



CAFÉ MORGAL: ICING ON THE CAKE

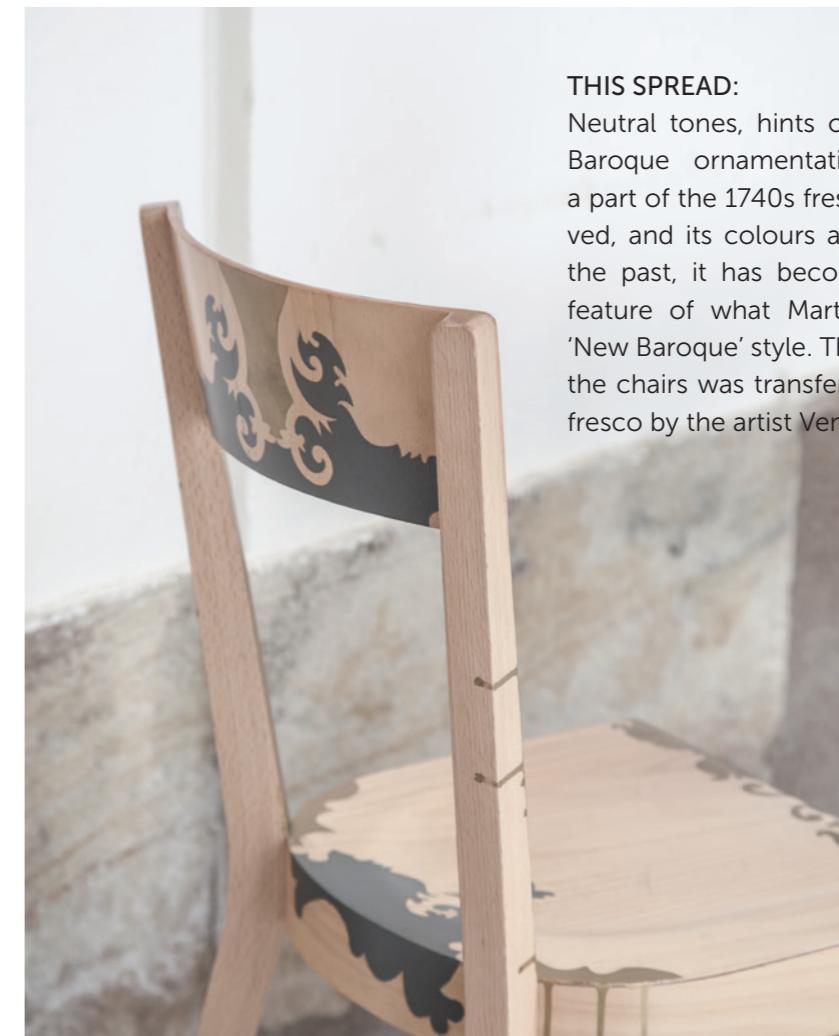
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THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE IN BRNO HOUSES THE MORAVIAN GALLERY WITH MANY ARTISTIC TREASURES FROM THE GOTHIc PERIOD THROUGH TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. THE PALACE IS ALSO HOME TO A CONTEMPORARY WORK OF ART – CAFÉ MORGAL, DESIGNED BY MARTIN HRDINA IN THE 'NEW BAROQUE' STYLE.

Recent renovations in the Governor's Palace revealed a ceiling fresco in the former vestry that was designated for the new museum café. The existence of the fresco was no surprise, as the Governor's Palace had been a Cistercian abbey in the past, but what surprised the renovation team was how well the fresco was preserved. The muted colours, neutral tones and overt Baroque style inspired the architect Martin Hrdina in his design for Café Morgal. Martin did not see the fresco as a sacrosanct relic but as an interior element that would be featured in full view. The walls supporting the ceiling remained white, adorned only with the gold-lettered name of the café. The massive illuminated bar, blends seamlessly with the rest of the interior. The fit-out would have also remained subdued had Martin not invited the artist Vendula Chalánková to collaborate on the project. Vendula decorated the fifteen chairs by TON with ornamentation transferred from the fresco, so you can enjoy fifteen 'originals' while sipping your coffee or tea. The architect's vision has turned the café into a work of art not to be missed. And the wonderful smells wafting from the kitchen make Café Morgal the icing on the Palatial cake! ■

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Ceiling lights Silvia from Vita Copenhagen resemble rough pearls and bring to mind the original meaning of the Portuguese word *barroco*.



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Neutral tones, hints of saints' figures and Baroque ornamentation. Although only a part of the 1740s fresco has been preserved, and its colours are but a ghost from the past, it has become the determining feature of what Martin describes as the 'New Baroque' style. The ornamentation on the chairs was transferred from the ceiling fresco by the artist Vendula Chalánková.