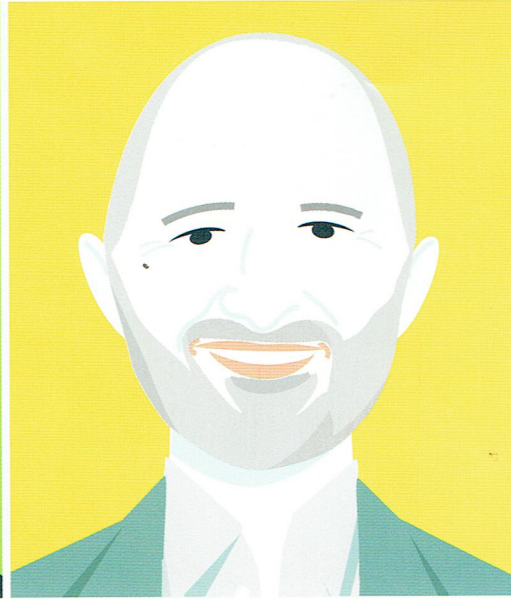
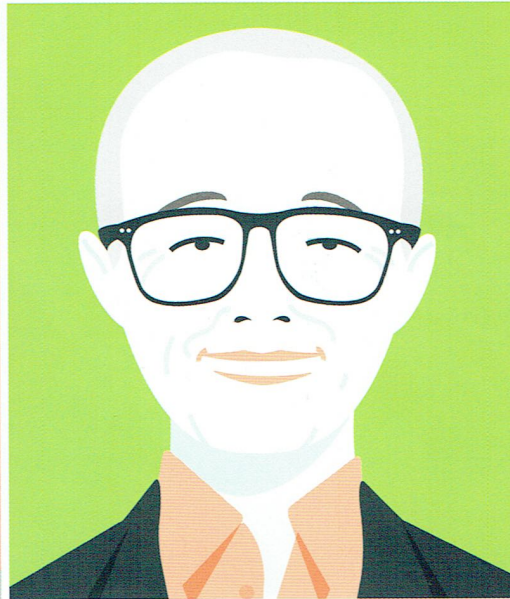
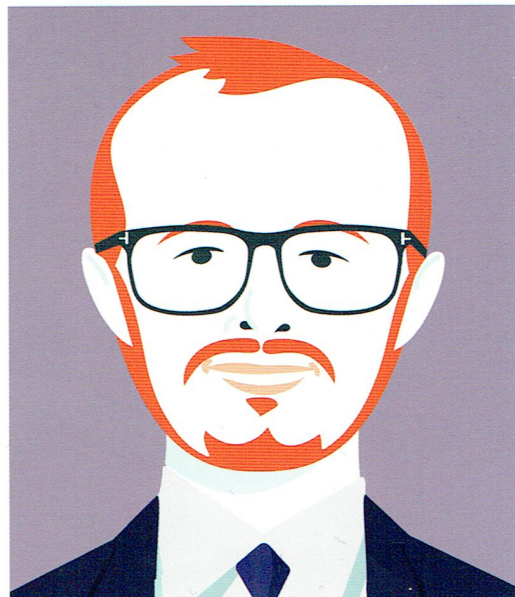


SQUAREMEAL VENUES +EVENTS

FOR SUCCESSFUL EVENT ORGANISERS

AUTUMN 2016



TALKING HEADS

The industry's top brass reveal the conference trends you need to know



MOROCCO

Silence, please

What's thought to be the world's oldest library is about to reopen, following a multimillion-pound restoration project by the Moroccan Ministry of Culture. **Khizanat al-Qarawiyyin** (020 7437 0073) is located in the medina of Fez and is thought to date back to 859. While the relaunched library will retain much of its ancient architecture, 21st-century upgrades will include solar panels, humidity controls and air conditioning to create optimum conditions for conserving its 4,000 manuscripts. While details are being kept under lock and key, we hear that one wing will be available to the public once the library is open – likely before the end of 2016.

Coming soon

The all-new, 204-room **Lucky Dragon Casino & Hotel** opens its doors on the Las Vegas Strip on 3 December and will feature a clutch of pan-Asian restaurants, including a new fine-dining dim sum hotspot.

Also opening in December is **KK Beach** in Sri Lanka. The new waterfront club will be located near Habaraduwa on the south coast and will have four luxury suites with ocean views plus an open-plan restaurant serving seafood and barbecue dishes.

Perowne International will open its first hotel outside France on 16 December. Villa Marie in St Barts will feature 21 bungalows and two villas, as well as a pool, wine cellar, rum bar and fumoir.

Starting 2017 with a bang, **Shangri-La International** will open its second Hotel Jen property in Beijing. Located inside the China World Trade Centre (handy for business), the 450-room hotel will feature an all-day dining restaurant and a spa.

CANADA

Rocky ride

Luxury tour operator **Western & Oriental** (020 3588 6035) has launched a programme of incentive trips to Canada to mark the country's 150th anniversary in 2017. The company now offers city breaks, rail journeys and escorted tours in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. We like the sound of the 10-day Rockies tour (from £4,970pp), which includes a two-day train ride on board the Rocky Mountaineer, helicopter sightseeing and encounters with rescued wolfdogs. Sign us up.



USA

Lift the Vale

New York's 'Little Berlin' – otherwise known as Williamsburg – has a new hotel: **The William Vale** (+1 718 631 8400) on Brooklyn's Vale Park. The hotel's event options range from 400-guest receptions in its Vale Ballroom to smaller meetings in a choice of three boardrooms. Our favourite is the Westlight bar. The indoor-outdoor space on the 22nd floor gives guests views of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens, and can be used alongside the rooftop for up to 240 guests.

