

6 New Luxury Hotels in Asia | Architectural Digest

Visit these gorgeous new properties from Richard Meier's Seamarq in South Korea to the Ritz Carlton in BaliText by Posted February 26, 2016

It's no surprise that the largest continent in the world, Asia, is also one of the most diverse. From a colonial coconut [plantation](#) in Sri Lanka to the tallest tower in [Jakarta](#), Indonesia, these six hotels take travelers inside the rich cultures of their host countries. There is much to learn, and guests' experiential education starts exactly when it should—the minute they check in.



Photo: Roland Halbe/Courtesy of the Seamarq

Seamarq Hotel, Gangwon-do, South Korea

The first LEED-certified hotel in this futuristic Asian nation, the Seamarq was built on an important archaeological site. During the minimally invasive construction process (architect Richard Meier aimed to maintain the area's natural planting and the footprint of the hotel that had previously occupied the site),

several artifacts were found and placed in a small exhibition space located next to the hotel. Interiors are defined by the clean-lined design Meier is known for. Pristine Silk Georgette marble, locally sourced granite, and warm wood dominate the material palette in the lobby, which features a sinuous stair in Venetian plaster and oak. In the adjacent lobby lounge, a stunning Ingo Maurer light fixture presides over a 65-foot Japanese wood table and Nakashima chairs looking onto the East China Sea. Two additional dining outlets follow the same pared-down aesthetic, as does the “beach on a cloud” fifth-floor infinity pool deck. The property’s 149 guest rooms are decorated in two color palettes: “ocean,” which features oak floors, ash veneers, and cool blues, and “mountain,” which is defined by warmer hues and maple woods. *From \$570/night; seamarghotel.com*



Photo: Will Pryce/Courtesy of Raffles

Raffles, Jakarta, Indonesia

Housed in Ciputra World 1, the tallest tower in the Indonesian capital, this hotel is centered on a theme of art. It is the ultimate gallery of renowned Indonesian artist and political activist Hendra Gunawan, whose works, defined by vibrant colors and strong flowing lines, deeply influenced Hirsch Bedner Associates' interior design. The hotel's concierge can lead guests through the adjacent Ciputra Artpreneur, a three-level complex devoted to art development in the country comprising a museum, exhibition gallery, and a 1,200-seat theater. There are 173 rooms, a comprehensive spa—one of the largest in the city—and five dining outlets, including the Writer's Bar, a Raffles staple. *From \$275/night; raffles.com*



Photo: Courtesy of the Ritz Carlton

Ritz Carlton, Bali, Indonesia

Design firm WATG faced a unique challenge when creating this property—it's built out of a cliff. The lobby is located on the upper floor, with the property's 313 rooms and suites cascading down to beach level. Interiors are decidedly modern but feature Balinese fabrics and Indonesian artifacts. A host of dining options range from the Indonesian Bejana, designed as a "culinary cave," complete with undulating walls and dramatic lighting, to the sleek, modern indoor-outdoor Japanese sushi lounge, Raku. An extensive spa with 14 treatment rooms and private Balinese garden rounds out the resort offerings. *From \$400/night; ritzcarlton.com*



Photo: Courtesy of Le Méridien Paro

Le Méridien Paro, Riverfront, Paro, Bhutan

For the design of this picturesque hotel in the mystical Himalayan kingdom's capital, Thimphu, Bhutan-based Tashi Dawa Associates showcased the country's 13 zorig chusum, or national arts and crafts, including the intricate stonework on the building's façade and the wood carving throughout the hotel's interiors. The architects employed local artisans and artists to create everything from furniture to dramatic art pieces that serve as headboards for the 59 contemporary guest rooms. A swirl of colors dominates the design of public spaces, which include three dining outlets, and custom-created carpets are reminiscent of the country's verdant paddies. *From \$270/night; starwoodhotels.com*



Photo: Michael Weber/Courtesy of the St. Regis Macao Cotai Central

The St. Regis Macao Cotai Central, Macau, China

Decorated by Wilson Associates, this hotel celebrates Macao's heritage as a trading port where many of the world's great explorers landed. Inside, the sweeping, cantilevered staircase is anchored with vertical bronze elements recalling the rigging of a sailboat; above hangs a handblown chandelier that signifies a billowing sail. The hotel's 400 rooms and suites feature a distinct blue-and-yellow color scheme—blue represents the autonomous region's Portuguese culture, while yellow symbolize its Chinese heritage. For drinking and dining options, there is a signature St. Regis bar and the Manor, the hotel's multiroom restaurant featuring varied residential spaces such as an intimate library and an indoor garden. *From \$242/night; stregismacao.com*



Photo: Courtesy of Anantara Peace Haven

Anantara Peace Haven, Tangalle, Sri Lanka

Given this property's origins as a coconut plantation, design firm WATG chose to showcase the great colonial architecture that dominates Sri Lanka. Carefully designed so that it could be easily and expertly crafted by local builders and artisans, Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle features custom-made teak furnishings and woven cotton fabrics sourced from the island nation. Color schemes are inspired by the azure Indian Ocean and, wherever possible, windows and balconies are designed to be frameless to capitalize on the views. A spa sits at the heart of every Anantara property, and this resort's features ten treatment rooms around two lush, landscaped courtyards used for reflexology and relaxation. *From \$270/night; tangalle.anantara.com*

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