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MADE TO TREASURE

Teo Su Seam of LTW Designworks invites us into the glamorous and intriguing world of hospitality design | 來自LTW Designworks的Teo Su Seam邀請我們投進豪華酒店設計世界

BY NIKEY CHENG



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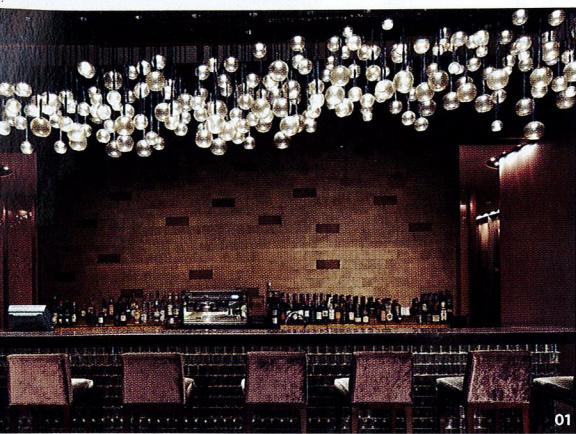
- 01
The Living Room, Four Seasons Seoul's grand lobby lounge, has a grandiose feel
- 02
Its interiors are characterised by understated elegance
- 03
Teo Su Seam, a partner of LTW Designworks
- 04
Glamorous touches in blue and gold – seen in the chandelier and carpet – are carefully peppered throughout the space

After supervising luxury hotel projects with notable design firms in the US, Teo Su Seam returned to her homeland in 1993 and became a partner of Singapore-based LTW Designworks – a studio that specialises in hospitality interiors. With projects including the Four Seasons Hotel Seoul, the Hylandia by Shangri-La in Yunnan and The Ritz-Carlton in Hong Kong, the firm has delivered commendable results with a guest-centric approach. Su Seam shares her passion for interior design and the studio's winning formula for luxury hospitality design. 曾在美國多間著名設計公司工作並監管豪華酒店項目的Teo Su Seam於1993年重回家鄉，並成為專營酒店室內設計的駐新加坡LTW Designworks工作室合夥人。公司多個出色項目包括首爾四季酒店、恬居·雲南香格里拉和香港麗思卡爾頓酒店，均揉合以客為主的設計取向，贏得外界讚譽推崇。Su Seam跟我們分享她對室內設計的熱愛，以及工作室打造豪華酒店設計的致勝之道。

Growing up, I always had an eye for interior design. I would rearrange the furniture at home to create a better layout. What intrigues me most about designing luxury hotel interiors is that we are often challenged to come up with innovative ideas while being guided by specific parameters. It's an opportunity to see our clients' and LTW's visions come together to create something special for guests. 成長以來，我一直對室內設計存有極大興趣，更會不停轉換傢具佈局擺設，改造出更理想的效果。設計豪華酒店最令我著迷的地方就是需要想出嶄新想法的同時，也必要在特定規限下發揮，挑戰處處。這也是我們的客戶跟LTW目光融合一致，為酒店客人打造獨特體驗的機會。



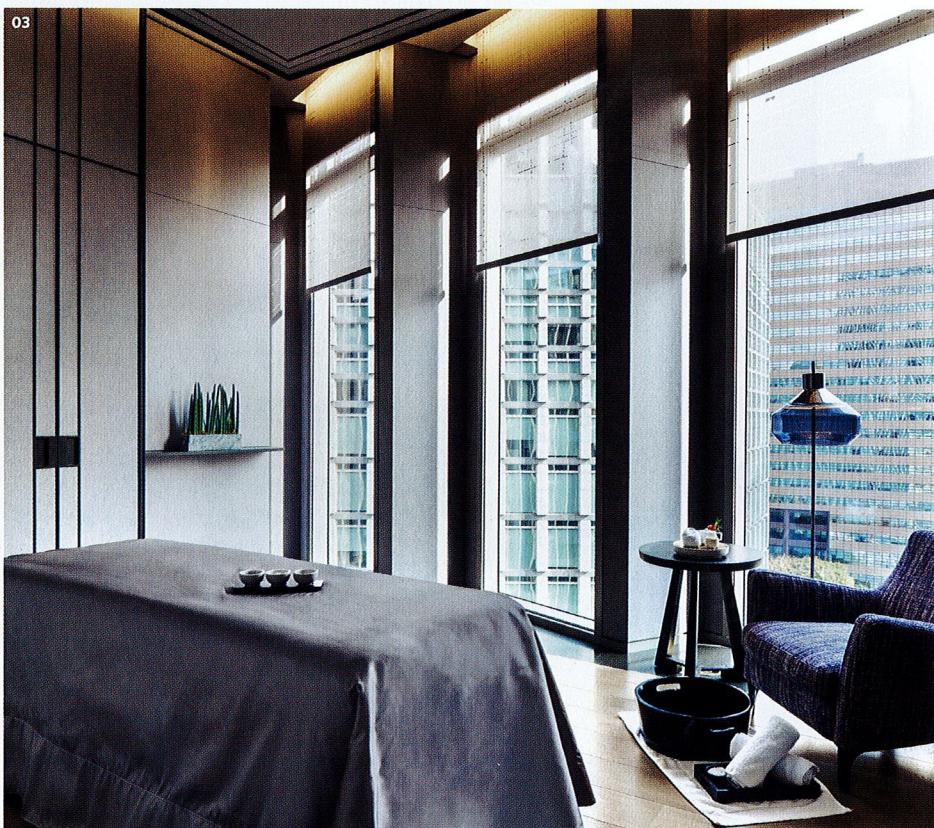
Image courtesy of LTW | Photography: Michael Weber



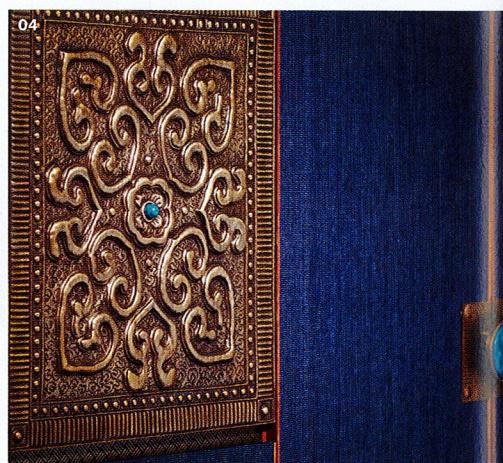
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Conrad Beijing Hotel's Chinese restaurant

02
One of the sleek guest rooms in Beijing

03
The streamlined spa at Four Seasons Seoul overlooks the city

04
Distinctive decorations at Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa

For our design narrative for the Four Seasons Hotel Seoul, we wanted to create an immersive hospitality experience that could forge a link between Seoul, the vibrant Korean culture of the past and present, and of course the Four Seasons brand. Early excavations for the hotel unearthed remains of 16th-century *ondol* [under-floor heating systems]. We were enthralled by the idea of having the brand-new construction literally built upon Korean architectural tradition. These archaeological treasures felt like a calling from the past and we tried to replicate that essence by reinterpreting elements from traditional Korean houses, or *hanok*. 處理首爾四季酒店時，我們希望能在首爾、韓國昔日與現代文化、四季酒店品牌之間建出聯繫。酒店早期的開鑿工程竟發掘出16世紀韓式暖炕「溫突」的遺跡。我們無不想在韓國建築傳統歷史上建立一幢全新結構。這些考古文物彷彿來自舊日的呼喚，透過演繹傳統韓國房子韓屋的元素，我們極力重現這種精髓魅力。

One common thread of every project is the extensive research we do into the geography, setting and cultural identity for an authentic design concept. We also work with artisans and artists to realise our hotel designs. For instance, for The Lost Stone Hotel in Yunnan, we partnered with Japanese fabric artist Reiko Sudo of Nuno to create wall textiles that reference the clothing garments worn by local ethnic groups. 每個項目的共通點在於我們對地理、背景和文化身份的深入研究，最後得出原創設計概念。我們也跟工匠和藝術家合作，進一步認清酒店設計的方向。就好像雲南The Lost Stone Hotel，我們便跟Nuno的日本布藝藝術家Reiko Sudo合製出牆壁織品，靈感源自當地部落穿著的衣物。

Rather than presenting one distinctive style, we translate the hotel's vision into something extraordinary while subtly conveying the LTW touch, which is characterised by contemporary aesthetics, a sense of place and attention to detail. Our current projects include a new Humble House hotel, a Grand Hyatt in Sanya and Kohler's Experience Centre in Singapore. 與其只展現單一風格，我們傾向以非凡方式演繹酒店的視野想像，並低調地混入LTW的特色：當代美學、地方感和對細節的關注。我們現正處理的項目包括Humble House新酒店、三亞君悅酒店和Kohler位於新加坡的體驗中心。

Above all, comfort is crucial for an intimate guest experience. This can be achieved through clever spatial layout and lighting strategies. 舒適是為客人打造窩心體貼體驗的關鍵。透過巧妙的空間佈局和照明方案即可達成。