



COOL DESIGN HOTELS IN ASIA

If you're seeking one-of-a-kind concepts and incredible Insta-worthy interiors on your travels, you're in luck – Asia has some of the best design hotels in the world, delivering ultra-stylish retreats like no other. We asked **Flight Centre Hong Kong** to round up some of their favourite destinations across the region to tickle your aesthetic tastes.

1. Phum Baitang, Siem Reap

Blending traditional Khmer craftsmanship with high-end contemporary facilities, Phum Baitang is a welcoming oasis of calm from which to experience Siem Reap and the nearby temples of Angkor Wat. Set within extensive tropical gardens and paddy fields, the resort's 45 stilted villas all come with private terraces or plunge pools, and are crafted from wood to create an authentic yet luxurious experience. With excellent Cambodian and international restaurants, private dining, a "spa temple" and a spectacular communal pool to enjoy, it's no wonder that Phum Baitang has played host to some discerning guests since its opening last year, with Angelina Jolie one of the first people to stay at the resort. If it's good enough for A-listers...

2. The Warehouse Hotel, Singapore

Located on the banks of Robertson Quay, this historic "godown" was originally built in 1895, where it became a hotbed for bootleg deals, illicit distilleries and other underground activities. Now restored and reincarnated as a 37-room boutique hotel, The Warehouse's industrial-chic design pays homage to the building's past in all the right ways – think high ceilings, bare brick walls, exposed original beams and, the pièce de résistance, an incredible custom-made light in the lobby made from wheels and pulleys. Throw in a swanky rooftop pool, kicking cocktail bar and plenty of thoughtful made-in-Singapore touches, and you've got pure design catnip for the Instagram generation.

3. The Slate, Phuket

This Bill Bensley-designed Thai sanctuary is the perfect combination of beach bliss and cutting-edge cool. Inspired by the island's tin-mining heritage, The Slate's glam-luxe style uniquely blends raw metals and traditional Thai décor to simply stunning effect – and that's before we've even got onto the lush tropical surroundings, trio of swimming pools and serene shores

of neighbouring Nai Yang Beach. Things get even more dreamy at the hotel's award-winning Cocoon Spa, which features a spectacular wicker tree-house "Nest" suspended from an ancient banyan tree ... now this really is anything but your average beach hut!

4. The Swatch Art Peace Hotel, Shanghai

Blending old and new has become something of a design cliché – but when it looks as amazing as The Swatch Art Peace Hotel, who's complaining? Located on the Bund (with killer skyline views as standard), this hotel boasts an impressive Victorian Renaissance façade dating back to 1906, a sweeping Jacobean oak staircase and seven coolly contemporary rooms that take inspiration from the city's heritage in the form of birdcage beds and hand-painted silk screens. It's also home to 18 workshops for an ever-changing rostrum of international artists-in-residence; when they depart, they leave behind a piece of art as a gift, which then goes on to be displayed in the hotel itself.

5. Claska, Tokyo

Set in the trendy Meguro district, Claska is the original Tokyo design hotel. Masterminded by renowned architect Tei Shuwa and British design firm Tomato, it boasts 20 rooms kitted out in four distinct themes: traditional tatami, Japanese modern, contemporary and most intriguingly, DIY – rooms completely crafted by their designer-creators, from construction to finishing touches (including, in one case, a bed made from soft toys ... yes, really). The creativity continues throughout the building, with floors dedicated to galleries, art spaces, studios, a design shop, rooftop terrace, and what might just be the coolest dog groomers in Tokyo. For an utterly unique combo of Japanese minimalism and high-art quirk, the Claska is still the coolest kid in town. *ea*



If you're planning to stay in one of these properties, or you need more recommendations on design hotels elsewhere, contact the experts at Flight Centre Hong Kong.

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