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Art World

Here Are 8 Breathtaking Luxury Hotels Around the World Where Art is a Big Part of the Allure

These striking, design-forward properties are worth visiting for their art programming alone.

Nate Berg, August 8, 2019

Installation view of Cecilia Paredes's "Mayan" (2019). Photo courtesy The Peninsula.

In recent years, both, those who of new lifestyle or luxury have adversity of many of the world's best hotels. For a set of travelers, there is nothing more important than the quality of the rooms and the amenities. Art is a free days, even if you can't take those rooms, instead, the trend is increasingly redefining what luxury vacations mean to travelers.

Just in time for the last space of summer holidays this August, we've come up with a list of eight hotels worth visiting for their art alone. Whether it's contemporary sculpture, photography, or even a whole museum, the artist's residency programs and cross-decor inspiration are worth the trip.

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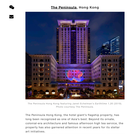

Installation view of Cecilia Paredes's "Mayan" (2019). Photo courtesy The Peninsula.

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The Peninsula, Hong Kong

Photo courtesy The Peninsula.

The Peninsula Hong Kong, the hotel guest's flagship property, has long been recognized as one of Asia's best. Beyond its ornate, colonial era architecture and famous afternoon high tea service, the property has gathered artworks of a similar grand feel to its grounds and facilities.

Installation view of Cecilia Paredes's "Mayan" (2019). Photo courtesy The Peninsula.

Beginning with the 2014 "Lure Art of the Peninsula Hong Kong" project, almost different public art experiences led by contemporary artists have been on offer. Cecilia Paredes's "Mayan" installation at the Peninsula's arts program has only expanded. It now includes a series of sculptures and a mural that, in the artist's words, "pay tribute to gardens and museums around the city, and a traveling exhibition of Mayan sculpture." Paredes's work, which includes large sculptures (miniature installation works by Jared Grodman, Iain Neasmith, Timothy Paul Martin, and the Shanghai-based artist and architect Zhu Jiang) is at Mandel Collective.

The Dolder Grand, Zurich

Installation view of Cecilia Paredes's "Mayan" (2019). Photo courtesy The Peninsula.

The Dolder Grand, Photo courtesy the Dolder Grand.

The Dolder Grand Dolder Grand hotel, set on the edge of the Swiss Alpinesing forest, offers old-world luxury and a seriously impressive art collection. Guests can take a tour of the property's art and architectural works by artists like Hassan Bourkadi, Jean Nouvel, Ugo Rondinone, and Ernst Gamperle. The hotel's Spa Tower, a Bauhaus-flaring, and Andy Warhol-iatric grandi interiors ca ne ecoreiuoua. 11-meter-tall Jean Tinguely sculpture, which was created for the building—the Dolder has become an destination of sorts in itself.

Installation view of Cecilia Paredes's "Mayan" (2019). Photo courtesy The Peninsula.

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

While sprawling lawns and gardens lend both to organic-style sculptures, the art experience extends outside, offering the prospect of long, experimentally-shaping strolls through art and nature.

Casa Malca, Tulum

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

New York-based tipping art dealer Lio Malca's artist-repeaterlo artists such as KAWS, Warhol, and Jean-Michel Basquiat—converted a property he stumbled upon in Tulum in 2014. Filling it with striking contemporary sculpture and photography, the property, now known as Casa Malca, used luxurious showcase-level artworks that

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

The art extends into the rest of the hotel, too. A Sarah Morris piece eyeloppets the hotel bar, a KAWS sculpture features prominently in the lobby, and a contemporary art installation provides a backdrop for the pressed-flower pool.

Hotel Lungarno, Florence

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Overlooking the Arno River and the Ponte Santa Trinita bridge, this unprecedented, classically designed boutique hotel makes up for what it lacks in grandeur with its art. The property's 60 rooms and suites feat 600 works by Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau, Roberto Bacci, and several Italian contemporary and outdoor galleries including Bazar Contemporary and Galleria Poggiali. Guests can take a tour of the hotel's rooms, lobbies, restaurant, and stunning rooftop terrace.

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

The sleek chair and white interiors complement the hotel's place as a modern, design-forward property in a city of old-world charm. Interior designer Michael Boxer Marks first organized experiences in the hotel's rooftop terrace and lounge, and the hotel's restaurant, Oliva, was designed to encompass the sense of endlessly drifting on the River Arno and the Ponte Vecchio—a sentiment that Boxer Marks calls "

Tourists, Moscow/Vancouver

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Tucked away in North Vancouver, this Moscow-based 24-room design-hotel, from the Moscow/Vancouver Bureau of Contemporary Art, is the recently opened Tourists hotel and riverside retreat. Offering guests a "contemporary Russian experience," the property's interiors have been conceived as a high-design version of the Moscow-style lodge—complete #4 beautifully decorated rooms, linking its contemporary art and design to the surrounding forest, and a rooftop art installation outdoor sculpture and mountain-based art, all made by young artists.

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Recent projects include Emilie Chapel, a site-specific structure built using wood chimes by the artist collective Nine Simeria Arrth, and a sculpture by Vancouver-based artist Ryan Gander in the surrounding landscape by the Chicago-based artist Jon Lefkowitz.

The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club, Bermuda

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

FIGURE 18 The Hamilton Princess Hotel Courtesy of the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club

The hybrid Bermuda-based Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club—contemporary The Pink Palace" by Jacques—has been around since 1885. The Waterfront property boasts around 300 modern and pop-inspired artworks by artists including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Roberto Bacci, Mario Ai, Wangechi Mutu, Kehinde Wiley, Damien Hirst, Kaws, Jonas Ogle, Ryan Mcginnis, and Al Weiwei.

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Copy of Kirby Barron's 1960 pagan-inspired public, Photo courtesy the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club

Every Saturday, the hotel also offers official tours of its art, lead by the in-house curator.

The Alila Yangshuo, Guilin

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

It's difficult to find a resort more beautiful than the Alila Yangshuo, a 40-room property in the Guangxi Province, surrounded by the karst peaks south of Guilin, in southern China. The structures were rescued for the Alila group and turned into a state-of-the-art hotel property, complete with a spa, a restaurant, and a pool. The hotel's surrounding areas, bordered by limestone mountains, have also the amazing fishing from the waters serves as a cutting-edge space for from Beijing-based artist Ai Weiwei.

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Copy of Kirby Barron's 1960 pagan-inspired public, Photo courtesy the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club

Its rare but sophisticated design holds to its industrial years, built in the 1960s and 70s, when it was a factory for Alila, and the celebrated art of its made up lobby of Alila's Chinese drinks, from traditional paintings to contemporary pieces by international stars such as Cai Guo-Qiang and Qiang Huang.

Conrad New York Downtown, NYC

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Copy of Kirby Barron's 1960 pagan-inspired public, Photo courtesy the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club

The Conrad Downtown in New York's Battery Park was planned as prestigious Bank Headquarters that will specifically in Wall Street area, an enormous mural by Del Lefkhff features prominently over the lobby. The mural, which is made up of 1,000 individual panels, piece comprised of cable ties and a piece by artist Marco Fusco for Lobb.

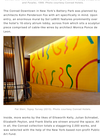

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Photo courtesy Hotel Lungarno.

Inside, Arne works by the Rees of Ellsworth Kelly, Jaime Gil-Sanabria, Ryan Mcginnis, and Ai Weiwei. Outside, the hotel's lobby is home to an the Conrad's Downtown's Public Commissions program, and was selected with the help of the New York-based non-profit Public Art Fund.

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The show at the luxury hotel features works by artists such as Da Ou Suh, Catherine Opie, and Angel Otero.

Brian Boucher, December 18, 2019

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Do Ho Suh, *Cause & Effect* (2007). Photo courtesy the Peninsula New York.

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Last May, ahead of the opening of the Frieze art fair on Randall's Island, the Peninsula New York decided to do something special for art lovers.

Ahead of the fair, the property, which is one of the city's most luxurious art-centric hotels, debuted a group exhibition in conjunction with Lehmann Maupin featuring works by a diverse range of artists. Among them were Do Ho Suh, the Korean sculptor and installation artist, Catherine Opie, the Los Angeles-based photographer, and Angel Otero, the Puerto Rican painter.

The show, titled "Home," examines how these artists and others have explored the themes of home, identity, and community—and how those themes also reflect the Peninsula's core values and commitment to celebrating family and heritage.

Ashley Bickerton, *The Edge of Things* (1993). Photo courtesy the Peninsula New York.

While the exhibition was originally intended to end this fall, it was recently extended through March 30, 2020, due to an overwhelmingly positive response from hotel guests and visitors alike. (The exhibition is open to the public.)

"We have so many visitors who come in to see the art, and are in awe of the scale of this exhibition in particular," says Jonathan Crook, the Peninsula New York's general manager.

"As we've continued to deepen our commitment to the arts community globally, we've found that many of our guests are collectors, curators, artists, and philanthropists who live with contemporary art in their daily lives. They have really enjoyed seeing museum-quality artworks in their home [with us] while they are traveling. Some have even shared that they love seeing the art in a non-traditional space, and are excited to visit us each year to discover new artists."

A close-up shot of Do Ho Suh's *Cause & Effect* (2007). Photo courtesy the Peninsula New York.

In the past year, the Peninsula has ramped up its arts programming around the world.

This spring, in conjunction with Art Basel Hong Kong, the Peninsula announced the launch of its Art in Resonance program. The project presents a traveling exhibition at all 10 of its global properties over the course of the next few years. Among the works on view are original pieces by artists such as Iván Navarro, Janet Echelman, and Timothy Paul Myers, plus works by local talents.

Meanwhile, at the Peninsula New York, a series of artists' talks and collectors' dinners have been organized in partnership with several arts organizations based in the city.

Do Ho Suh, *Wielandstr. 18, 12159 Berlin-3 Corridors* (2011). Photo courtesy the Peninsula New York

"Home" was inspired by Suh's recent exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum. Two of his works adorn the Peninsula's public spaces: his famous installation *Wielandstr. 18, 12159 Berlin-3 Corridors* (2011), a scaled reproduction of a corridor in his former Berlin apartment made from fabric, on view in the Palm Court; and *Cause & Effect* (2007), a cone-shaped chandelier made of hundreds of small acrylic figurines, stacked one atop another.

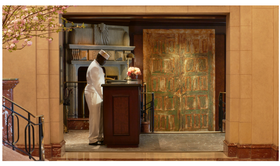
The *corridor* work is part of the artist's "fabric sculpture" series, which explores the meaning of home and identity. The chandelier, hung from the ceiling of the Peninsula New York's Gotham Lounge, symbolizes the strength of community.

"Suh's [works] are inspiring and poetic," Crook says. "The idea of longing for home, and the connection between physical spaces and memory resonated with us."

Catherine Opie, Glenn (left); *Kara* (middle); *Aggie* (right) (2019). Photo courtesy the Peninsula New York.

Elsewhere, striking large-scale works by Heidi Bucher examine how human bodies occupy physical space. "We found intense synergy between Heidi Bucher's work and Do Ho Suh's, and the rest came together," Crook says.

"Angel Otero's work is largely influenced by identity and heritage through memories and family memorabilia. The pieces we have on view explore identity as well as form, color, and line. That led us to Ashley Bickerton, who made the incredible corral sculpture, *The Edge of Things* (1993), an early work created by the artist after he relocated to Bali. We also wouldn't be able to show an exhibition exploring identity without including the legendary work of Catherine Opie. The subjects of her three photographs are Glenn Ligon, Kara Walker, and Agnes Gund, all of whom are prominent art-world figures."



Heidi Bucher, *Untitled* (1986). Photo courtesy the Peninsula New York.

"We are personally very proud to have the opportunity to make private works accessible to the public for viewing," Crook says.

"The Peninsula New York will exhibit annually throughout the public spaces of the hotel with a new program launching in the spring. Furthermore, the Art in Resonance program directly commissions emerging and mid-career artists, providing critical financial and logistical support. Art in Resonance will resume its travels in 2020 in the spring with new installations in Hong Kong during Art Basel, and, in parallel, at the Peninsula Tokyo from April onward."

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