

# sleeper

HOTEL DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & ARCHITECTURE

[www.sleepermagazine.com](http://www.sleepermagazine.com)

ISSUE 34 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011



## LIME WOOD

DAVID COLLINS STUDIO'S  
COUNTRY HOUSE CLASSIC

## THE SAVOY

LONDON'S ICON REBUILT  
AND REJUVENATED

## CANADA HIGH

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
YABU PUSHELBERG

MARTIN BRUDNIZKI / SINGAPORE HOTELS / SOHO BEACH HOUSE MIAMI / THE SLEEP EVENT 2010



Words: Neena Dhillon Photography: Courtesy of The Fullerton Bay Hotel

# Fullerton Bay *Singapore*

Completing The Fullerton Heritage precinct on Marina Bay, a new six-storey hotel has been woven into the architectural fabric of neighbouring Clifford Pier and Customs House, making the most of its prestigious position through a ground-up, glass-box construction that appears to float on the water. Unveiled in July 2010, Fullerton Bay incorporates Clifford Pier – an historic landing point for many of the country's immigrants since 1933 – into its arrival experience, one that has been choreographed by DP Architects to take guests past the pier's impressive arches through a linkway and lounge into an 18-metre-high atrium conceived as a grand reception. Respectful of its context, the property's double-glazed façade is inclined on three sides so as to capture the reflection of the two heritage buildings while ensuring unobstructed views of water or city skyline from the private balconies or full-height windows of the 100 guestrooms.

Brought onboard by Sino Land Company to create a destination that would pay tribute to Singapore's heritage, acclaimed interior designer Andre Fu has dipped into the elegance of a bygone era to formulate a fresh, modern interpretation of colonial style. "The whole concept was complicated because we had to take into account the prominence of this historical site but at the same time integrate old and new elements," he comments. "For me, Fullerton Bay reflects Singapore's sense of place in this moment; it is a property with soul and is designed to entice in the same way as an individualised stately residence." ▶

Refined opulence permeates this waterfront hotel as part of a bespoke design treatment by Andre Fu that honours the past while achieving a timelessness suited to the spirit of this forward-facing city.



OPPOSITE PAGE: In the lobby, a stunning multi-faceted chandelier sits against the backdrop of a towering structure of glass panels set within a three-dimensional gilded structure THIS PAGE (LEFT): The Landing Point lounge area (RIGHT) The Entrance area features artworks by Marie-Madeleine Gautier, Helen Poon and Antony Davy



► The hotel's 17-metre-wide entrance makes an impressive opening statement. Flanked by two plush banks of seating, the space is dominated by a stunning multi-faceted cylindrical chandelier, inspired by the shimmering waters of the bay. Indeed, a total of nine cut crystal chandeliers by Preciosa adorn the arrival spaces, with reflections bouncing off the flooring surfaces below. As visitors make their way towards the lounge, home to The Landing Point, their attention is drawn to a textured wall feature made from glass sheets gilded in gold set within a three-dimensional structure.

As a popular space for light meals, tea and cocktails, The Landing Point has been given a relaxed residential feel through custom-made silk, leather and velvet furnishings in hues of olive green, gold, plum and lilac. Sensuous touches include sparingly used solid bronze screens, curvaceous seating, hanging lanterns and a beautiful internal promenade of marble mosaics, developed in a collaboration between Fu and manufacturer Zisa from Malay ethnic patterns that sound echoes of multi-cultural

Singapore. Two-tiered seating is arranged around an 11-metre black Serpeggiante marble-topped bar, which sits underneath a pendant lighting sculpture comprising crystal glass, pale golden glass and gilded glass in a polished chrome angular framework. There is also a spacious outdoor terrace on the waterfront.

A linear chamber defined by four Palladian columns and chandelier, the hotel reception benefits from natural daylight enhanced by egg-white interiors and Italian grey marble flooring. Fu layers this vertiginous space with a backdrop wall of inlaid Indonesian Wenge veneer accessorised with diamond-shaped sconces. As part of an art programme curated by Fu, commissioned pieces and antiques decorate the interiors. Around reception they include two bronze sculptures of the female form by Marie-Madeleine Gautier, plus a porcelain and oil paint installation created by D'Art, aka Helen Poon and Anthony Davy. Like many of the other artworks, which range from nautical maps to screen prints, Pages of the Past evokes an aspect of Singapore's

culture, in this case the days of early immigrants when red lanterns used to hang from Clifford Pier as a guide for seafarers.

At Clifford, the hotel's signature brasserie, another soaring ceiling height allows Fu to play with traditional materials. He comments: "Wood panelling and herringbone oak tiles are elements genuinely associated with French brasseries but by using them in a 10-metre-high space, they instantly create theatre." The ivory-coloured panelling is contrasted with vintage furnishings in rich colours, French oak cabinetry and striped silk curtains by Pollack. Antique-effect mirrored panels in solid bronze frames and curving stainless steel lighting features holding individual candle lamps are custom-designed for the waterside restaurant by Fu.

Completing a trio of dining establishments, Lantern can be found on the rooftop, positioned at the end of a 25-metre infinity swimming pool surrounded by tropical landscaping. Affording breathtaking views of the water, the bar is bathed in ambient light at night, bringing it to life. Fu has





► looked to infuse this sociable outdoor space with Mediterranean charm, using an eclectic assortment of rattan furnishings in sienna, green and cream. As an appropriate focal point, the swirling bronze fin-clad bar is shaped to resemble a glowing lantern.

The designer's keen attention to detail is not confined to the main public areas with transitional spaces such as the elevators also given thought. Panelled in silver ash veneer and Crema Marvel marble in a fragment pattern, with handrails finished in olive green leather, they open to art displays including stacks of vintage luggage.

The design mantle is handed over to LCL Architects in the guestrooms, a study in the use of artisan-quality materials. Director Christina Chew explains there are two slightly varying themes, one bringing together rosewood, light marble, beige carpet and steel accents in combination with softly backlit rosewood trellises as decorative screens, and the other burlwood, dark exotic marble and gold accents reinforced by faux leather vinyl headboard panels, articulated with stainless steel trims. Black and white stills of colonial-era events and drawer pulls resembling

luggage handles add to the masculine charm of the rooms. Luxurious, polished marble bathrooms also follow two palettes although unifying features range from jewellery box-like windows, Rifa porcelain sinks and Toto sanitaryware. "We have aimed for a modern aesthetic, light ambience and energetic vibe," Chew adds.

LCL has recently completed work on the property's five ethnic-themed suites and Presidential Suite. "The diverse cultural heritage of Singapore's major ethnic groups have provided inspiration rather than an obvious or literal reference," says Chew. "Having said that, each suite has to be authentic to its unique ethnicity and also share generic elements for cohesion." Chinese, Malay, Indian, Peranakan and Colonial cultures are subtly celebrated with signature fabrics and decorative items in suites named after ex-governors of the Straits Settlements.

The efforts of Andre Fu and LCL to gently remind travellers of the past within a contemporary framework has paid off. Impressing with its innovative and luxuriant design finishes, this is a world-class hotel with a spirit embodying Singapore. ■

## EXPRESS CHECKOUT

**The Fullerton Bay Hotel**  
80 Collyer Quay  
Singapore 049326  
Tel: +65 6333 8388  
[www.fullertonbayhotel.com](http://www.fullertonbayhotel.com)

→ 100 rooms including six suites  
📍 Clifford, The Landing Point  
🏮 Lantern, The Landing Point  
🏊 Swimming pool, outdoor jacuzzis, gym  
+ three meeting rooms

**Owner/Operator:** Sino Land Company  
**Architect:** DP Architects  
**Designers:** Andre Fu of AFSO (public spaces), LCL Architects (rooms)