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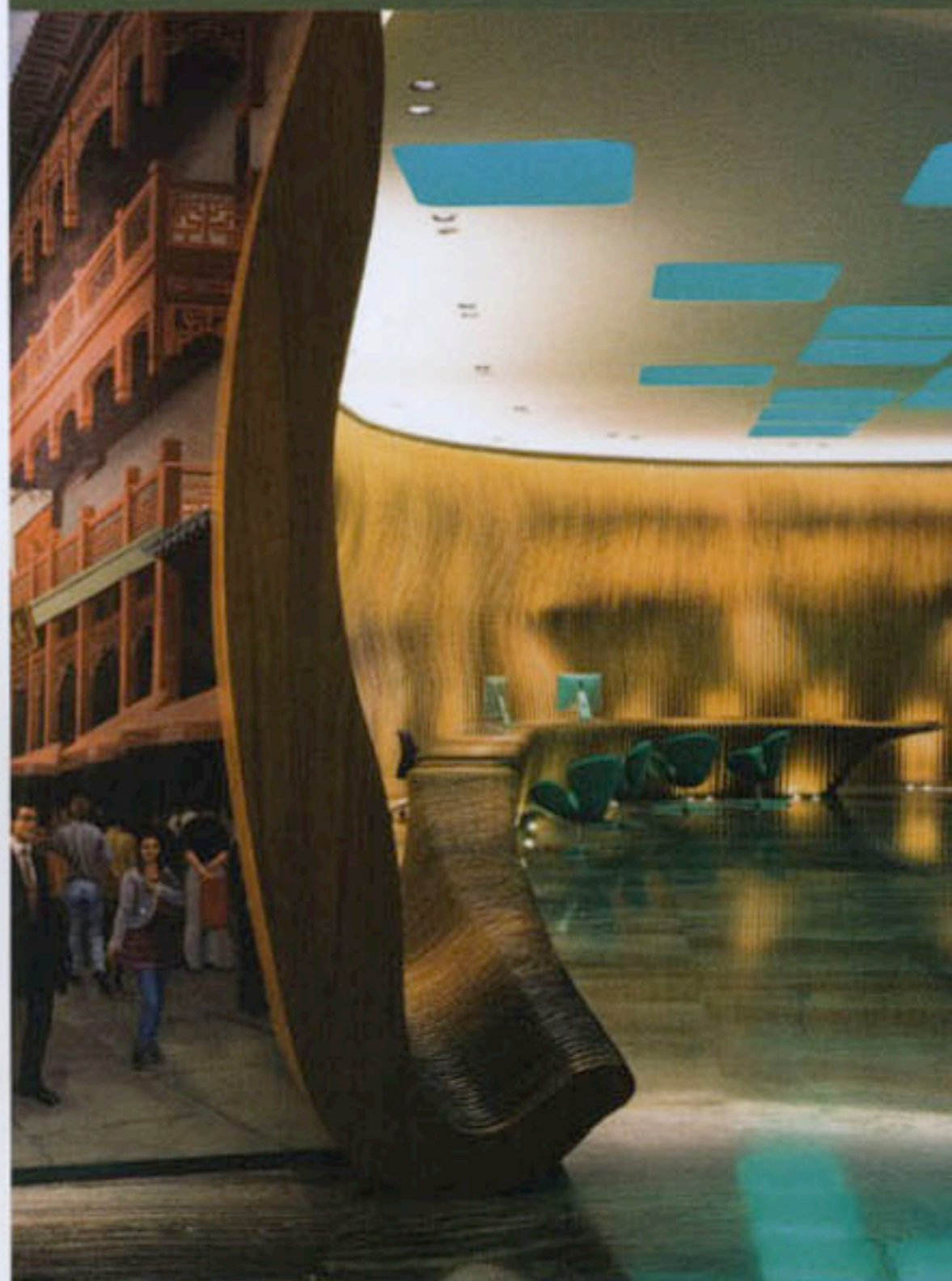
Hotel Indigo Shanghai on the Bund HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates

This 180-room boutique hotel has a personality all its own, with a design that connects the hotel to the neighbourhood. The result is a youthful, contemporary, inspired space that understands where it has come from and leads the way into Shanghai's design future.

To fulfill Hotel Indigo's vision, HBA developed a design that is eclectic and harmonious, tied together by the Huangpu River. The element that ties the hotel to the neighbourhood is the Shiliupu Dock, now known as Pier 16. The dock was the gateway through which Shanghai grew, initially as a shipping and trade centre, and later as the entry point for thousands of European expatriates who led Shanghai's development as a global city. Thus HBA's design achieves a balance between traditional and contemporary details, paying heed to the Deco period that is represented on the Bund, but focusing more closely on the ancient Walled City and the modern city of today to give travellers what the project's lead designer Andrew Moore calls "a clear alternative between staid and restrained elegance and fresh and playful stylishness".

The lobby entrance is striking and dramatic, with brightly illuminated sculpture installations and sculptural walls that make use of recyclable materials as a means to keep local history alive. In the centre of the lobby stands a steel structure shaped like a ship's funnel, patinaed with rust, studded with LED lighting, and surrounded by vintage streetlamps taken from the docks prior to their refurbishment. HBA also commissioned the deconstruction of a retired Shanghai riverboat, pieces of which were installed as wall sculpture floating between the dark Chinese marble floor and the high ceiling.

The guestrooms are adorned with custom-designed silk print wallpaper influenced by those that decorated grand old Shanghai houses, and the eclectic collection of authentic furniture, including Chinese lanterns, and the canopy bed with characteristic Shanghai woodworking details are made of locally produced building materials that appear to have been reclaimed from demolished old homes. Yet many of the antique accessories have been reinterpreted through a contemporary lens to add a modern feel to the overall design. What's more, black-and-white photographs of the neighbourhood by one of Shanghai's leading photographers, Chen Rui Yuan, have become murals covering the bed wall of each guestroom and incidentally each room's view onto the city influences the image on the bed wall, delivering a highly personalised sense of space.



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