



Zoltan Varro

Zoltan Varro, the founder of Varrodesign, is a multi-award-winning designer of international recognition who left his mark in several European locations from London to Lake Como. He has designed over eighteen hotels in the past few years and has won a Gold Key Award (New York), the World Luxury Hotel Award (Hong Kong), and the Boutique Hotel Award (London). He started his career over 20 years ago in the city of Budapest, where he was exposed to the rich and eclectic architectural heritage of great classical, art nouveau, and modernist masters.

One of his landmark projects, the Aria Hotel Budapest, was named the best hotel in the world by TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Award, based on reviews complimenting the hotel's music-inspired design and sky bar, amongst other qualities. The Aria Hotel Budapest has also won Europe's Best Wellness Spa in London's World Boutique Hotel Awards and was nominated for a Gold Key Award in three different categories: Best Hotel Luxury, Best Guest Room Luxury, and Best Lobby Luxury.

He tends to work with his clients across the portfolio, an example of which is his co-operation with the hotel group, CPI Hotels, with three projects in Budapest: the Mamaison Chain Bridge Hotel, the Mamaison Vibe Hotel Downtown Budapest, and the Mamaison Residence Izabella.

He is also known for immersing into the heritage of his projects, such as the Mystery Hotel in the old Freemasons headquarters of Budapest, the only European project among the finalists of Best Lobby and Best Guestroom in Luxury Design at the Gold Key Awards in 2019. The Mystery Hotel Budapest is one of those properties where one can observe Zoltan

Varro's visionary usage of fabric. Beyond property-specific designs, he has been working closely with one of the world's leading fabric houses, whose owner invited Zoltán in 2016 to design the collection for the company's luxury brand, Grandezza.

In 2021, his Mirror Spa in Platan Tata (Hungary), built on the old moat grounds of a 14th-century royal castle, was shortlisted for the Gold Key Awards in the category of Best Specialty Design. The Platan Tata went through a complete interior transformation inspired by the nearby Esterhazy Palace, the natural beauty of the neighbourhood, and the artisanal gastronomy of the resident Michelin-star chef. A year and a half after its opening, Platán Gourmet Restaurant was awarded the prestigious two Michelin stars, becoming the first countryside restaurant in Hungary to receive such recognition.

One of Zoltán Varró's most important international projects is the Nuvole Garden Hotel, a restored historic Art Nouveau luxury property located in Brunate, Italy — often referred to as the “balcony of the Alps.” Opened in March 2025, and set in an exceptional location with breathtaking views over Lake Como, the project perfectly reflects Varró's design philosophy, seamlessly blending timeless elegance with contemporary style.

Another major international project, C Villa Hotel on Koh Samui, Thailand, presents a contemporary reinterpretation of local Thai traditions, combining tropical intimacy with bold, modern luxury. Opened in April 2026, the five-star Mythos Resort in Domonyvölgy brings together Hungarian rural heritage, equestrian elegance, and the surrounding landscape through Varró's distinctive storytelling design.

Besides making it to the finals four times with five different projects, Zoltan Varro received the Gold Key Award for Excellence in Hospitality Design for the Science Hotel (Szeged, Hungary) in the category of Best Lobby Budget/Focused Service.

Highlights of VARRODESIGN:

- **2016** – Winner of Gold Key Awards New York in Best Lobby Budget/Focused Design category - Science Hotel Szeged
- **2017** – No.1 Hotel in the World by TripAdvisor in 2017 – Aria Hotel Budapest by Library Hotel Collection
- **2018** – The first Hungarian restaurant rewarded with two Michelin Stars – Onyx Restaurant
- **2019** – Mystery Hotel Budapest – FORBES.com, CNN.com
- **2022** – Hungary's first two Michelin star-awarded countryside restaurant - Platan Gourmet Restaurant
- **2024** – Winner of World Luxury Hotel Awards in Best Luxury Rooftop View Hotel category - Mystery Hotel Budapest

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