



DUOMO HOTEL

Futuristic, fun and feisty, design star Ron Arad's debut hotel is rife with ideas to steal – from imaginative uses of lighting to the best way to make even the smallest bathroom beautiful.

WHY GO NOW? All eyes will be on the seaside town of Rimini, on Italy's northeast coast, when the daring duoMo opens this March. With 39 guest rooms and nine suites, not only is it the first complete hotel project by Brit-based designer Ron Arad (who collaborated on the interiors with chic homes brands B&B Italia and Molteni), but it's also a racy concept. Think 'a club with rooms', mirroring Rimini's role as Italy's answer to Ibiza.

INSPIRING IDEAS TO STEAL: We love the bedrooms and bathrooms, which boast different colour moods for each floor (such as purple, red and energising lime green). Sleek furniture includes minimal, barely-there white beds and skinny, wall-mounted desks with looped shelving. The star attraction, though, is Ron's new, sinuous, snow-white 'Ripple' chair for Italian label Moroso (available from London design store Aram). Space-savvy wet-room 'pods' back onto the beds and are equipped with curvy Alessi bathware and giant portholes in the crisp Corian walls, so guests can peek into the bedroom (or flip the window to frosted for privacy!). Sexy fluorescent and fibre-optic lighting also abounds, from shower-activated white lights to soothing rainbow hues emanating from under the beds.

WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU'RE THERE: Rimini is a Mecca for weekend clubbers, but at duoMo you won't need to go out: the super-funky ground-floor noMi Bar & Club will host top global DJs and boasts a retractable glass street wall so revellers can spill out into the historic town. Rimini was also the birthplace of famed Italian film-maker Federico Fellini, and his films are regularly screened at the open-air beach cinema named in his honour. Truly *la dolce vita!* **BECO**

duoMo Hotel, via G. Bruno 28, 47900 Rimini, Italy (0039 05 412 4215/6; www.duomohotel.com). Approx £340 per night for a double room. To book, contact Design Hotels (00 800 3748 8357; www.designhotels.com).



COMING SOON... Artists and architects, including Yoko Ono, will be creating ice edifices at The Snow Show in Sestriere, Italy (6 February-19 March) to tie in with the nearby Turin Winter Olympics. Catch 'em before they melt! Visit www.thesnowshow.com for information.