

Spotlighting Turkish craftsmanship on the Bosphorus

From its very inception, The Peninsula Istanbul draws inspiration from the rich history and culture of its home. The Lobby building itself was once a 20th century ferry passenger terminal and served as an important landmark for travellers in the bustling neighborhood of Karaköy. The spirit and history of this historical landmark was thoughtfully preserved in the redevelopment of the three historic buildings of the hotel, while the fourth building – newly constructed to supplement the original three buildings, brings forward a more modern architectural aesthetic. The building's timeless elegance, seamlessly interwoven with the rich local tapestry of Turkish culture, symbolises the efforts we took to seek out local partnerships for artisans to imprint their own culture into the hotel.

Interior Design

Istanbul-based interior designer Zeynep Fadıllıoğlu is renowned for her signature style which integrates modern design elements with regional craftsmanship. Under her direction, Turkish influences are subtly incorporated in all corners of the hotel. From the carpets in the guestrooms that take inspiration from Kilim prayer rugs, or the mother of pearl details found in the bathroom floors inspired by Ottoman-era furniture, creating a sense of place throughout the hotel.

Gastronomy

GALLADA, The Peninsula Istanbul's newest addition to the Türkiye restaurant scene, brings together bold flavours from the East and the West, reflecting the history of the Silk Road's Eurasian trade routes that imprinted its influence on this city. Chef Fatih Tutak was born and raised in Istanbul and marries his professional experience working at some of the world's most renowned restaurants, to memories of the taste and smells of his mother's home cooking as a young boy. GALLADA brings forward modernised Turkish cuisine that also leans into seasonal, local and sustainable sourcing to highlight the finest of local ingredients. We also support local artisans by featuring plates made by local handcraft boutiques in GALLADA.



Artwork

Çağla Saraç, who has worked alongside the Ministry of Culture, applied her deep expertise in modern and classical Turkish art to handpick each piece of original artwork displayed throughout the communal spaces and 177 guest rooms of the hotel. Through her selection, guests and visitors are able to experience the culture of Türkiye through the sensory experience of paint strokes and vibrant colours. This collection of art includes black and white photography from one of Türkiye's most revered photographer, Ara Güler, portraying life on the shores of the Bosphorus during the 1950s and 1960s. These photographs offer guests a glimpse into the rich history that the hotel proudly stands on. The art collection also includes original antique textiles from the Ottoman era, and original gravure maps of Istanbul, offering guests a piece of history at the hotel.



Staff Uniforms

Turkish-born fashion designer Arzu Kaprol was brought on to help create beautifully crafted, bespoke employee uniforms. With a decidedly Turkish influence, from the unique fabric selection to the subtle Ottoman references found in the belt details, the uniforms showcase local heritage with a contemporary twist.

Fragrance and Scent

Mert Güzel and Murat Katran, born and raised in Istanbul, curated the exclusive fragrance "Citrus Fig & Bosphorus Breeze" for the hotel's collection of in-room bath products to celebrate the rich scents of their home city. The use of figs harkens back to the fig trees of the Istanbul of Byzantine times, while citrusy and flowery notes of lemon, mandarin, lavandin, lily of the valley and jasmine are used to evoke the complex beauty of the city.

Through these partnerships, we hope to offer local artists a vessel to carry forward the cultural legacies of their home country.