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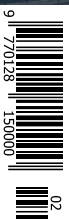
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CONSTRUCTION⁺ HONG KONG

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BCI ASIA



BUILDING TOMORROW

FROM BIM TO DIGITAL ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY
RISING STARS OF ARCHITECTURE



INTERIORS

Lounge chairs at the reception area create a flexible and social space

THE FLEMING

Business travellers of the future expect increasing emotional and cultural experiences on their work trips, as opposed to traditional trade-focused stays. In response, the redesigned Fleming hotel in Wan Chai, close to the Victoria Harbour front, seeks to offer guests a memorable port of call.

Originally opened in 2006, The Fleming has caught a second wind as a 66-room boutique hotel. Drawing its identity and design inspirations from Hong Kong's maritime heritage and industrial era, it sports Streamline Moderne art deco architecture that harkens to the mid-1900s.

The Star Ferry, a distinctive and elegant icon of Hong Kong's past and present, forms the foundation for the design details. Familiar characteristics of yesteryears are given modern twists, such as the ferry-inspired custom-designed chairs in the lobby, lifts and doors with rounded edges, and nautically themed light fittings.

Steampunk touches—with dials, levers and buttons—lend an idiosyncratic touch, while brass fittings and cutlery, buoys and stationery resembling navigation tools bring guests on a voyage down memory lane.

Nostalgia is further evoked by colours and scents. Carmine reds and bottle greens—hues commonly seen on the hull of Hong Kong's ferries, fishing boats, delivery trucks and temples—and apothecary-inspired toiletries and custom sandalwood and amber notes aroma help deliver an authentic sense of place. A coastal Italian eatery on the ground floor extends the hotel's maritime feel in blue and white.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

In redesigning and rebranding the hotel, the designers were restricted from major alterations by the existing building, dating the 1970s, and regulations. As such, the room shapes were retained, but the space was maximised through customised furniture, such as exposed storage systems. The small elevator shaft was also a challenge, so the designers added mirrors

and created reflective and glossy walls to create the illusion of a bigger elevator space.

Business travellers will appreciate the practical storage systems, conveniently placed light switches and power points, and thoughtfully zoned rooms. Sociability is also a key essence in the layout, which aims to create interfaces among guests and encourage interactions with the staff. The reception, for instance, has lounge chairs with movable backrests, creating a flexible and social space.

All decorative items are custom-made, using main materials such as brass, teak wood, bamboo and fabrics. The design and sourcing team visited factories in Thailand, Indonesia and India to find the best manufacturing partner for different items—basins, lamps, show horns, tissue boxes, message card holders and switch panels—while some of the door handles and brass caps were made by local metal craftsmen. Ledges and tracks along the walls allow for unlimited configuration of the handpicked artwork sourced from Hong Kong-based artists. **G**



Mirrors and glossy walls create an illusion of space in the elevators



Exposed storage systems maximise space in bedrooms



Bottle-green tiles and brass sinks

PROJECT DATA

Project Name

The Fleming

Location

41, Fleming Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Completion Date

September 2017

Building Height

14 storeys

Number of Rooms

66

Owner

John Hui

Interior Design Firm

A Work of Substance

Main Contractor

IBI Group Ltd

Images

Dennis Lo