



A Bespoke Journey

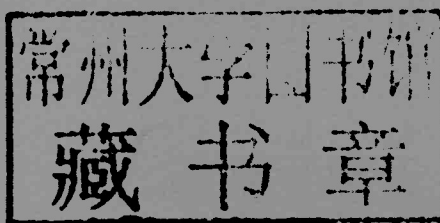
Andre Fu

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foreword

by alan yau

Sir David Chipperfield once told me: "Beauty in architecture is about the synthesis of function and form." To say that Andre appreciates this is an understatement; in his work, the sentiment is gloriously apparent. His designs are beautiful, yes, but aesthetics are perfectly synched with functionality. Over the years he's become increasingly celebrated as an architect, having been labeled by various style bibles as both a 'design master' and a 'design wunderkind', yet whilst such tags are no doubt pleasant to be on the receiving end of, I get the impression that he isn't terribly bothered by such accolades. Nor is he interested in creating egotistical monuments. Rather, his interest lies in simply creating extraordinary environments for people to work, sleep and eat in.

I say simply, although the process is anything but. I've had the pleasure - and I don't use the term lightly - of working with the man. Both of us relish a challenge, and so it was fortuitous that we came together over Betty's Kitschen - a venture of mine in Hong Kong. The space was tricky: rectangular, but unusually long and narrow with structural columns punctuated throughout. One evening we talked and sat and thought about the problem and at 3am the solution appeared: an extra column, Andre suggested, would give the room the extra space and gravitas that was necessary.

This neatly illustrates the way he works: long periods of contemplation and consideration, followed by sketches, inspiration and sharp bursts of insight. Where does such insight come from? Almost everywhere. "Everything has a way to inspire, it just depends how you see it", he once said. Not to say that his influences are opaque. There are resounding echoes of John Pawson in his work (under whom Fu apprenticed with whilst studying at the University of Cambridge), yet Pawson tends to scorn embellishment and luxurious decoration whereas Fu often embraces it, being unafraid to use colour and texture to create intimacy. Perhaps nowhere is this sense of intimacy more apparent than in the Upper House Hotel, Hong Kong, where he deftly managed to create a serenity and balance in one of the loudest playgrounds in the world.

Andre could thrive anywhere, but it seems that Hong Kong is both his physical and spiritual home. "Without an understanding of the old, you cannot create something new" he is quoted as saying, and what better place to put such wise words into practice, where the traditional and ultra-modern exist side by side. Such a sound ideology and grounding, coupled with no small degree of talent, means that he's certain to be at the forefront of creating new spaces for some time to come.



chapter

01

the fullerton bay
hotel

singapore





Fu masterminded the design of the public areas at The Fullerton Bay Hotel in Singapore including The Arrival: Clifford Pier, The Lobby Lounge: The Landing Point, The Hotel Lobby, The Clifford Brasserie and The Rooftop Bar: Lantern.

Working with the hotel's unique location at Singapore's most prominent waterfront, Fu sought to create a hotel that celebrates the city's heritage. With its Clifford Pier backdrop and frontage facing Singapore's thriving Boat Quay area, the hotel was designed to evoke the feel of a highly individualised stately residence. "With an intention to create a modern colonial hotel that pays tribute to a bygone era, I purposely imbued a sense of refinement throughout the design and ambience of the hotel."

An intriguing palette of rich marble in varying tones of mineral greys combines with bespoke furnishings in lush olive greens, burnt orange and deep aubergine. The Fullerton Bay Hotel is distinct in its reference to the past, yet the flavour of the scheme, when viewed in its entirety, remains contemporary and international.

Entering into the vast Clifford Pier that spans an open width of 17 metres, the guest's first encounter with the Fullerton Bay Hotel unveils.

Set against an ivory backdrop, a stunning 5 metre diameter cylindrical chandelier is suspended from the dramatic 10 metre high ceiling. At eye level, two areas of plush lounge seating are positioned in perfect symmetry to reflect the residential elegance of the hotel.

Guests are then led via a passageway from the historic Clifford Pier structure into the fully glazed Landing Point Lobby Lounge prior to arriving at the Hotel Lobby.

Displayed around the public areas of the entire hotel are fascinating vintage nautical maps and contemporary sculptures in bronze, perfectly complementing Fu's overall concept of a new heritage.



THE FULLERTON

N BAY HOTEL

