

MONOCLE

1 Agenda

- Austrians export urbanism
- In praise of dirty streets
- Honolulu is back on track
- Fictional cities, real lessons

2 Global views

- Five up-and-coming places
- Tips for urban success
- Better living in Valencia
- The top shop in Bangkok

3 Inventory

- Marseille's toothsome turn
- The real heel: sun in Salento
- Hiroshima's garden suburb
- Time to charge: juicy tech

Quality of Life survey: our ranking revealed

PLUS: Meet the neighbours, local heroes and how to save our cities.

The City Winners

Who topped our liveable leaderboard? Tour the cities getting it right. See page 50

- Amsterdam** Dutch delight
- Athens** The Greek revival
- Berlin** Artful and enviable
- Copenhagen** Great Dane
- Helsinki** Harbours content
- Kyoto** Massaging its temples
- Lisbon** City on the rise
- Madrid** Capital idea
- Melbourne** Grows up
- Milan** Designs for change
- Munich** Bavarian beauty
- Oslo** Fjord fiesta
- Paris** Olympic champion?
- Seoul** It's got it
- Singapore** Clean sweep
- Stockholm** Northern star
- Sydney** Relaxes at last
- Tokyo** Sky's the limit
- Vienna** Elegant and relevant
- Zürich** Swiss precision

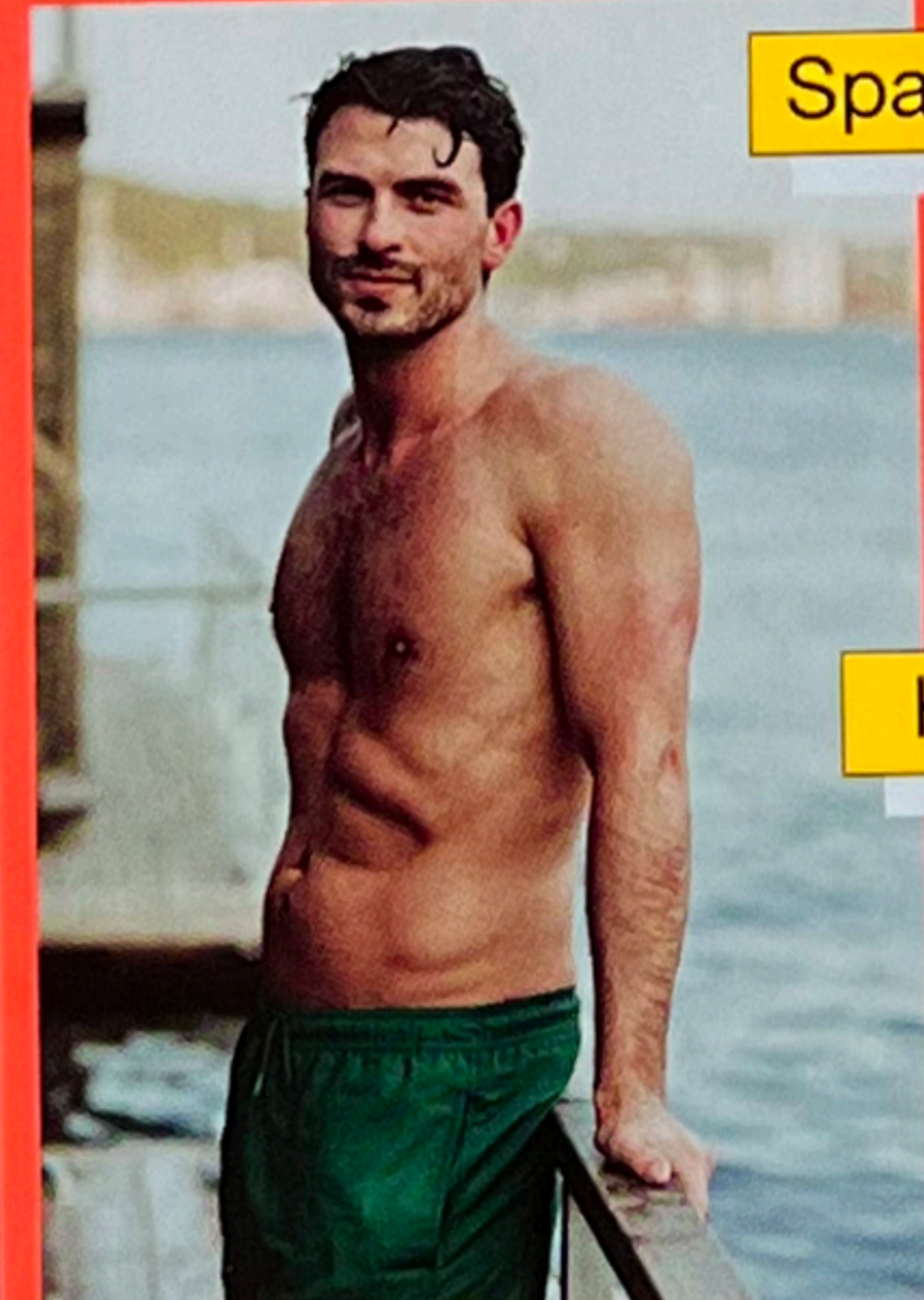
Liveable Cities Index — Bratislava bounces back — Alabama architecture — French pop



Beautiful buildings



Fresh pastures



Space to strip off



Sunny shoppers



Happy hounds



Hot neighbours



Tasty morsels

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... architect, ambitious urban man. Matus... 2018, mayor of Bratislava. In his e... who understands what an audience wants and likes... among the people. Until this point, the roles of gig... musician and cerebral mayor had seemed an odd mix... it's clear that both jobs share a similar skill set. Though... wonder where else in the world a capital city's mayor co... also be in a cool band. Sadiq Khan on the trumpet? An... Hidalgo on drums? Seems unlikely.

The city
We have spent the past few days in Bratislava shadowing Vallo, not because of his musical talents but because he's trying to deliver, at speed, an urban renaissance for his city. And it's proving popular: he was re-elected for a second four-year term in October 2022 with an increased major-ity (up from 36.5 per cent of the vote to 61.9 per cent). The step change that he wants to bring about is focused on making better public spaces, creating a child-friendly city, addressing the complex relationship with the capital's history – especially the architectural interventions of the communist era – and renewing civic pride. And he's doing it all in an extraordinary way, as part of a loose band of people who are driven less by party politics and more by a passion for city-making. But can he keep the electorate as happy as a concert audience? Does an architect make a good city leader?

On our first day we meet two people who have long been part of Vallo's unofficial support network: archi-tects Igor and Petra Marko. The pair moved the head-quarters of their practice Marko & Placemakers, which focuses on public spaces and urban design, from London to Bratislava after the pandemic to support their growing number of projects in Central Europe and office development part in what's happening in the city. We rendezvous at Sky Park, a high-rise residential and office development (including a co-working space for the city's numerous tech start-ups) by Zaha Hadid Architects in what is described as the new downtown. It's apparently all sold out, even with apartments going for €7,000 per square...

The n
Vallo, b... of a dip... brated It... Umberto... school in... time in Pa... he trained... me realise... in other citie... you can trans... he says when... Hall. "Yes, as a... scale – a café... uted with...