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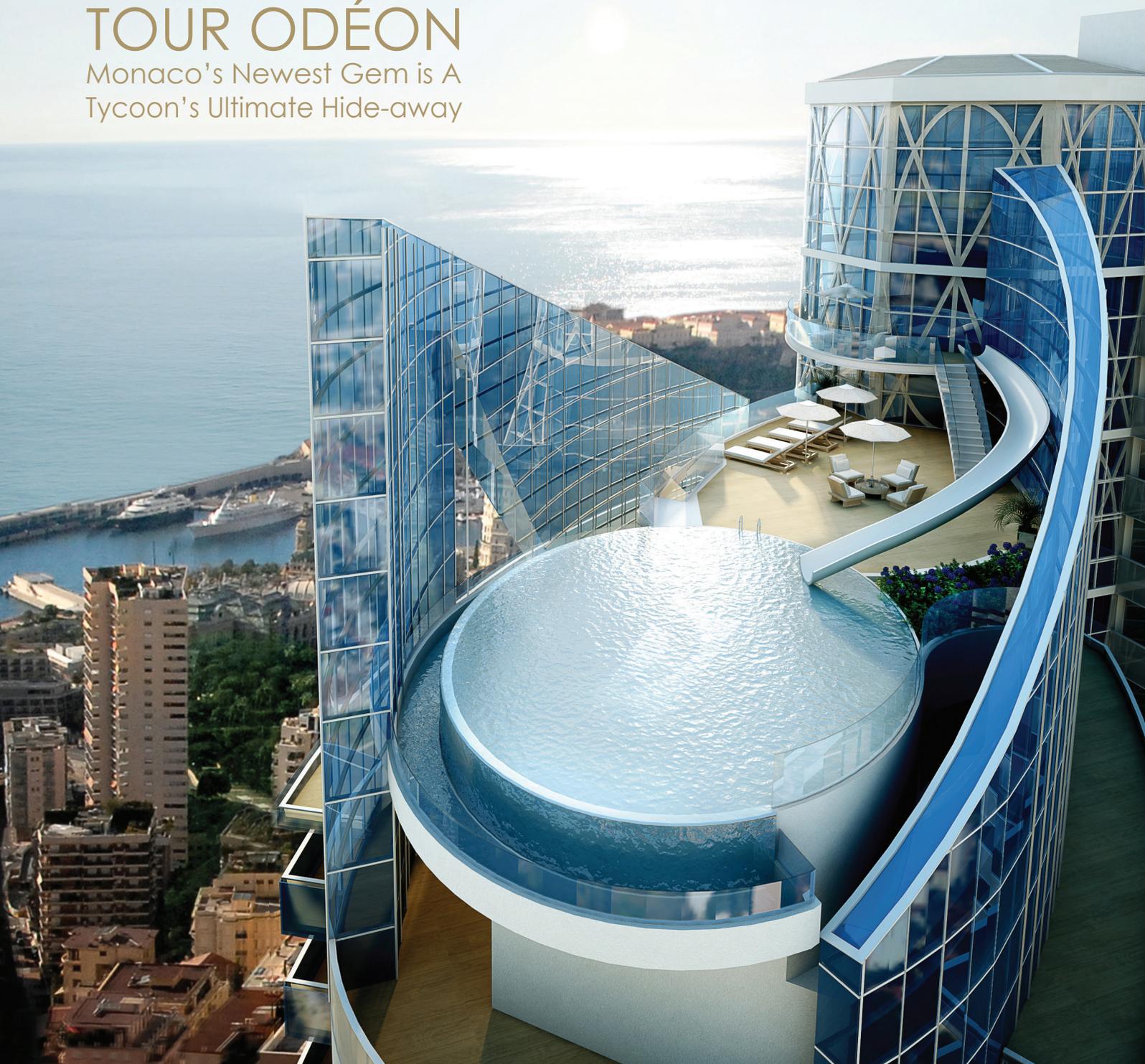
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TOUR ODÉON
Monaco's Newest Gem is A
Tycoon's Ultimate Hide-away





STAR DESIGN

We speak to Ron Dayan at Beverley Hills Interiors

By: Andrea Kon

He is hailed as one of the world's most innovative and exclusive interior designers. And Ron Dayan, Director of Design at Beverley Hills Interiors, is one of the most popular stars in Hollywood, with the great, the good and the famous clamoring for him to redesign and refurbish their expensive homes.

From modest beginnings – raised in Bradford in the north of England – Dayan and his contemporary interior designs have collected a string of ardent admirers. Whether transforming homes for African leaders, Arabian princes or British pop stars (Dayan was responsible for creating the Jacobean dining room of Barry Gibb from the Bee Gees), his name has become a byword for elegance and opulence.

Dayan's decision to become an interior designer was fortuitous for his clients.



With a love of soccer, he almost signed a professional contract with Leeds Football Club in England, but decided to decline.

Instead, he began studying interior design in his late teens, where his talent was swiftly recognized. While still a student, he secured work as a set designer with Thames TV, a leading British television company, and after studying he traveled to Paris, France and then Italy to immerse himself in new European design concepts. The need to travel – to absorb different cultures and influences – led to a long-term job with British Airways, during which time he lived in eight countries on four continents.

Finally, 20 years ago, he decided to settle in Hollywood and return to his passion for interior design.



Dayan believes every property is unique – and the inspiration for interiors are already there. “When I walk into a home, a yacht or a jet plane, I don’t say much,” he reveals. “That is often a surprise for the owners, who expect me to start explaining my visions. But, like Sherlock Holmes, I deduce the answers to the puzzle of how a property asks to be, from clues. What happened here? I wait for a house to speak to me. I then put all that into the mixture, and what comes out is something unique.”

“I design homes to suit the property, not the owners,” he continues. “The owners get to choose the real estate; I choose the interiors. It works in terms of both looks and investment. Recently, one of my clients spent \$2.8 million on a home in Dubai and

asked me to set to work.” He had a budget of \$300,000. “Before the client had time to unpack, a real estate agent had appraised it at \$4.5million.”

Attention to detail is one Dayan’s great passions. “Sometimes, we use antiques in refurbishment, or sometimes reproductions. The Jacobean table in the Gibbs’ home for example, is repro, but we put faint marks on the table, to mimic where generations of elbows might have rested.”

Dayan’s business involves designing for outdoor spaces, as well as indoor rooms. A recent project, a Mediterranean villa on top of a hill in Malibu with a 200-degree view of the Pacific – the property of an Indian Government Senator – presented him with an

unusual challenge. How to keep out wildlife, including snakes and deer. Dayan created an iron gate at the entrance, “researching his family crest to include it. I doubled the available parking space by using car elevators so that six spaces became 12, and sank 60 meters of snake-proof fencing around the property, camouflaged with local flora.”

Whether he’s talking of the \$308million Monaco penthouse he refurbished, or his own Beverly Hills home – a heady blend of modern eclectic pieces and Austrian antiques – it’s clear that all of his work is not only driven by his love of beauty, but is in some way an extension of his own personality. As he himself says; “As an interior designer, one develops a personality like a fine woven tapestry.”