



# SAKURA IN SPRING BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO HI HO

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Lighting

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# RESEARCH SUMMARY

## SITE PROFILE

Motel Hi Ho, also known as the Merritt Parkway Motor Inn, is a 24 919 sf motel located at 4180 Black Rock Turnpike. Since its building in 1960, this post war architecture has been a community landmark of Fairfield, Connecticut (Sessa, 2015). It features Barcelona Fairfield, a restaurant frequented by its locals.



## THE BOUTIQUE HOTEL

The term “boutique hotel” was first used on 1984 by Ian Schrager to describe his hotel, Morgans Hotel, comparing it to a small boutique as opposed to a department store (Rosner, 2015). In the beginning of the 90s, the term “boutique hotel” swept through the market and was used to describe hotels that are:

- typically 50 – 100 room property
- individually decorated
- in European or Asian influenced furnishings
- and non-chain-operated

Except, this term was quickly adopted by chain operators and marketing representation companies in order to help differentiation from the more traditional hotel products within their portfolio and soon one could find references to 400 room boutique hotels in the directories rendering the definition nearly superfluous as far too many chain operated hotels started toying with the term boutique (Freund).

So rather than a definition, HVS Research presented words that are generally associated with boutique hotels (Balekjian & Sarheim, 2011):

- Unique
- Trendy
- Hip & Cool
- Intimate
- Design Oriented
- Warm



# LIGHTING IMPACT ON HOTEL LOBBY IMPRESSIONS

Of all the public areas in a hotel, the lobby has the single greatest impact on its users. According to a study, there are two factors that influence customers' impressions on hotel lobbies: atmospheric elements and personality (Naqshabandi & Munir, 2011). As an interior designer, one of those factors can be controlled. Designing a lobby atmosphere that will be favorable to customers is right up an interior designer's alley. According to their study, lighting is the most influential factor on boutique hotel lobby impressions, with style and color being the last, with the other elements being layout and furnishing (Naqshabandi & Munir, 2011).

## SEVEN AESTHETIC PRINCIPLES FOR WABI-SABI

In Japanese Zen, there are seven aesthetic principles for achieving wabi-sabi, the Japanese aesthetic of the beauty of simplicity. (The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Architecture Community Project Workshop, 2012)

### FUKINSEI (imbalanced)

The idea of controlling balance in a composition via irregularity and asymmetry. Looking for (or creating) beauty in balanced asymmetry. Nature itself is full of beauty and harmonious relationships that are asymmetrical yet balanced. This is a dynamic beauty that attracts and engages.

### KANSO (simple)

Simplicity or elimination of clutter. Things are expressed in a plain, simple, natural manner. Reminds to think not in terms of decoration but in terms of clarity, a kind of clarity that may be achieved through omission or exclusion of the non-essential.

### SHIBUMI (minimalist)

Beautiful by being understated, or by being precisely what it was meant to be and not elaborated upon. Direct and simple way, without being flashy. Elegant simplicity, articulate brevity.

### SHIZEN (natural)

Raw, natural and unforced creativity without pretense. Absence of pretense or artificiality, full creative intent unforced. True naturalness is to negate the naive and accidental. Reminds that design is not an accident, even when we are trying to create a natural-feeling environment. It is not a raw nature as such but one with more purpose and intention.

### YUGEN (subtle profound)

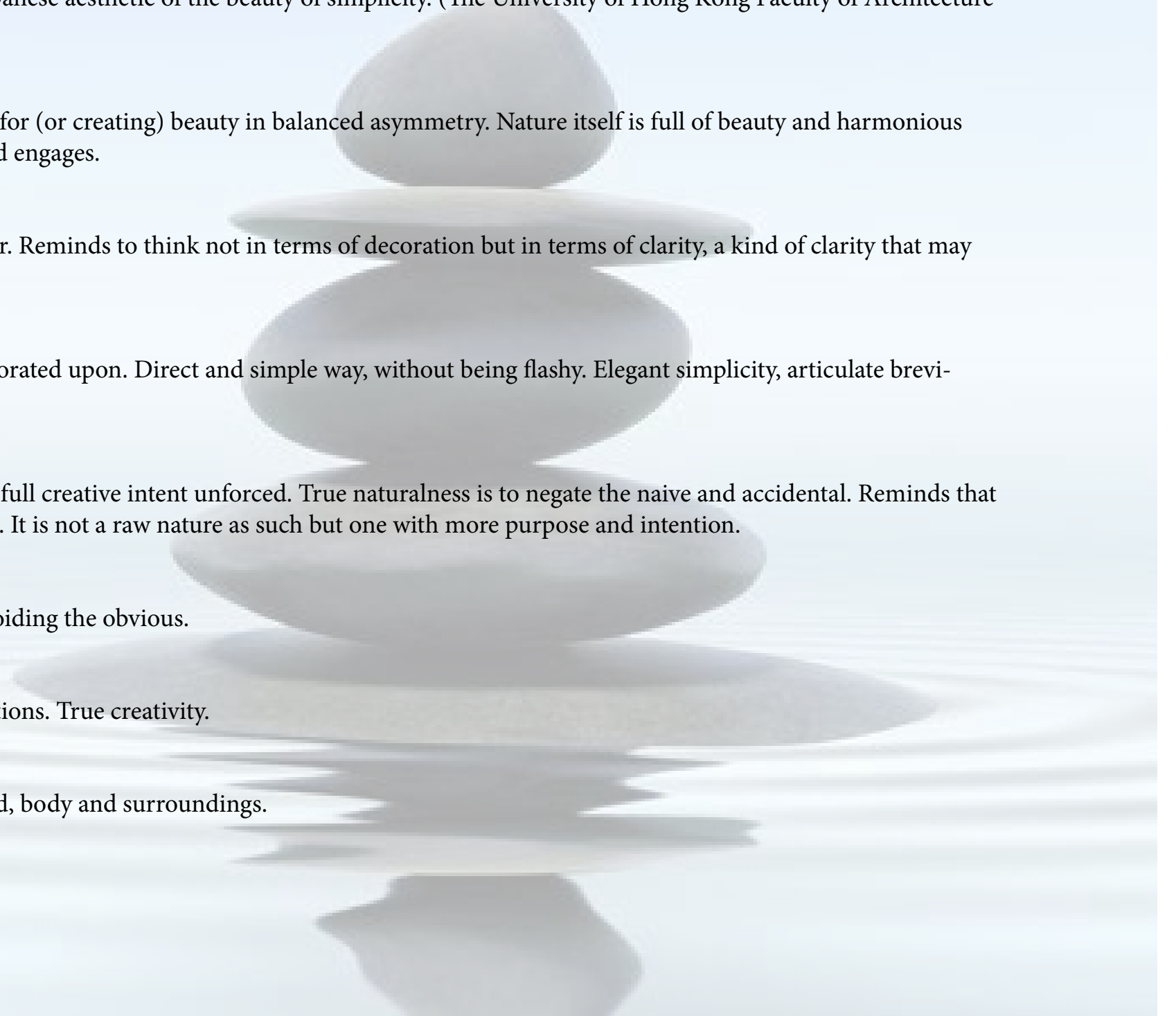
Suggest and not reveal layers of meaning hidden within. Invisible to the casual eye and avoiding the obvious.

### DATSUZOKU (unworldly, freedom)

Transcendence of conventional and traditional. Free from the bondage of laws and restrictions. True creativity.

### SEIJAKU (calm)

Silence and tranquility, blissful solitude. Absence of disturbance and noise from one's mind, body and surroundings.



# DESIGN CONCEPT: SAKURA IN SPRING

In Japan, the blossoming of the Sakura marks the coming of spring, welcoming the turning of the new season. The earth grows lush with greens, the breathing of new life from the dead of winter. It is from this that the design of the Merritt Parkway Motor Inn Lobby takes inspiration.

Since the hotel features Barcelona, a Spanish-themed restaurant famous in the locality, a Japanese-themed hotel lobby could make for an interesting around-the-world themed hotel, which follows the idea that boutique hotels are thematic, and influenced by Asian or European interiors. And by taking the Sakura and associating it with another trademark of the Japanese, Zen, the result is a simple but elegant, a minimalist but vivacious design.

## DESIGN GOALS

**ORGANIC:** To provide a refreshing change of atmosphere to road-weary guests with nature-inspired design elements

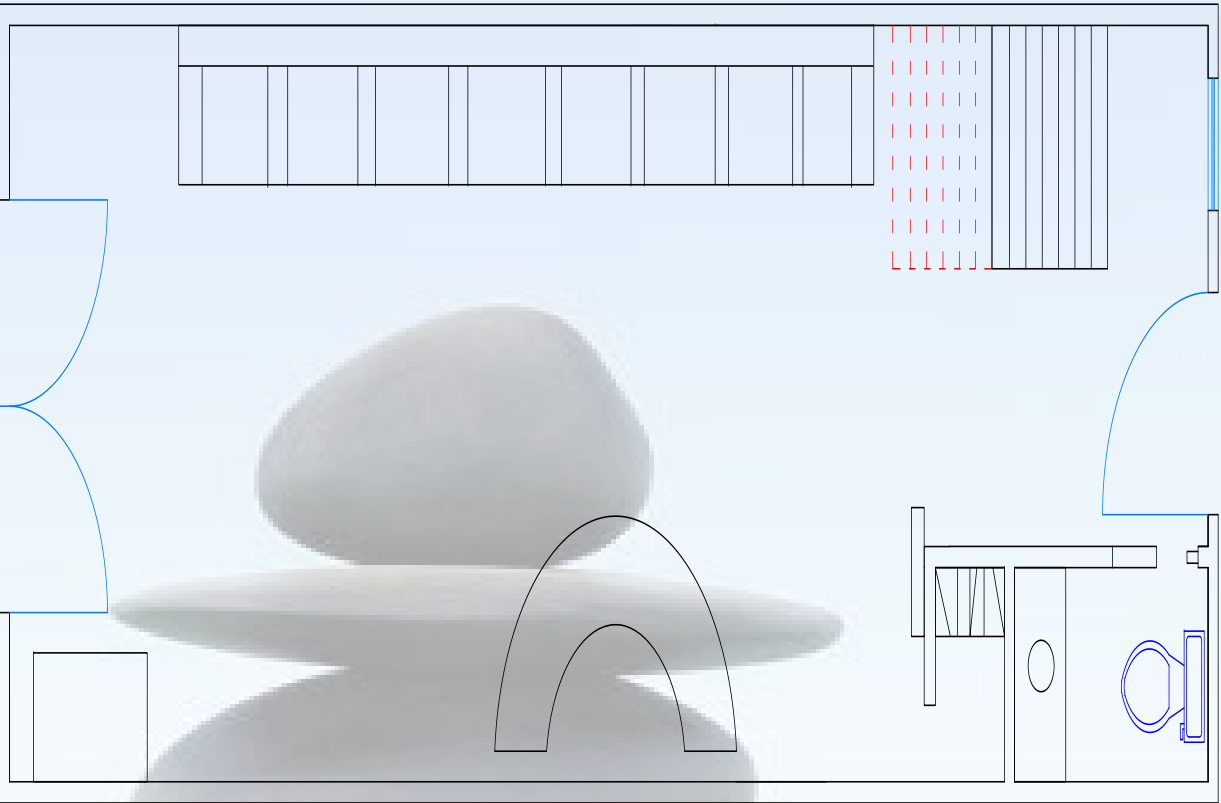
**OPENNESS AND FLEXIBILITY:** To create an illusion of space and freedom of circulation in an otherwise dim and confined space with light and color design

**SIMPLICITY, HARMONY, AND BALANCE:** To design a visually- and psychologically-relaxing space with the use of Zen aesthetic design principles

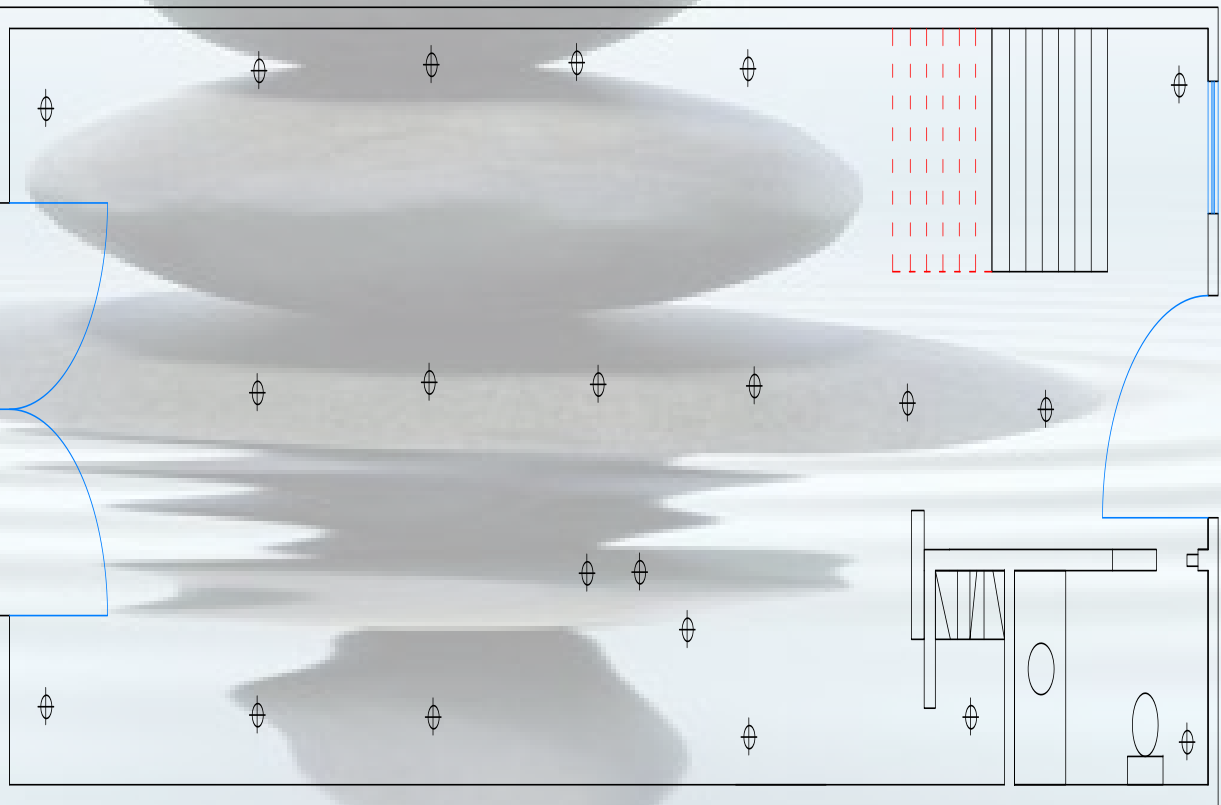
## LIGHTING CONCEPT

The idea behind the lighting design of the boutique hotel lobby is for it to simulate the warmth and brightness of spring, even in the cold months of winter. With the ceiling height at 8 feet and the originally long and narrow space, the lobby somehow seems gloomy and confined. So beyond taking down an interior wall to open the space, the exterior wall will also be opened up with windows. This will make natural daylighting possible. The reception area will have shiny black marble flooring illuminated with soft white downlights to depict calm reflective waters of Zen. But, the light of spring has a warm yellow tint, as compared to the bluish white tint of winter, so the lobby will be using warm led lights in accents. On the other hand, the seating areas will be bathed in warm yellow light to emphasize the earthen tones of the furniture and finishes, as well as to create a comfortable and intimate atmosphere.

# FLOOR PLAN

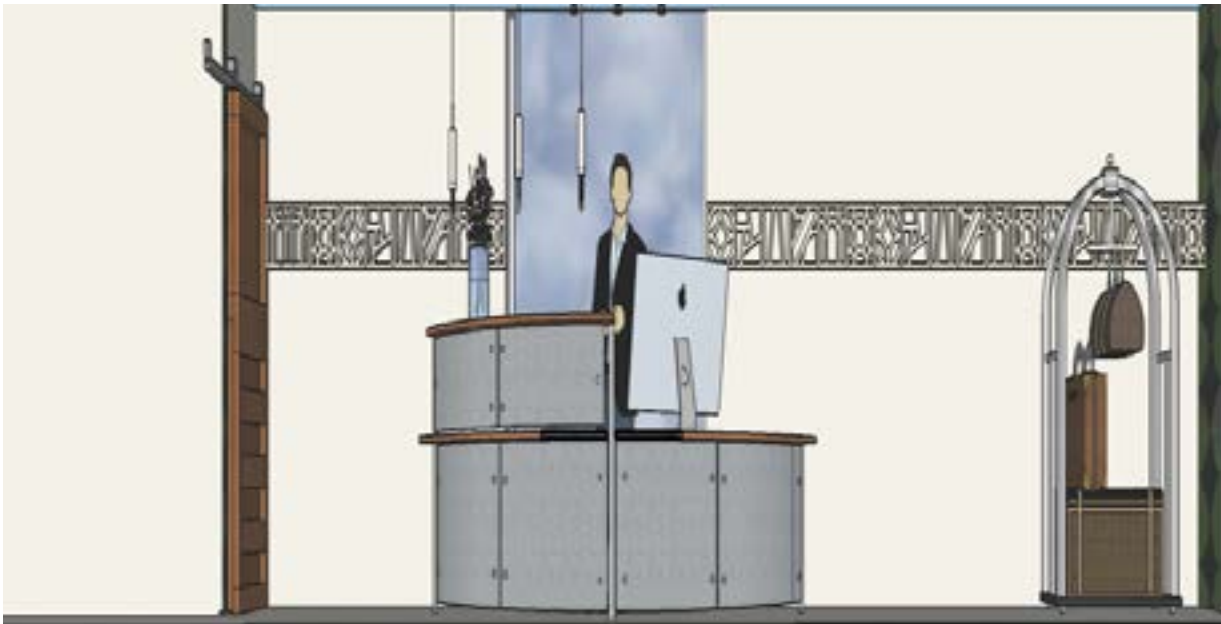


# REFLECTED CILLING PLAN





ELEVATION







SKETCH

