



66 St. Paul's
Boutique Hotel,
Valletta



Piano Nobile, 2018
©Alan Carville



Piano Nobile
February 2014



Piano Nobile, 2018
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Entrance view
February 2014



Entrance view, 2018
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Walkway detail
February 2014



Walkway detail, 2018
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Walkway detail
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Walkway detail, 2018
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Courtyard
February 2014



Courtyard, 2018
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Staircase
February 2014



Staircase, 2018
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Construction phase, Staircase
May 2016



Breakfast Room, 2018
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Typical room, 2018

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Deluxe suite, 2018
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Deluxe suite, 2018

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Deluxe suite terrace, 2018
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Rooftop Lounge, 2018

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Pool deck, 2018
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Pool deck, 2018
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The Abstract

66 St Paul's is a cosy family run boutique hotel. Piero and Emma had been dreaming about this enterprise for some time and it all materialized when they came across this abandoned Palazzo in Valletta. The property was in a semi-converted state, the previous owner had planned to convert the building into an art gallery and a house combined. When plans fell through, the palazzo changed hands and direction. The new owners fell in love with the classical courtyard and uniqueness of the fabric, as well as the potential outlook from the upper floors. The light and ambiance of the open areas were key to the project.

Given that some alterations to building had already been done, the main work centred around the top floors extension to create suites with stunning Grand Harbour views, the relocation of the roof top pool and the extension of the walkways and main staircase.

The main interventions

The original staircase had been previously removed and a new access had to be designed and integrated into the courtyard. Whilst keeping the original location of the stairs, the design had been altered and made to compliment the space with its openness and fluidity of structure. This posed some challenging structural requirements which were addressed meticulously and wisely by the structural team, whilst keeping all the design aspects on board. The solid central balustrade acts as a structural element, while the outer steel railing helps to render the volume lighter and open looking. The adjacent walk way was extended on top of the original stone passage. A steel structure was designed to partly sit on top of the corbels and in part tied to the masonry walls. Fine detailing ensured that the final structure looked as slender as possible. The steel handrail was designed specifically for the project and passage way illumination was integrated in the main structure.

The main room overlooking the street is at the Piano Nobile. This beautiful volume provided the opportunity to introduce a mezzanine level. With such interventions it is always an issue on how to distribute the loads on the existing structure. This challenge was surpassed by introducing a main steel beam in level with the original timber beams and the whole structure is suspended from this element.

At fourth floor, a pavilion-like lounge area was designed. The tranquil resting space makes the most of its views towards the amazing Valletta roof tops and Grand Harbour. At this level the pool was relocated towards the front of the property. The deck space was maximized as much as possible, and enriched with planting to soften the hard edges. The pool structure posed its own challenges on top of the old building. An independent structure was designed to take this additional weight.

The upper receded floor extensions were made possible due to the back high party wall. With a number of discussions at planning stage with the different authorities, these floors were moulded to best suit the surrounding scenario. Setbacks were made at its sides to avoid creating high blank party walls.