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GLOBAL HOTEL DESIGN

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Six Senses Duxton

Anouska Hempel works her magic at the first urban resort for Six Senses

Andrew Zobler

The founder and CEO of Sydell Group talks collaborations, culture and community

Alila Yangshuo

A disused sugar mill in rural China is given a new lease of life by Alila Hotels & Resorts

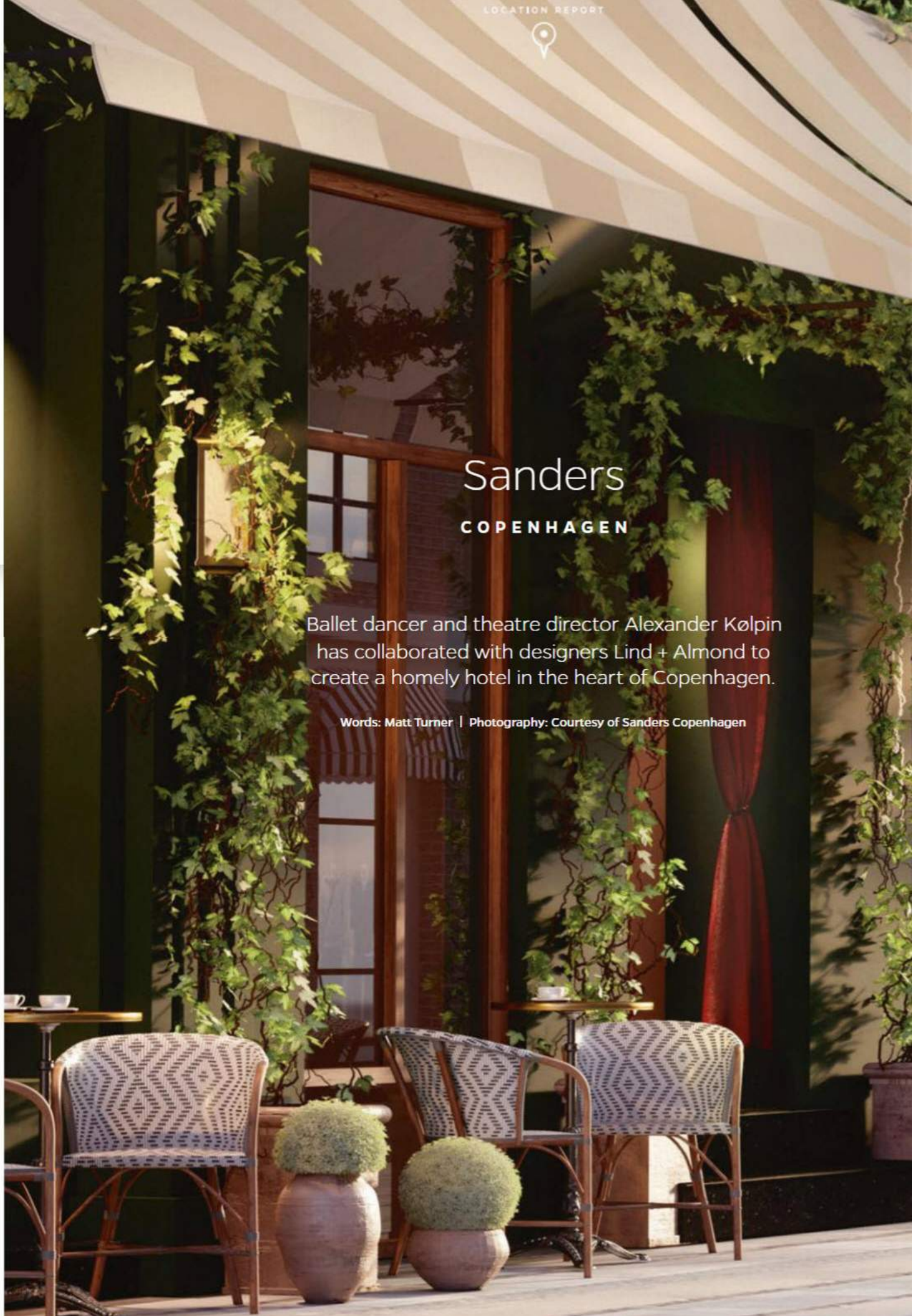


Sanders

COPENHAGEN

Ballet dancer and theatre director Alexander Kølpin has collaborated with designers Lind + Almond to create a homely hotel in the heart of Copenhagen.

Words: Matt Turner | Photography: Courtesy of Sanders Copenhagen





In the Norwegian tongue from which it originates ‘hygge’ translates pretty much directly as ‘cosy’. But in Denmark – the country that has seen the word develop from a loosely defined cultural concept to a worldwide trend encompassing how-to books, home furnishings and happiness indices – it is much harder to define.

Attempts to pin down its meaning range from ‘the ritual of enjoying life’s simple pleasures’ to ‘a cosiness of the soul’ or ‘the art of creating intimacy’ but much of the idea’s appeal lies in its nebulous, intangible nature.

Whatever ‘hygge’ might mean to different people, Sanders has it in abundance. An indefinable sense of wellbeing and conviviality envelopes you as soon as you enter. Whether it’s the flickering candlelight, the roaring open fire, or the warm tones of the natural wood furnishings set against artfully curated bookshelves, Sanders immediately feels like home.

According to General Manager Nikolaj Tamaklo, this was the intent of owner Alexander Kølpin – a former ballet dancer and artistic director who has taken design references from the theatre as well as his own extensive travels to shape his collaboration with design team Lind + Almond. “Alexander had always wanted to open a hotel, it was a dream of his for 12 years – and he had been dancing in the Royal Theatre just down the street all his life, so this was a sort of homecoming for him. We wanted to create a home rather than a

hotel. We wanted people to be a bit confused – ‘is this a restaurant, a club, a house... what is it?’”

Three former townhouses have been combined into one 54-guestroom property, with a kitchen, living room and sophisticated yet welcoming cocktail bar occupying the ground floor.

This is the first significant hospitality project for Lind + Almond, whose founders Pernille Lind and Richy Almond count Soho House & Co, Conran + Partners and Anouska Hempel Design amongst their former employers.

They have created a hotel that eschews fashion in favour of a timeless, subtle and understated palette. Rattan and bamboo furnishings combine with rich green leathers, and natural materials of timber and stone. Printed fabrics add a touch of English eccentricity. Though there is a clear influence of classic Danish mid-century modern design, there is not an Egg chair or Artichoke light in sight. Whilst much of the woodwork is of local origin, the marble comes from Italy, Portugal and Greece, while slate comes from the Lake District and limestone from Croatia.

“The overall palette is subtle and understated – there was a distinct intention to shy away from the latest trends,” explains Lind. “The public spaces are generally in earthy tones whose colours are timeless. The hotel has further embraced natural tones of timbers and stone as much as possible.”



Left: Public areas are decorated in warm, timeless tones with a mix of vintage and bespoke furnishings

In the lobby, the only indication you are in a hotel is the reception desk above which hangs a spectacular 1940's vintage chandelier in murano glass, originally designed by Carlo Scarpa for a Swiss bank.

Kølpin's theatrical background comes to the fore in cocktail bar Tata – where red velvet curtains and a roaring fireplace provide a backdrop to the beautifully lit, carefully stage-set spaces.

Much of the furniture has been designed by Lind + Almond – the handcrafted wardrobes, beds and sideboards have since been released as an 'L+A for Sanders' retail line. Other pieces from Sika Design, Novocastrian and Beau Marche sit alongside vintage pieces sourced in London and Copenhagen. In the bathrooms, metal vanity stands by Aquadomo combine with sanitaryware from Lefroy Brooks.

Artworks were sourced by Lind + Almond and commissioned by Kølpin in collaboration with Dais Contemporary to complement the historical context of the building.

The hotel's *pièce de resistance*, and for now at least, its best kept secret, is a rooftop conservatory with retractable ceiling where guests can cozy up on rattan chairs by Tine K Home surrounded by ivy covered walls overlooking Copenhagen's rooftops.

"Our brief was to create a hotel that had an international feel while simultaneously feeling like Alexander's home," explains Lind "We wanted the interior to look like a lifetime's worth of collecting, but equally to feel calm and assured in its identity. We wanted the interior to transport guests to another time, but one that you couldn't quite pinpoint."

EXPRESS CHECK-OUT: 54 guestrooms | 1 restaurant | 1 bar | Private dining and meeting room | www.hotelsanders.com
Owner / Operator: Kølpin Hotels | Interior Design: Lind + Almond



This Page: Bespoke handcrafted Lind + Almond-designed beds, wardrobes and sideboards appear throughout guestrooms, alongside vintage pieces sourced from Copenhagen and London

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