

Surroundings

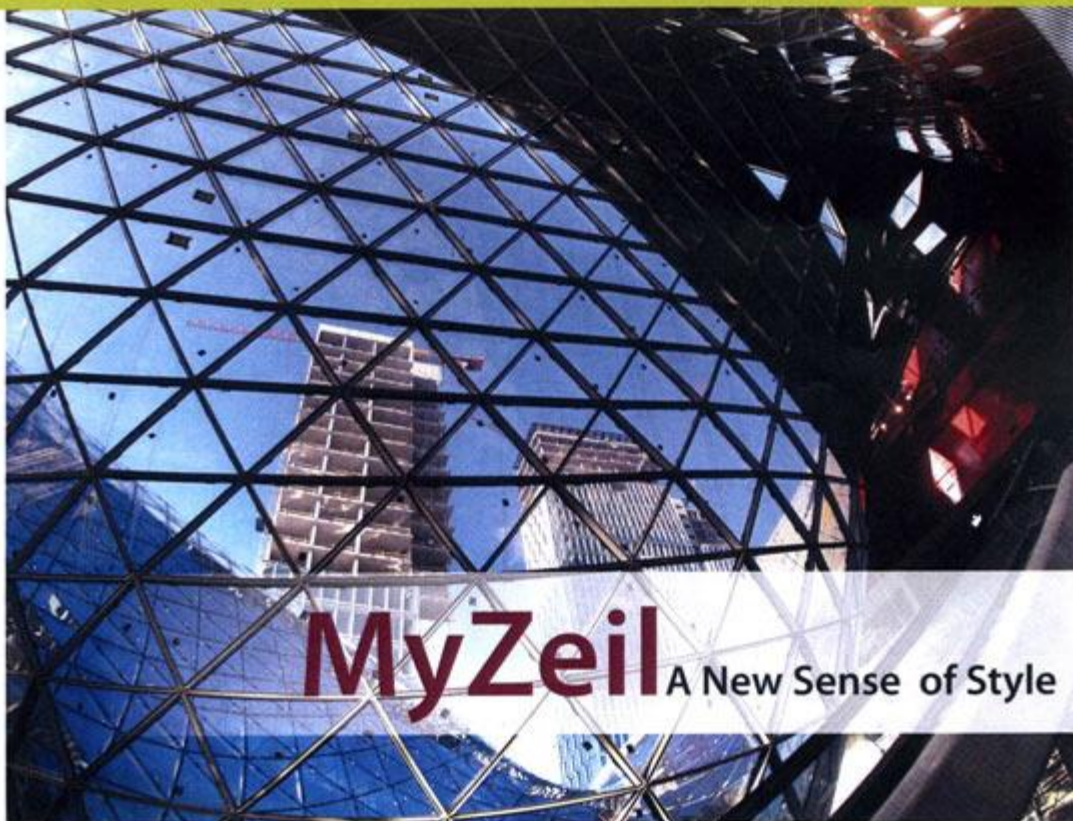
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Surroundings

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XXL WEEKEND: RESIDENZA NAPOLEONE III. IN ROME

There's always a reason to visit Rome -- whether as a student with a backpack and a guitar or for a weekend shopping spree on the Via Condotti. Anyone who has been to Rome understands its magnetism and yearns to return. Since the hotel service in Rome is often *al dente* and most of the concierge are better mannered than the guests -- whether at a grand establishment or a funky designer hotel -- new hotel tips are a treasure.

There are charming and unusual alternatives to be found directly on the Via Condotti. A special tip is that you can stay in the 16th century Palazzo Ruspoli, a private estate which is owned by Princess Letizia. Napoleon III stayed here in 1830 while he was in exile with his mother, the former Queen of Holland, and time seems to stand still in the palace. It is safe to say that the estate's 2 majestic suites offer the grandest Bed & Breakfast Rome has to offer -- with magnificent marble staircases, exquisite 16th century carpets and huge oil masterpieces -- all with 21st century comforts such as TV, DVD and wireless Internet.

Napoleon? The Napoleon Suite with its 200 sq. meters (2,150 sq. feet) is truly "grand" and brings to mind a typical opera backdrop. The Penthouse Suite is not as "grand" but is well-appointed and offers a view of the Spanish Steps from its private, romantic terrace. Sounds grand? It is!

XXL weekend by C&M Travel Design: Return flight from Frankfurt, limousine airport transfer, 2 nights at the Residenza in Rome including breakfast, admission to the Vatican Museum (C&M guests do not have to queue up!) Rates starting at € 995 per person (double occupancy).

