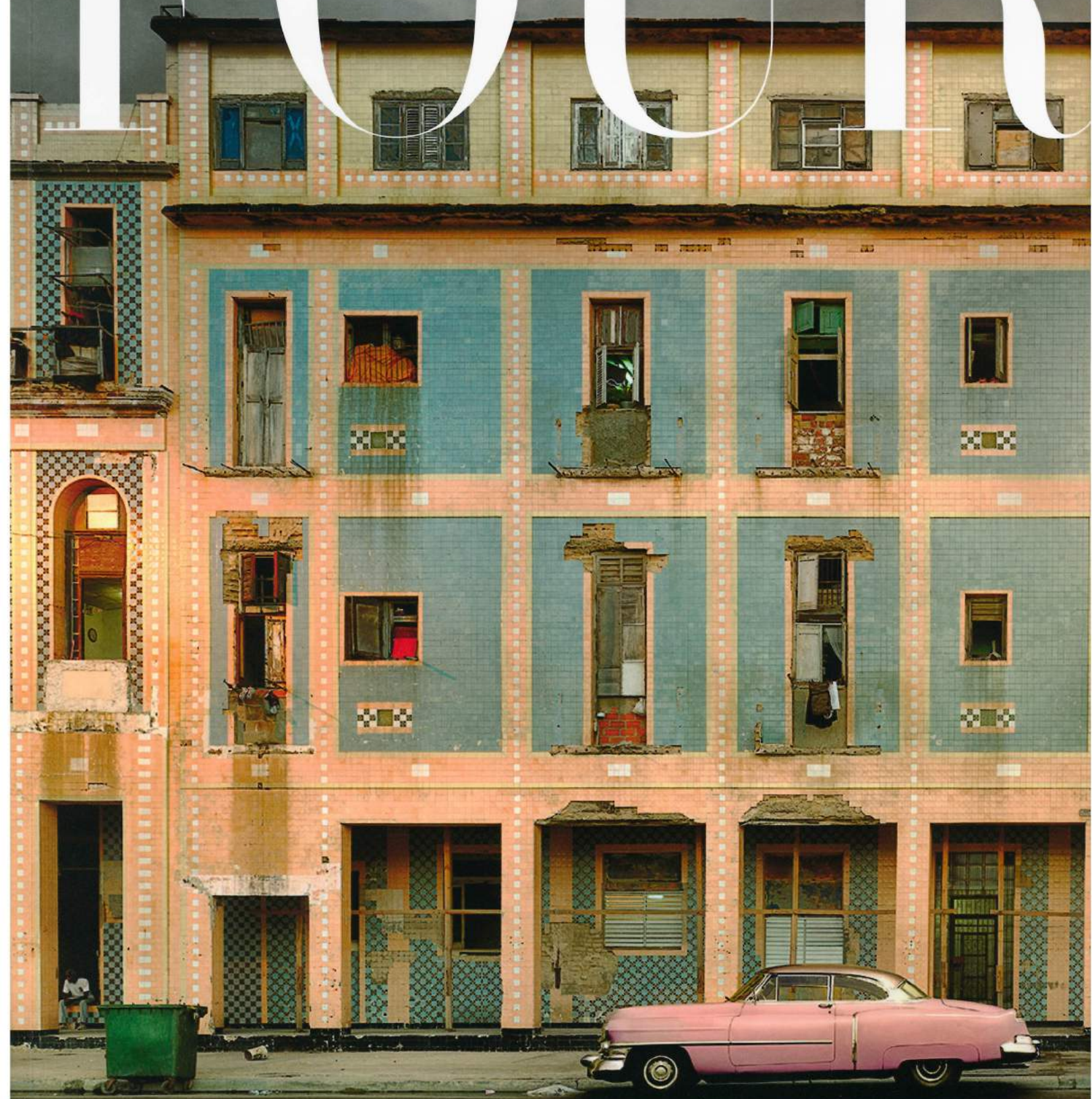


FOUR



Architecture & Design



EKSOWATCHES GALLERY

An exclusive setting for the world's finest watches

This gallery of watchmaking art, specialising in ultra limited-series timepieces by independent watchmakers, is the only one of its kind in France.

Once they have the great classics, serious watch geeks look for timepieces that are exclusive, creative and maybe even outrageous – concepts that are familiar in the art world. Ekaterina Sotnikova has picked up on this idea and created France's first "watchmaking art gallery". The EKSOWatches Gallery is not a store, has no shop window and is not open to the general public. It is a discreet and quietly luxurious showroom in one of Paris's most exclusive districts where aficionados, by appointment only, can admire the creations of some of the best independent watchmakers from around the world including Vianney Halter, Kari Voutilainen, Andreas Strehler, Ludovic Ballouard and Tim and Bart Grönefeld. Names like these have a particular resonance for connoisseurs of extreme high-end watchmaking.

AN INCOMPARABLE EMOTION

Every timepiece designed by one of these virtuosos is a masterpiece of technical prowess and aesthetics. These watches not only keep time in spectacular fashion, they also arouse an incomparable emotion. Exclusive complications, extreme manufacturing quality, unequalled finish, dazzling design and materials: you have to love art, and watchmaking art in particular, to come and pore over the treasures on show at the EKSOWatches gallery. You need knowledge to appreciate the mechanics inside these watches, of which only a few are made and in some cases just one,

commissioned by Ekaterina, muse and gallerist. Obviously, this level of rarity and exactingness is reserved for a privileged international customer base. Often, these happy few become faithful fans, following the careers of their favourite watchmakers and buying several models over the years, rather the way some 19th century art lovers collected Impressionist masterpieces. ■

www.eksowatches.com

