

“STYLISH STAYS: THE HOTELS THAT THESE 8 DESIGN CREATIVES FELL IN LOVE WITH”

CNA LUXURY; APR 2024

<https://cnaluxury.channelnewsasia.com/experiences/where-stay-luxury-hotels-244391>



An 18th-century manor, a Philippe Starck-designed ‘hippie house’ and a Scandinavian hotel where you can order the furniture you fancy during your stay – these are some of the unique places that these creatives fell in love with.

Award-winning Singaporean architect Lim Shing Hui’s busy schedule means she only takes one long vacation at the end of the year. “It’s where I take stock of what has happened over the last 11 months and it is also a great opportunity to recharge and recalibrate,” she shared.

Lim usually seeks out off-the-grid destinations or makes a point to visit interesting buildings by notable architects she admires. Last year, she travelled around China for three weeks. One hotel she stayed in was the Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat in eastern China. “Constructed with 1.2 million local bricks, the retreat was designed by one of my favourite architecture studios, Neri&Hu Design and Research Office (NHDRO),” she commented.



The Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat in eastern China was designed by Neri&Hu Design and Research Office (NHDRO). (Photo: Pedro Pegenaute)

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The restaurant was converted from an old warehouse. (Photo: Pedro Pegenaute)

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Multiple courtyards separate 20 guestrooms spread across a 32,000 sq m site. (Photo: Pedro Pegenaute)

There, Lim enjoyed local Yangzhou delicacies and participated in traditional craft activities such as seal carving. “The hotel cleverly reserved and gave new functions to buildings formerly used by the rural farmers and fishermen’s homes; for example, an old warehouse became the hotel’s restaurant,” she shared.

The [courtyard house of vernacular Chinese architecture](#) inspired the design of the property. Multiple courtyards separate 20 guestrooms spread across a 32,000 sq m site, meaning each guest enjoys ample privacy as well as views into their own courtyard.