

Digital may dominate these days, but at desirable destinations across the world, it seems hard copy is still proving a welcome diversion from devices. At Hotel Café Royal in London, Maison Assouline has created a library in the lobby, while in some hotels in the OD group, publisher Taschen has been tasked with stocking Book Bars. Meanwhile, at French estate Domaine des Etangs (see page 123), the creation of a library (or two) that adequately serves this art-focused retreat has been treated like an art project in itself, while London's new tea bar Teatulia will host a monthly Living Bookshelf, guest curated by creatives, starting with Tilda Swinton. All of this has inspired us to build a reading room of our own, curated around the subject of plants. Here are some recent releases we're adding to the shelves.

01 *A Tribute to Flowers* (€40, by Richard Fischer, for Te Neues) For 15 years, photographer Richard Fischer has been capturing the beauty of rare and endangered flower species in his studio.

02 *The Japanese Garden* (£50, by Sophie Walker, for Phaidon) This book explores the art of garden making in Japan, including Shinto shrines, tea gardens and contemporary Zen designs.

03 *Strange Plants III* (£38, edited by Zio Baritau, for Zioxla, from Village Books) The latest in a series of books that showcases plants in contemporary art.

04 *Ways to Tie Trees* (€50, by Woong Soak Teng, for Steidl) A strangely captivating, loose-leaf collection of photographs of staked trees, captioned with their locations, in the manmade garden city of Singapore.



■ NICE PACKET

The Hanover HQ of German biscuit maker Bahlsen, originally designed in 1911 by architect Karl Siebrecht, has recently had a bit of a spruce-up. London-based studio Freehaus preserved the Arts and Crafts-inspired façade, while opening up the darker interiors, especially the barrel-vaulted foyer and reception. In keeping with the Bahlsen family's diktat of making the building more accessible to the public, the lobby features generously proportioned windows and banquettes. These provide a unique peek into the adjoining hall containing the original factory and chimney, now used for R&D and testing of new biscuit recipes. Light streams in through stained-glass clerestories, aiding the inspection of display cases holding the company's memorabilia and commemorative objets and antique statues resplendent in pastel-hued vitrines on the mezzanine floor. freehausdesign.com

