

Architecture Workshop to design The Ritz-Carlton, Zermatt, in the Swiss Alps

Press Release



© AW² Architecture Workshop

Architecture Workshop (AW²), the Paris-based architecture and interior design studio, has been appointed to design The Ritz-Carlton, Zermatt, a luxury resort in the heart of the Alps, in Zermatt Valley, Switzerland.

The 13,000 sqm, 69-room hotel is located next to the ski slopes, featuring a ski chalet and spectacular views of the famous Matterhorn mountain nearby. Construction is expected to begin in the next two years, and the opening is scheduled for 2026.

Inspired by the nomadic origins of the region's Walser community, the hotel's design aims to connect people with nature and celebrate the mountain location. The building façades will be finished with locally-sourced natural materials, such as wood and stone to reflect the rustic and authentic lifestyle of the Walser people.

Views over the mountains are emphasised through the use of large openings and windows throughout the resort. The design plays with light, with natural materials being illuminated to best effect and light filtered to create a sense of retreat and respite.

The hotel is a collection of small buildings connected by roads and tunnels, in order to comply with Zermatt's planning requirements to strictly limit building size. Zermatt is a car-free village with sustainability and eco-friendly options at the forefront of daily life, and the new hotel will support this approach.

The buildings will have integrated systems that will optimize and minimise energy consumption. A pellet-based heating system has also been incorporated as a sustainable and renewable way of heating the hotel.

The hotel ground floor is expected to include lounge areas, meeting and multifunction rooms, a lounge bar, a main restaurant and a large fireplace which are all positioned to frame the view of the mountains.

Plans for the hotel include an indoor and heated outdoor pool which are connected through a window bringing filtered natural light into the indoor pool. The design uses windows to remove the barrier between indoor and outdoor spaces and uses stone interiors to merge with the natural environment outside.

The restaurant concept draws upon the Walser community tradition of baking bread together in a bi-annual village reunion. The central feature of the restaurant will be the bread oven which will reflect this ancient custom and give the guest a unique local experience.

The chalet plot is located adjacent to the ski slopes and includes the restaurant, bar, fireplace and terrace to enjoy the views as well as an Alpine room for gear store and maintenance.

“The Ritz-Carlton, Zermatt is a place to connect back to nature and our inner self. It is about authenticity, nature in its essence, respect for man-made history. It is a place for slowing down, for contemplation. A wellness retreat to find freedom in the strong presence of the mountains.”

Reda Amalou & Stéphanie Ledoux, Partners, AW²

Images and films of the project can be downloaded [here](#).

PR Contact:

Emily Cramer, Account Manager, ING Media

T: 07514 930 152

E: Emily.cramer@ing-media.com

About AW²

AW² is an international architectural practice and design studio based in Paris, led by Reda Amalou who founded it in 1997, and Stéphanie Ledoux who joined the practice in 2000, becoming partner in 2003.

With projects in 40 different countries, the practice is made up of a multidisciplinary design team that takes on all aspects of a project, from a large-scale urban plan and luxury eco-resorts, right the way down to the bespoke furniture and fittings.

AW² have firmly established themselves as the preferred architects and designers for the world's most highly regarded hotel and resort operators, subsequently also earning an international reputation for quality high-end design across education, commercial and residential projects.

AW² has collected accolades such as MIPIM Best Hotel Award for the Six Senses Con Dao resort, the Build Architecture Award for Best International Architecture & Design Studio – Paris, and four nominations for the AFEX Grand Prize in French Overseas Architecture for Six Senses Con Dao in Vietnam, the Lycée Français in Amman, Jordan, Ani Private Resort & Art Academy in Sri Lanka and Kasiya Papagayo eco-lodge in Costa Rica.

www.aw2.com