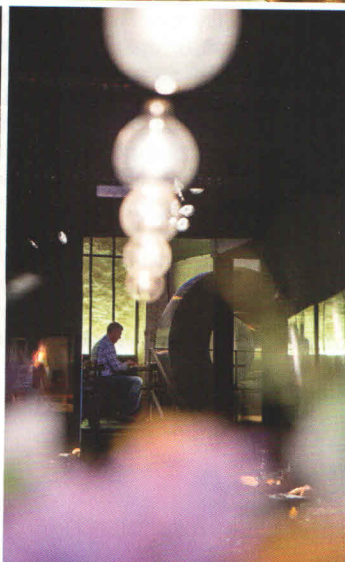




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HOTEL O SUD & KATHEDRAL

Close to two of Antwerp's most remarkable locations – the Cathedral of Our Lady and the Royal Museum of Fine Arts – an enterprising architect going by the name of Jo Peeters has turned his dreams into a reality. Peeters, who is just over 50 years old, always wanted to open his own hotel. And now he has opened not just one, but two upmarket establishments within the same year. The first to open was the HotelO Sud in the well-to-do south of Antwerp – a boutique hotel with 16 luxuriously furnished rooms. Then, just a few months later, he opened HotelO Kathedral, where many of the 23 rooms boast spectacular views of one of Antwerp's most famous buildings. Needless to say, Peeters and his team were responsible for most of the modifications themselves, and the Belgian was also responsible for the interior design. Equally evident in both hotels is his penchant for matt and glossy black, fine wood and stone floors, open-plan bathrooms and inviting beds, whereby HotelO Kathedral has the additional attraction of some gigantic Rubens prints. Since they are planning to specialise in tourist groups, which is fitting for their location in the heart of the old part of town, the hotel will soon be extended to 35 rooms. The HotelO Sud, on the other hand, mainly attracts younger couples. This area around the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, a little south of the city centre, is the most popular for nightlife in Antwerp. The in-house restaurant 'Nero' on the ground floor of the building is booming in much the same way as the neighbouring establishments, the artists' café Hopper, and Ferrier 30, where fine Italian food is served. This is no coincidence: Peeters knows the local scene inside out: he already owns half a dozen cafés and restaurants in the city, including Hangar 41, Café UFO in the FoMu (FotoMuseum Provincie Antwerpen) and Brasserie Berlin on the Kammenstraat.



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