

1. A picturesque view of Zurich's B2 Boutique Hotel + Spa with its red brick chimney, hinting at the building's past as the Hürlimann Areal brewery.

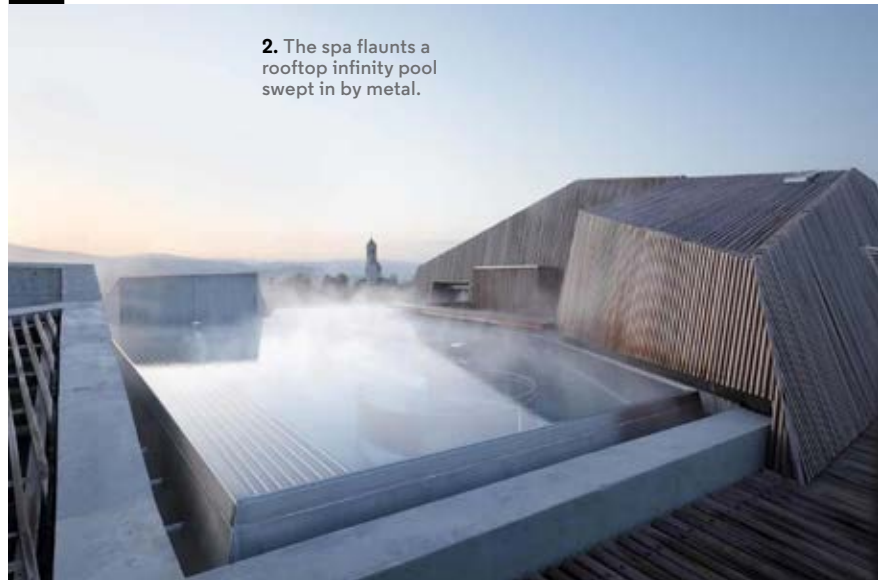


# tapping the past

**An historic brewery informs a Swiss boutique hotel**

By TAMARA THIESSEN  
Photography by JOCHEN SPLETT

2. The spa flaunts a rooftop infinity pool swept in by metal.



3. The bedrooms are a mix of retro and contemporary, including canvas textile tapestries of brewery scenes.



**4.** In the combination library-lounge, 36-foot-high walls are filled with 33,000 books while amber beer bottle chandeliers provide a warm glow.

**5.** In the lobby, leather-belted, linen-covered sofa-chairs and big-bulbed transparent glass lamps accentuate the building's history.



yet the windows turn milky at the push of a button from ground control. "Spaces such as the boardroom with its angular conference table and red velvet wallcovering have an almost installational character," notes Tamborriello.

The hotel's 60 rooms are arranged in a circular fashion around the old turbine hall. Touches at every turn subtly nod to the building's past: archive photos of the old brewery printed on red carpets, views of yards covered with "grass" made from shards of green glass, and a 1900 Etikettier machine used for labeling bottles.

The individually shaped bedrooms, with their oiled oak floors and small brewery windows are a curious mix of retro and contemporary—vintage designer chairs, bathroom cubicles, canvas textile tapestries of brewery scenes, and a minimalist gold lacquered

coffee table decorated with a red plumbing valve. "Wherever possible, the history has been preserved, while new elements have been developed out of functional necessity," Tamborriello explains.

The spa, flaunting a rooftop infinity pool swept in by metal, is the peak of the architecture's theatrical coups, she says: "deep within the mountain yet opening to the exterior and outside world." hd

[ushitamborriello.com](http://ushitamborriello.com); [b2boutiquehotels.com](http://b2boutiquehotels.com)

**6+7.** A look down and at the 46-foot-high tunnel-roofed boardroom that lies at the core of the hotel—it can be peeped into from all three floors.



## B2 Boutique Hotel + Spa Zurich, Switzerland

### Owners

**PSP Properties SA**  
Management Company  
**Turicum Hotel Management Group**

Architecture Firm  
**Althammer Hochuli Architects, Zurich, Switzerland**

Architecture Project Team  
**Margrit Althammer, René Hochuli, Romeo Maffeo, Piotr Margiel, Saskia Plaas, and Anna Tosi**

Interior Design Firm  
**ushitamborriello: innenarchitektur & szenenbild, Baden, Switzerland**

Interior Design Project Team  
**Ushi Tamborriello, Jan Darin, Kevin Schlatter, and Petra Sidler**

Contractor  
**MLG Generalunternehmung AG**

Lighting  
**reflexion AG**

Engineering  
**dsp Ingenieure & Planer AG**

Furnishings  
**Custom**

### LOBBY

Chairs and Fabric  
**Diesel**  
Sofa  
**DeSede**  
Lighting  
**Artemide**

### LIBRARY LOUNGE

Chairs and Stools  
**Cassina**  
Barstool  
**Arper**

### BOARDROOM

Chair  
**Walter Knoll**

### GUESTROOMS

Chairs  
**Charles Pollock, Artifort, Robert Haussmann, André VandenBroeck, Hans Eichenberger, and Kristian Vedel**  
Curtain Fabric  
**Delius**  
Art  
**Jochen Splett**



**With its towering** red brick chimney, there is no mistaking B2 Boutique Hotel + Spa's 130-year-old past: it was once the Hürliemann Areal brewery, set in Zurich's leafy lakeside neighborhood of Enge.

Driven by heritage building requirements, the stunning conversion set out to keep the brewery look alive, says Switzerland-based designer Ushi Tamborriello, mixing the old and new to "create a unique ambiance and authentic experience," she says. "Light, open, and modern structures contrast with heavy, traditional elements. The building materials and furniture reflect this interplay of traditional objects and innovative design."

A striking example of this is the combination library-lounge, its 36-foot-high walls filled with 33,000 books, and glowing amber beer bottle chandeliers constructed from the cast-iron bottle drying system. Elsewhere in the lobby, leather-belted, linen-covered sofa-chairs, big-bulbed transparent glass lamps, and a chunky black leather modular seating system accentuate the building's history.

Yet the redesign focused on the "spatial and structural" character of three main areas—the turbine hall, boiling house, and lofty cooling hall, which has been converted into eight suites with air vent-slatted windows. The 46-foot-high tunnel roofed boardroom lies at the core of the hotel—it can be peeped into from all three floors—