

REVIEW: 4 cool design hotels in Singapore to check in to during the September holidays

A wealth of exciting design hotels can be found in Singapore. The **SILVERKRIS TEAM** checks in to Hotel Indigo, M Social Singapore, Hotel Vagabond and W Sentosa find out if they live up to the hype.

Hotel Indigo



Driving past rows of candy-coloured Peranakan (Straits Chinese) houses from the 1900s, the Katong district has me under its spell even before the cab pulls into the hotel driveway. But a short while later, when the door swings open on my 30 sq m room (above), a “wow” escapes my lips.

Distilling the essence of a neighbourhood into a guest room is no easy feat. But the concept has been masterfully realised at this [boutique hotel](#) in Singapore’s first heritage area. Each of the 131 rooms, designed by Ecod Design Pte Ltd, is laid out like a condensed Peranakan home. The open-plan space comprises a living area, followed by a bedroom and bathroom.

Every detail has been meticulously considered. A line drawing of a scene at a kopitiam (local eatery), by Singapore artist Don Low, enlivens the wall behind the king-size bed. In the bathroom, the base of a retro Singer sewing machine – used in days gone by to embroider the sarong kebaya worn by Peranakan women – props up the basin. And White Rabbit milk candies, a much-loved childhood treat, fill a jar in the minibar.



The theme continues in the hotel restaurant Baba Chews, which occupies the old Joo Chiat Police Station. A waiter guides me step by step through a traditional breakfast of kaya toast, dipped into a mixture of soft-boiled egg, soya sauce and white pepper. Next stop? The hotel's 25m-long rooftop infinity pool (above).

– RACHEL LEES

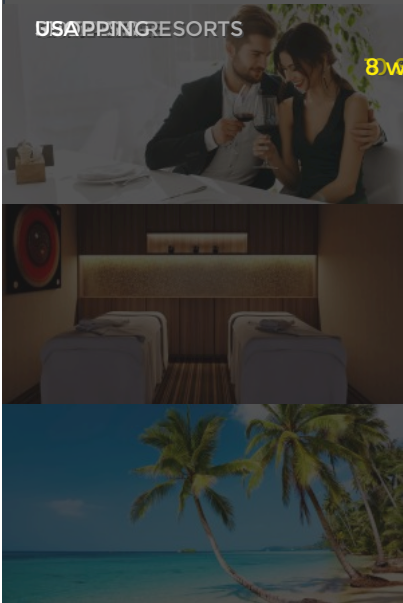
M Social Singapore



Clearly, French architect Philippe Starck dreamt up this modern space in the fizzy nightlife district of Robertson Quay for the restless. Upon self check-in at a lobby with flamingo pink accents, I'm handed an Internet-enabled smart phone (for complimentary local and international calls) loaded with pointers to the hottest bars and restaurants in town.

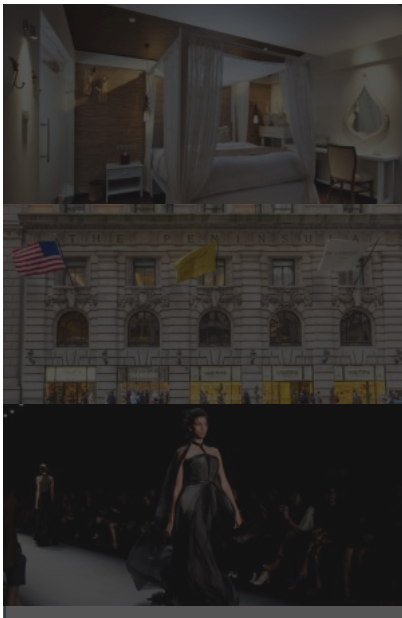
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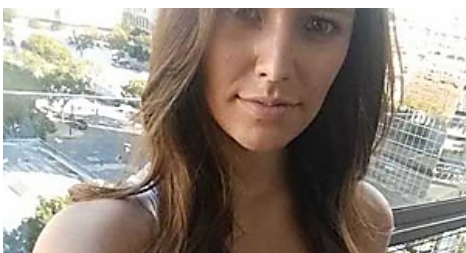


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