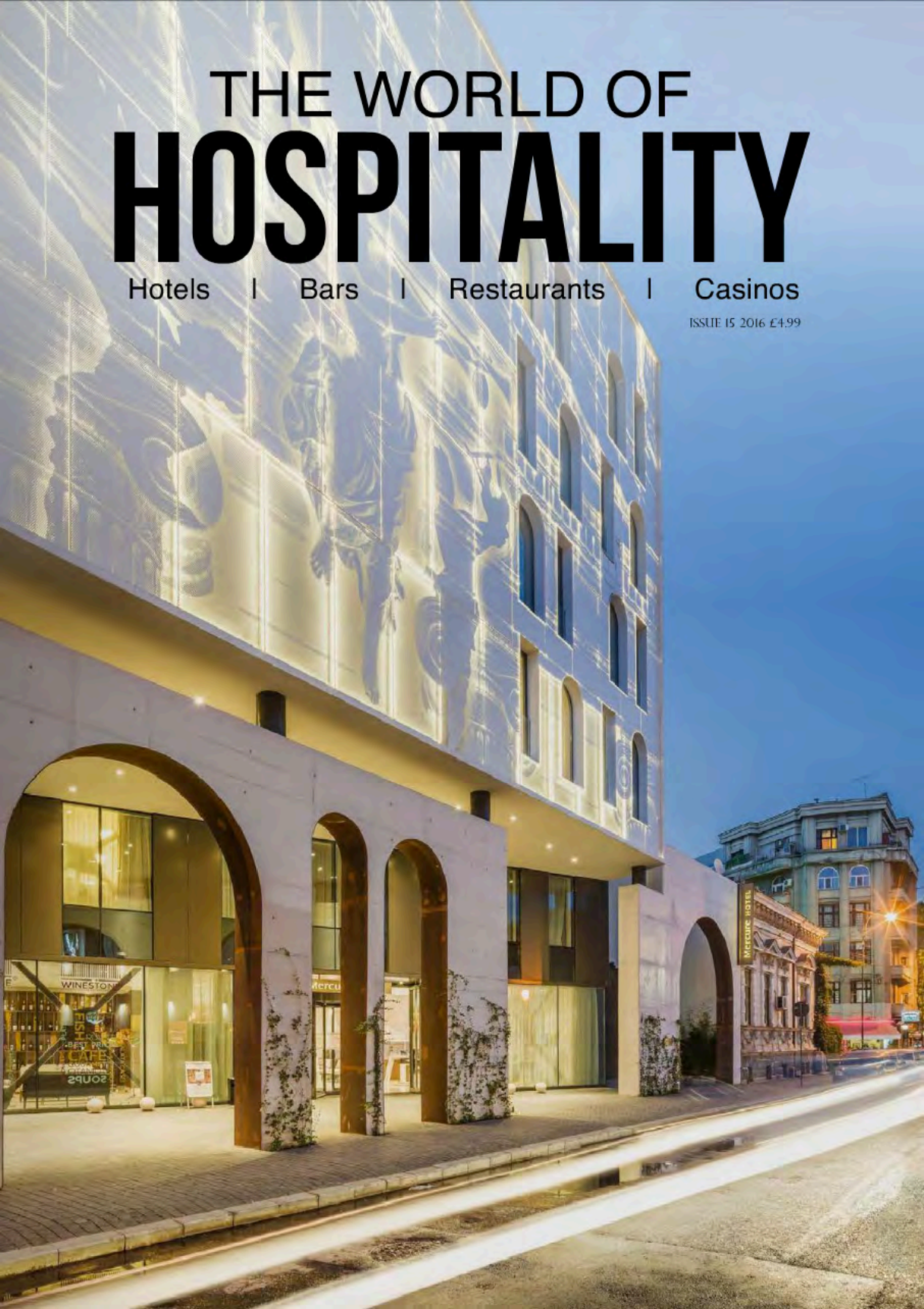


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ISSUE 15 2016 £4.99





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## Aralia Landscape Architects: Roof Terrace Design

Roof terraces are an amazing opportunity for any hotel, golf, spa, conference centre, restaurant or bar to create a truly unique outdoor space. Somewhere which could become a real destination for the visitor and contribute significantly to the overall client experience.

Aralia Landscape Architects have been established for over a decade and have been delivering world class roof terraces (and country estates) to both the private and commercial sectors. Aralia identified roof terraces as an area with potential for massive growth and so in 2012 designed a show garden 'Roof Terrace Workplace of Tomorrow' for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden was an outstanding success and achieved the highly acclaimed Silver Flora award from the RHS Judges. RHS were the main sponsor for the garden and the primary concept behind this roof terrace was to design an external space which could be used as an extension to a corporate office space. This

allowed the work force to spill over outside, but moreover to provide a stunning environment which was inspirational for them to work in.

The Chelsea Show Garden highlighted just how far one could go with roof terrace design, and caught the eye of many corporates including St George Plc (part of the Berkley Group).

The Aralia studio team love to design with new and exciting materials, especially if they are sustainable, of which many were used for the Roof Terrace Workplace of Tomorrow. The flooring utilised a bamboo hardwood deck, which was new to the UK and had only just been launched at ECO Build that March (2012). Bamboo is a fast growing, highly sustainable material that looks a million dollars, without costing the earth. Aralia worked with a furniture designer to develop their ideas for planters, sofa benches and coffee tables using 'upcycled plastic'. This plastic material used Grade A plastic (which

would otherwise go into land fill) and turned it into some stunning pieces, which the public loved. At first glance, and at a more lingering view, the furniture looks like it's made of stone or granite. It's much warmer than stone to sit on and is sufficiently heavy as to be very safe for roof terrace use and highly durable. Aralia introduced an 'Umbrella Work Station' which consisted of a giant planter, with a smooth work surface made of Richlite and an Acer globosum which came up through the table to provide both drama and shade. 'Richlite', is a material made of multiple sheets of highly compressed paper, which has great sustainable credentials as well as looking highly contemporary. The idea with this work station was that individual users could sit on high stools to work on their mobile or tablet devices. Another unique aspect of the roof terrace was the bespoke 'C Swings' which allowed the user somewhere to truly relax and get away from it all, perhaps after visiting the 'Herbal Tea Bar'. The Tea Bar comprised a stunning herbal green

wall, incorporating a wide range of fresh herbs which the user could pick to make a relaxing herbal drink. Aralia often use green walls in their schemes and believe them to be highly effective in providing not only an amazing sculptural feature, but also really useful when wanting to hide/screen unattractive views or walls.

No roof terrace would be complete without some form of shade protection, and here an automated shade awning was used over the main seating area, in addition to a full on outdoor room with additional seating for those cold, wet days, with its very own green roof.

The roof terrace also boasted a 3 x 3m screen, on which power point presentations could be shown, or even just ambient photography and video to set the mood as required.

Following on from the success at RHS Chelsea, St George commissioned Aralia, to design a series

of seven penthouse roof terraces at Chelsea Creek, London. After three years of hard work the terraces have now been completed and subsequently celebrated with a BALI Principal Landscape Design Excellence Award, which was awarded in December 2015.

**Michael Bryn-Jones, Managing Director, St George PLC commented:**

*"We are excited by the BALI Design Excellence Award, which is a mark of the high standard of design that Aralia has implemented at Chelsea Creek. Aralia has created terraces which are the epitome of innovation and luxury, as part of our Penthouse Collection. With the penthouses due for completion in the coming months, it is great to see that the designs are creating such a well-deserved buzz for their high standard and creativity."*

Aralia are keen to work with a wide range of clients to explore how they could improve their roof terrace space and create something which is synonymous with their brand and brand values, which would contribute uniquely to their overall client experience that they offer. Aralia have an innovative design approach and are always looking for originality in their work.

Over the last 12 years Aralia Landscape Architects have built an enviable reputation for offering a highly professional landscape design service to both private individuals and commercial clients, on projects ranging from country estates/hotels and golf clubs set within several acres to contemporary roof terraces, such as our RHS Chelsea award winning garden and the series of penthouse terraces for St George.

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