

UPWARD JOURNEY

BY ELLEN BOONSTRA



1. Inside the entrance, a circular bamboo enclosure, 'the Lantern', marks the beginning of the 'upward journey' along a dimly-lit escalator with walls lined with bespoke lamps.
2. The contemporary monochromatic design features natural timber, shoji glass, limestone and lacquered paper panels.
3. Entry through a stone doorway façade evokes the image of a curtain being opened to welcome guests to a private residence.



Starburst bamboo patterns on wardrobe doors, natural materials, original sculpture installations and seamlessly proportioned spaces are integrated to create a sophisticated and modern "Asian influenced" residence.

Recently opened luxury boutique hotel Upper House in Hong Kong was designed by Andre Fu of design studio AF50. Hailed by *Vogue U.K.* as a 'Design Wunderkind' and *Condé Nast Traveler U.S.* as an 'Asian Design Sensation', Fu's previous notable projects include Agnes b. La Loggia Flagship Store in Hong Kong, JIA Shanghai's eclectic lobby, as well as the home of international actress Michelle Yeoh.

"With an intention to create a small intimate hotel reminiscent of a private residence, I have purposely conjured a sense of tranquility throughout the design and ambiance of the hotel," Fu says. The name of the 117-room hotel, which occupies the 38th to 39th floors of Pacific Place, was chosen to symbolize an upward journey to a retreat above the bustling city. Upper House is the sister hotel of the award-winning The Opposite House, and the second hotel to be opened by local real estate developer Swire. www.upperhouse.com ■