

Wallpaper*

OCTOBER 2019

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2 Guest Editors

Hussein Chalayan

Art, dance and Nicosia



Jenny Holzer

Paint, politics and redaction

+ Much more pioneering spirit and radical action, including Max Lamb in Japan, El Anatsui in Nigeria, creative life in Ljubljana and big ideas in Smallpaper*

Travel

ARTFUL LODGER

A Singapore grande dame gets a facelift, a detective thriller intrigues in London, and a newcomer spices up Kuala Lumpur



8,142: Number of crystals that make up the lobby chandelier

116: Tiffin boxes that adorn the Tiffin Room



110: Trunk-inspired custom minibars in the guest rooms

Remixed classic

RAFFLES, SINGAPORE

After a two-year tip-toe facelift by the New York-based studio Champalimaud, the hoardings have finally come off Raffles Singapore. The results will find their detractors, but there's no denying the sparkle in the grande dame's freshly polished white marble floors, gilded trim, and silver-leafed ceilings. The lofty suites – their ranks increased from 103 to 115 – pair Bianco Dolomite marble and iPad-controlled gadgetry with Peranakan-inspired floor tiles, and handsome low-slung furniture. Anchored by an extravagant chandelier that rains from the ceiling like fireworks, the central atrium is now flanked by a slickly reimagined Writers Bar and Tiffin Room. Meanwhile, the Long Bar, refreshed with black and white rattan chairs and leather bar stools, still serves up the ubiquitous Singapore Sling, but the bigger draw is the fleet of new restaurants by Jereme Leung, Alain Ducasse and Anne-Sophie Pic. **Daven Wu**
1 Beach Road, tel: 65.6337 1886, rafflessingapore.com. Rates: from SGD1,300 (£774)

Law and order

THE GREAT SCOTLAND YARD HOTEL, LONDON

The former HQ of the Metropolitan Police force, the stately Grade II-listed Great Scotland Yard building in London's Westminster has been given a new lease of life as a soigné 152-room hotel. Architecture firm HBA International tastefully nods to the building's past with quiet visual references such as custom-made carpets inspired by police badges, secret doors and a series of key-inspired details, from the bathroom hooks to the minibar handles. Chef restaurateur Robin Gill, founder of The Dairy in south London, has prepared a menu of modern British favourites at The Yard; contemporary takes on classic cocktails are on offer at The Forty Elephants; and afternoon tea can be taken in The Parlour, a space inspired by The Imperial hotel in Delhi. The guest rooms are enticing cocoons with pleasing textures and bespoke furniture in calm neutrals, perfect to retire to after a nightcap in the hotel's late-night bar, Sibin. **Lauren Ho**
3-5 Great Scotland Yard, SW1, tel: 44.20 7925 4700, hyatt.com. Rates: from £400

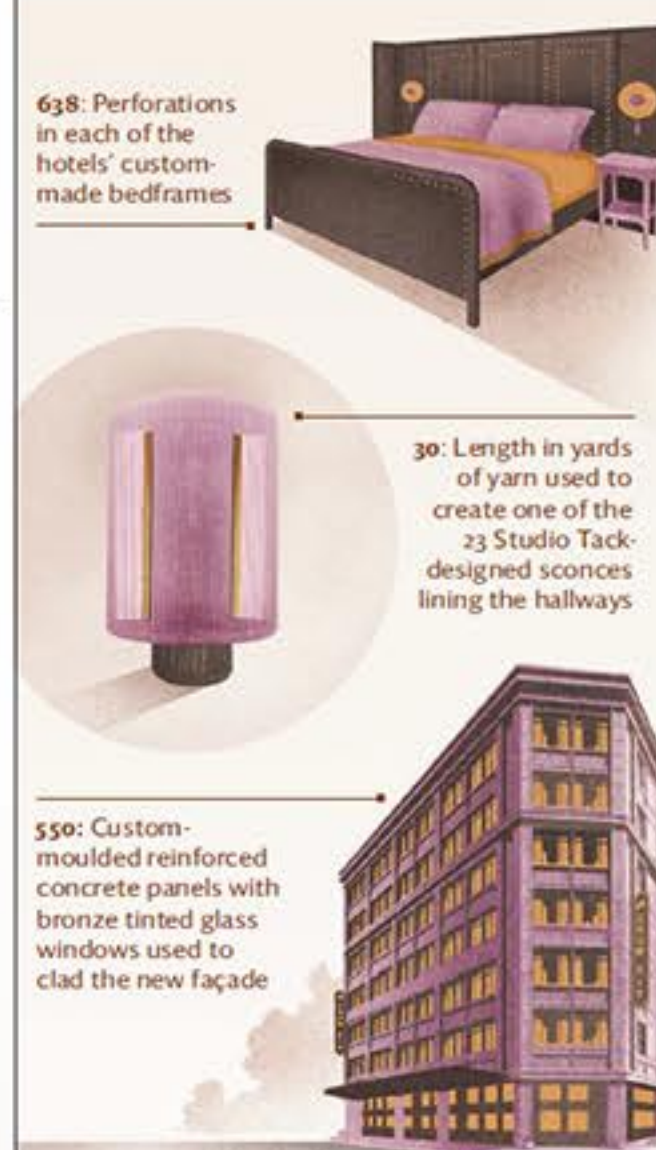


152: Key-shaped robe hooks that feature in the bathrooms

40: Etched-glass faces in The Forty Elephants bar, portraying the 40 members of the eponymous all-female gang of shoplifters that operated at the time of Great Scotland Yard's foundation



250: Weight in kg of the lobby's exploding clock feature, which symbolises the building's history



638: Perforations in each of the hotels' custom-made bedframes

30: Length in yards of yarn used to create one of the 23 Studio Tack-designed sconces lining the hallways

550: Custom-moulded reinforced concrete panels with bronze tinted glass windows used to clad the new façade

Local flavour

THE CHOW KIT, KUALA LUMPUR

For too long now, Kuala Lumpur's five-star hotels have tended to default to the cliché of big marble foyers and equally massive flower arrangements. Hats off then to the fledgling locally based Ormond Group for its chutzpah. For starters, its debut property, the 113-room Chow Kit, is named after a nearby bustling street market and red-light district. Inspired by the neighbourhood's colour and somewhat seedy reputation, the Brooklyn-based Studio Tack has created an appropriately moody noirish vibe that it layers with thick fabrics, tufted banquettes, and rugs. The public spaces – dressed with locally commissioned artwork and conceived, much like an Ace Hotel lobby, as a neighbourhood hangout – are neatly set off by the rooftop yoga and meditation pavilion, and an in-house restaurant serving a menu of updated Malaysian standards. All of which bodes well for Ormond's second act, the opening next door of its micro-room hotel, MoMo's, in late 2019. **DW**
1012 Jalan Sultan Ismail, thechowkit.com. Rates: from \$85