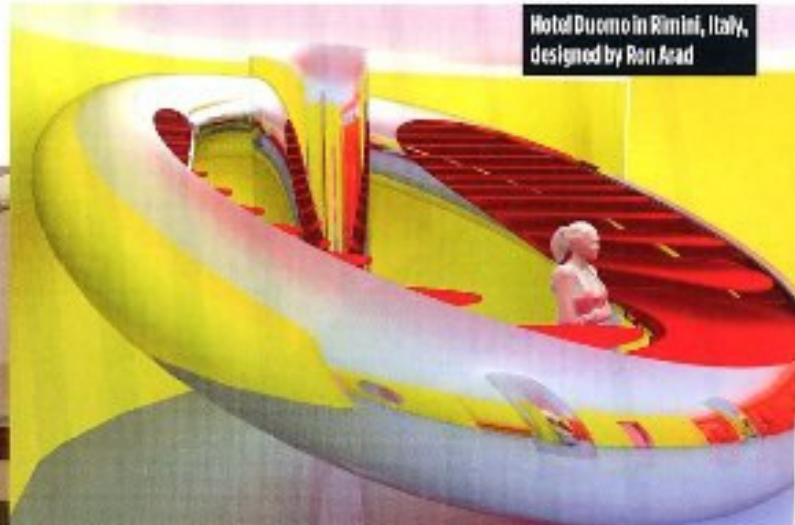


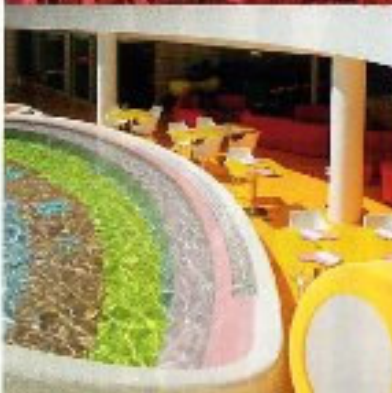
Hotel Duomo in Rimini, Italy, designed by Ron Arad



By 2006, the Yotel company plans to have a Yotel, above, at every major UK airport. Below, Murano Urban Resort, Paris



Below, the Semiramis hotel in Athens



All mod cons

With holiday destinations getting ever more exotic, and Richard Branson's plans for Virgin Galactic to take tourists to the moon by 2007, the pressure to create a novel hotel experience has never been greater. Perhaps the most radical of all are plans for the Yotel brand's **YOTEL** (Yotel.com). Inspired by British Airways' first-class cabins and Japanese capsule hotels, Yotels will have small hi-tech rooms with internal windows. Looking into corridors naturally lit by light-channelling reflective mechanisms, these windows will allow Yotel to go where no hotel has gone before. By 2006, Yotels will be found at all major UK airports. For now, head to Paris for an Austin Powers-meets-Space Odyssey experience at the new **MURANO URBAN RESORT** (Muranoresort.com). Fur-lined lifts carry you to all-white rooms (accessed via electronic fingerprint detectors) that can be lit in different colours to suit your mood. Or try the **SEMIRAMIS** in Athens (Semiramisathens.com). Created by fashion designer Karim Rashid, this hotel's whimsical touches include in-room LED lighting technology that allows you to leave written messages on the door of your room. There's a rainbow-coloured figure-of-eight pool and the staff, clad in pink, blend in with the marshmallow-like pink and white lounge chairs. Finally, architect Ron Arad's inaugural hotel project, **HOTEL DUOMO** in Rimini, Italy (Duomohotel.com), is due to open this month. Described as a "club with rooms" (it will feature live DJs from New York and Ibiza), all its rooms will have wet-room pods by Alessi, while the reception area will feature an enormous circular desk made from one continuous piece of steel. A hotel experience that promises not to disappoint.

Left, "Fish" chair, £1,670, at Poltrona Frau. Below, "MT3" chair, £494, at Vitacut



Odygprop by Karim Rashid (Taschen, £17), designer of the Semiramis hotel

POD'S LAW

Space-age getaways...



ESCAPE
Stay in Whitepod's eco-friendly luxury pod at an altitude of 1,700m in the Swiss Alps (Whitepod.com)



CLUB
Bangkok's Bed Supperclub is an oval site that appears to have been beamed down from another planet. (Bedsupperclub.com)



CHILL
Hang out in the lobby at London's Cumberland Hotel in an egg-shaped pod that plays sound bites at random when you're in it (020 7262 1234)



SLEEP
Round trip: sleep in circular beds at W Seoul Hotel in South Korea (Wseoul.com)