

Because...

They can be works of art

Some of the world's most daring hotel and resort architects are working in Asia

Shinta Mani Wild

Architect Bill Bensley launched Shinta Mani Wild (above) deep within the Cambodian wilderness. With a cluster of raised wooden structures that peer over the jungle, it's no surprise that it's now a member of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World. bensleycollection.com

Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Located just next to KL's Petronas Twin Towers, the hotel's Yun House restaurant was crafted by Ed Ng and Terence Ngan to express the outside impact on the city's history over the centuries, from the mercantile Cantonese to British colonials. fourseasons. com/kualalumpur/dining/restaurants/yun-house/



Amanyangyun

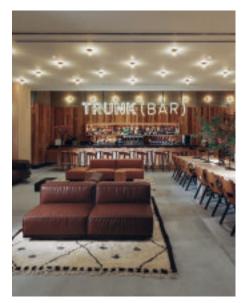
Built out of Ming and Qing dynasty village houses and set up in a forest just an hour outside Shanghai, Amanyangyun was named Hotel of the Year at the prestigious AHEAD Awards in 2019 for its skilful blend of chic minimalism and luxurious detail. aman.com/resorts/amanyangyun

Because...

Some hotels are truly liberating

Sometimes, all you need is to fall off the map, and **The Lindis** in New Zealand's South Island is probably as off-grid as it gets. With a rolling roof inspired by the contours of the landscape, plush but earthy interiors and a range of experiences from fly-fishing to horse riding, it's all too easy to forget about the rest of the world, thelindis.com

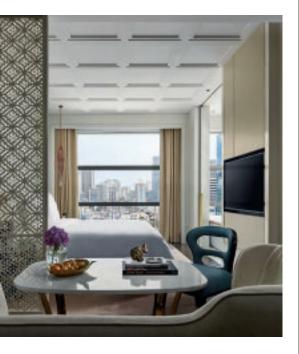




Because...

It gives you a chance to downsize

Less is definitely more in Tokyo's tiny **Trunk Hotel**, which has just 15 designer rooms in the city's fashion-focused Shibuya ward. In contrast to the neighbourhood's decidedly futuristic and neon aesthetic, Trunk Hotel exhibits more natural tones, with upcycled timber and potted plants that bulge from the crisp lines of the exteriors. **trunk-hotel.com**



Because...

The right hotel can frame a whole city

Some hotels can make a destination. whereas others have a way of embodying it. **Rosewood Bangkok** was modelled on the traditional Thai wai, the national greeting emblematic of Thai hospitality, adding vet another eclectic high-rise to the city's hodgepodge skyline. The 158 rooms epitomise contemporary urban luxury with floor-toceiling inclined windows that parade generous City Views. rosewoodhotels. com/en/bangkok

Because...

They let you go wild



Port Lympne (above) outside London works with the Aspinall Foundation, a conservation charity dedicated to protecting endangered animals and returning them to protected wilderness areas. In the meantime, the animals – lowland gorillas, black rhinos, lemurs and other primates – roam around the expansive grounds which are dotted with lodges and cottages. In



2019, they opened the Lion Lodge, where the reserve's lion pride comes right up to the broad glass windows. This year, they'll launch the Giraffe Hall, a centuries-old stately home turned 10-room luxury hotel with giraffes tall enough to peer into the first-floor bedrooms.

In northern Thailand, the Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort recently constructed giant glass bubbles where guests can come face-to-trunk with the resort's elephants.

Nestled just outside Yala
National Park in southern
Sri Lanka, the Wild Coast
Tented Lodge (left) has
large luxury tent-like
structures landscaped in
the shape of a leopard's
paw in honour of the park's
most celebrated residents.
aspinallfoundation.org/
port-lympne; anantara.com;
resplendentceylon.com