

ARCHITECTURE · INTERIOR DESIGN · LANDSCAPING · M.E.P. SYSTEMS

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SEAB

SOUTHEAST ASIA BUILDING



Capella Sanya

Hainan, China

PROJECTS Hotels & Resorts
ARCHITECT'S CORNER Dealing with Plagiarism in Architecture





Facade of Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing.
Photo: © Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing, Beijing

Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing, Beijing

With a spectacular location in the heart of China's capital, Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing is the city's premier boutique hotel, designed to cater to the sophisticated needs of the contemporary traveller.

Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing, Beijing is located in the heart of historic Beijing, with spectacular roof-terrace views of the Forbidden City, and is the first Mandarin Oriental property in China's capital. It is the city's most luxurious boutique hotel and features the Group's core pillars of chic design and architecture, exceptional dining facilities and a Spa at Mandarin Oriental, offering the latest wellness and beauty facilities. Above all, guests are treated to the exceptional levels of legendary service for which Mandarin Oriental is renowned.

Hirsch Bedner Associates, one of the world's leading hospitality design firms, conceptualised the hotel as a modern-day courtyard mansion. Mandarin Oriental Hotel conveys and reinterprets the rich history of "Wang Fu", the aristocratic

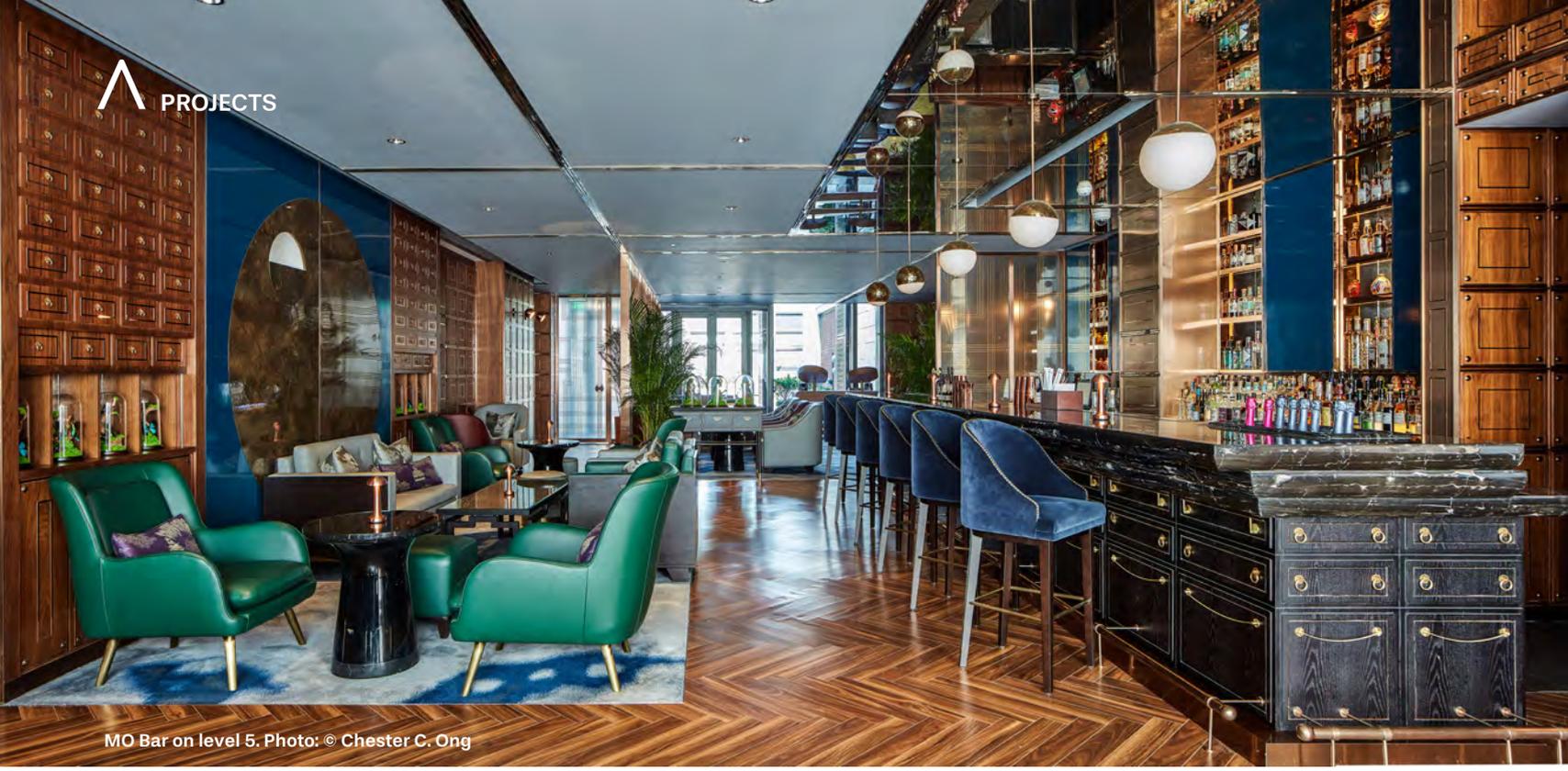
residences built in the Qing Dynasty, with its distinctively contemporary design.

The guests are brought into a skylight court when they enter the transit lobby from the street or the adjacent mall. Inside, a central water feature surrounded by dark stone facades and soft-lit lampshades pays homage to the historic well. Continuing into the entryway, guests will marvel at the embroidered cobalt and gold panels, accompanied by a welcoming fireplace, timber walls trimmed with dark lacquer shelves, and autumnal coloured area rugs. An energetic and richly hued three-fish objet d'art designed especially for the hotel by Frank Gehry hangs in the centre, creating a dynamic focal point.

The fifth floor is home for Café Zi, MO Bar, and The Library,

Outdoor MO Bar. Photo: © Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing, Beijing





MO Bar on level 5. Photo: © Chester C. Ong



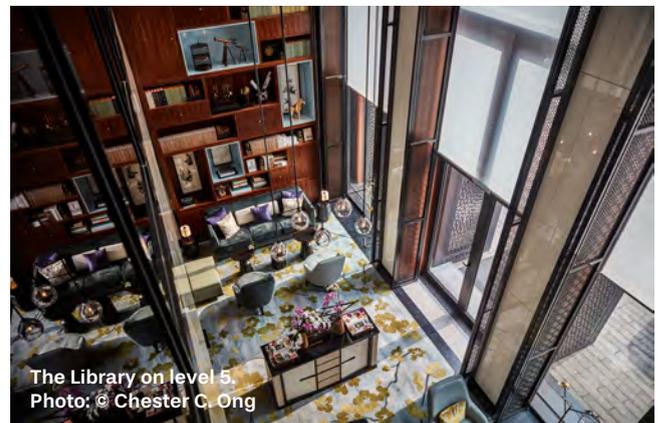
Café Zi on level 5. Photo: © Chester C. Ong



Lobby on level 1. Photo: © Chester C. Ong

all of which open onto an expansive rooftop garden terrace with spectacular views of the ancient imperial palace. Café Zi, the hotel's all-day dining restaurant, is envisioned as a Chinese garden blossoming in the morning sun. Laser-cut floral panels half-descended from the ceiling, and ceramic-tiled partitions framed in dark timber create pockets of semi-private dining areas. A decorative screen at one end of the café becomes a sliding door to MO Bar, a midnight garden where alchemists create signature drinks. The dark lacquered cabinets and leather paneled pull-out drawers remind the guests of the past Chinese apothecaries who mixed potions to produce efficacious remedies for ailing royalty and aristocrats.

The Library, a two-story modern drawing room serving a range of palatable small bites, completes the epicurean journey. The theme of The Library draws inspiration from Australian Sir George Ernest Morrison, a government adviser known for his extraordinary adventures to China. A fresh palette and understated design create a contemplative place for browsing sought-after artworks and books, including a 60-volume *The Complete*



The Library on level 5. Photo: © Chester C. Ong

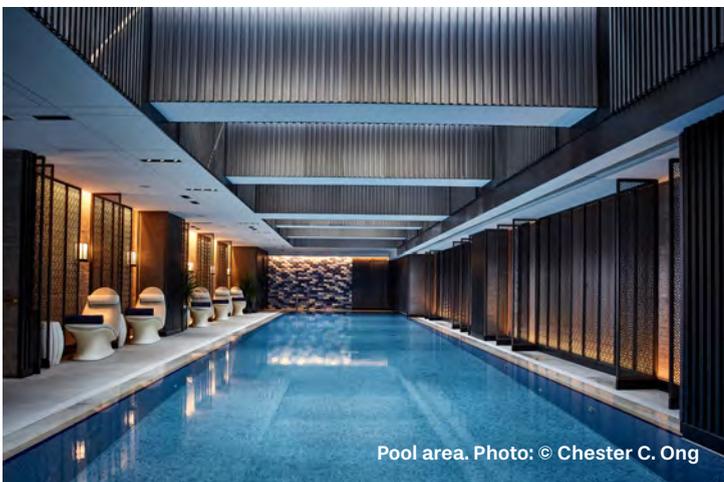


Premier room. Photo: © Chester C. Ong

Collection of Chinese Arts, covering the nation's art treasures over a period of 5,000 years.

Connecting to the sixth floor, the stairwell is designed to create warm glowing linear steps within an enclosed "lantern" gently leading guests up to their rooms, as well as the spa and wellness centre which features a 25-metre lap pool with sky roof. The four-individually themed spa suites, inspired by Chinese gardens, promise an exceptional relaxation. Wall coverings featuring sweeping Willows are framed in timber archways, conveying a subtle interpretation of garden pavilions.

The Mandarin Oriental Hotel, which houses 73 spacious rooms with a minimum of 55 square metres, are among the largest in Beijing. The rooms are designed with a contemporary and sophisticated residential style, blended with subtle traditional Chinese elements. The inspirations from the Imperial Era is represented by the four-poster beds, which refer to sleeping chambers of the princes that once lived in the mansions of Wangfujing. Other nods to traditional Chinese design include headboard panels with harmoniously aligned flora and fauna and a marble relief engraved with stylized clouds in the bathroom, resembling the Forbidden City's stone craved stairway. Based on the room type selected, the hotel guests can either enjoy the spectacular view of the Forbidden City or their own exclusive private garden terrace.



Pool area. Photo: © Chester C. Ong



The language we chose to use is decidedly modern, but underlined with a narrative of the Chinese tradition and craftsmanship.

– Federico Masin, Partner at HBA Hong Kong.

PROJECT DATA

Project Name: Mandarin Oriental Wangfujing
Location: Beijing, China
Owner/Developer: Hong Kong Land
Interior Design Firm: Hirsch Bedner Associates, Hong Kong Office
Size: 12,800 square metres including exterior area of MO Bar
Completion: 2019