



# HEART AND SOUL

Illustrious homegrown designer André Fu on the emblem of heritage that is his newest project, the St Regis Hong Kong | 本地知名設計師傅厚民為香港瑞吉酒店注入滿滿的香江情懷

BY CHERRY LAI ART DIRECTION MAY LAU PHOTOGRAPHY AMANDA KHO



## IN HARMONY

All furnishings and lighting within the hotel are custom designed by AFSo. Opposite: André pictured in the Drawing Room with his personal tailormade suitcase.

和諧一致  
酒店內的所有傢具裝飾和燈飾均由AFSo特別設計。對頁圖：André在Drawing Room與為他貼身設計的行李箱合照。





**EAST MEETS WEST**  
A quintessential old New York sensibility is punctuated by Eastern accents, such as the handprinted mural by Zhang Gong taking centre stage at the St Regis Bar.

中西薈萃  
舊紐約氣派與東方美學互相輝映，如Zhang Gong的手繪牆飾便成了St Regis Bar的焦點。



DESIGN | PEOPLE



#### Little escapes the eye of André Fu.

The Hong Kong-born, University of Cambridge-educated star designer is traipsing through the majestic marble-clad elevator lobby of the St Regis Hong Kong, just days ahead of its highly anticipated opening, when he slows down to gently brush off the slightest speck on a number plate.

He then points to an exquisite detail adorning the corners of nearby towering stone frames – an understated, carefully considered accent that’s inseparable from the stately elegance permeating the property. “These little corner edges that scoop out are actually taken from the old Wan Chai police station,” André explains.

It’s instantly apparent that this deeply nuanced, thoughtfully architectural reimagining of the historic luxury hotel chain – which traces its roots to 1904 when the prominent John Jacob Astor IV built the original St Regis New York as a playground to entertain the city’s glitterati – carries far greater gravitas to the designer than other touchstones in his star-studded oeuvre, which includes the lauded Upper House.

“It is my way of contributing to my homeland,” he states with earnest nostalgia of the 129-room, 17-suite landmark, which took four years to complete, as we plop down onto plush contemporary-style Chinese seating. The chairs within the oak-panelled interiors of the vestibule are André’s own designs with his studio, AFSo. “I grew up here and know the city so well, so I didn’t want to do the clichés. To be authentic to the original St Regis experience while infusing it with soft, subtle silhouettes of Hong Kong – that is the core of what I’m trying to express.”

André’s odes to his heritage are sprinkled throughout the hotel, from atmospheric street lamps (inspired by the “old, authentic Hong Kong oil lamps I see outside my Duddell Street studio every day”) to the spectacular centrepiece of the second-floor Great Room – a custom-made Lasvit lantern which André coins “the Skyline”. “It exemplifies the city’s buildings standing side by side,” he says. Traditional Chinese tea pavilion architecture is distilled into an abstract, contemporary take for Rùn, the hotel’s modern Chinese restaurant; alongside French restaurant L’Envol, it counts as André’s favourite area.

傅厚民 (André Fu) 是位眼光獨到的設計師。

畢業於劍橋大學的香港星級設計師André正身處還有數天便開幕的香港瑞吉酒店內，在宏偉的大理石升降機大堂中突然停下腳步，小心抹去一個號碼牌上的小污漬。這間全城矚目的豪華酒店定於4月11日盛大開幕。

他指著前方多個大型石框的角落設計說：「這些邊角裝飾其實是取自舊灣仔警署。」酒店到處可見低調華麗的細節，為空間添上優雅美感。

第一間瑞吉酒店由John Jacob Astor IV於1904年在紐約開辦，為上流人士提供一處享樂之地。André為這歷史悠久的豪華連鎖酒店打造出全新建築，這次作品比他過往負責的項目更具深遠意義。

「這是我對家園的一種貢獻。」他表示道。酒店設有129間客房和17間套房，建造過程歷時整整4年。我們置身由橡木牆板裝飾的前廳，跟設計師一同安坐於舒適時尚的中式椅子上——由他的工作室AFSo出品。「我在香港土生土長，對這個地方非常熟悉，不想交出平凡設計。將瑞吉品牌獨有的特色與香港的美妙之處融為一體，正是我想呈現的意念。」

André把香港本土的特色元素注入酒店設計中，例如在大街小巷常見的街燈，靈感來自其都爹利街工作室外的氣油燈；還有2樓Great Room內一盞特別訂製的Lasvit燈籠，André將之命名為「Skyline」，描繪了城中高樓大廈林立的景致。此外，設計師以傳統中式茶館建築為本，加入抽象和現代的格調，打造出酒店的中餐廳「潤」，旁邊則是法國餐廳L’Envol，是設計師在酒店內最喜愛的空間之一。







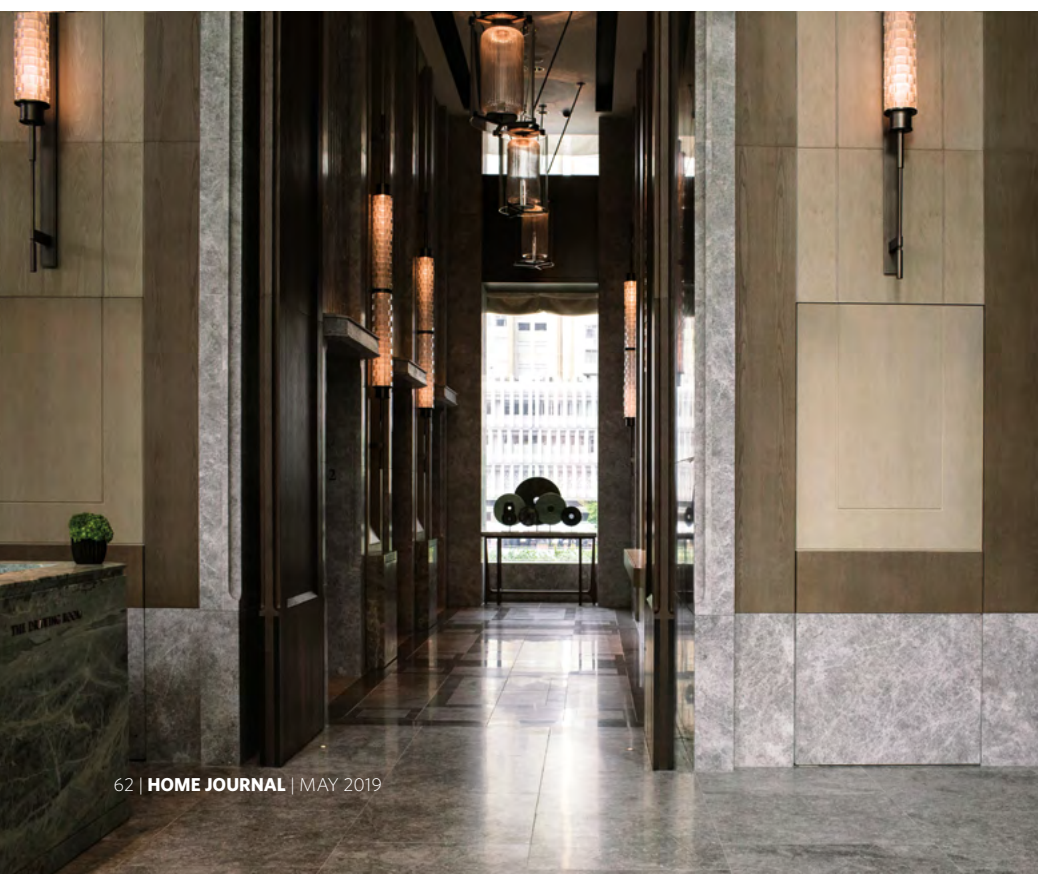
These elements, under André's signature ingenuity for zen-like harmony, are not so much juxtaposed but rather melded with ease into the grand, classically Western-style hotel's backbone, in particular the luxuriant residential structure that anchors each suite and many of its spaces. "The New York experience was very much like a private mansion," notes André, leading me through pockets of spaces from the legendary Drawing Room to the lounge, bar, and terrace, each seamlessly flowing into the other. "I'm hoping to capture that particular essence. That's the joy of the property – the general progression of moving from one to another."

André巧妙營造多個帶禪格調的元素，跟這個來自西方的連鎖酒店和諧融合。「紐約的酒店住宿體驗就像住進了私人公寓。」他一邊說，一邊領著我們穿過傳奇的餐廳Drawing Room、酒吧和平台，空間過渡自然流暢。「我特別想製造這種流暢感。這是身處酒店內的一種樂趣，不知不覺便穿梭於不同區域之間。」

#### NEW HEIGHTS

André pictured against a soaring sculptural fireplace and AFSO's Scenematic rug in moss green. Below: Elegant silhouettes and a soft colour palette imbue the hotel.

再創高峰  
André於聳高的火爐前留影，空間鋪上AFSO的Scenematic綠地毯。下圖：優雅線條與柔和色彩可見酒店四周。







This fluidity in evolution proves to be an apt parallel for the designer himself as he looks towards the future, which will include nurturing his homewares and furniture brand, André Fu Living, as well as projects in the Maldives and Kyoto. "I've been in this profession for some time now, and I am increasingly interested in collaborating with brands people may not naturally affiliate me with," muses André. "I hope this feels fresh. That is where the excitement is for me, too." //

設計師對自身和未來亦繼續採取這種流暢過渡的方式，包括在營運自家家品及傢具品牌André Fu Living，以及馬爾代夫和京都項目上。「投身這行業已有一段時間，最近愈來愈喜歡參與人們意想不到的品牌合作。」他帶著期待的眼神說：「希望這些項目能帶來新鮮感，我在過程中亦感興奮雀躍。」 //



#### IN GOOD TASTE

André meticulous attention to detail is on full display in every corner, from the plush Governors Suite to Rùn, the hotel's modern Chinese restaurant.

#### 超卓品味

André對細節的用心可見每個角落，從豪華的Governors Suite套房到中餐廳「潤」，也獲完美呈現。