



## EDITORIAL



### My nine tips for Hong Kong – part 2

The second part of my Hong Kong tips focusses, of course, once again on the themes of interior architecture and of interior design as exemplified in certain of the city's restaurants, bars and hotels. In the first part I wrote exclusively about buildings and establishments located on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong harbour. Now I want to take a few glances at those located on **Hong Kong Island** itself. I have already spoken about the breathtaking skyline, with all its shifting and twinkling lights, that the Island presents to the observer looking out from the Kowloon side. But we will now not be long in recognizing that the skyscrapers whose exteriors form this skyline also have much to offer in their interiors:



#### 6. The Landmark Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong

Close to the first hotel to bear the name Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong there lies, right in the middle of the business and fashion district and integrated into a modern shopping mall, a further establishment bearing this brand name. Its interior design is the work of a Chinese interior designer.

There stand out here the gourmet restaurant '**Amber**' (currently holder of two Michelin stars) – which, in its stylishly elegant interior featuring an imposing chandelier composed of bronze rods, offers French cuisine of the highest quality – and the trendy '**MO Bar**' which, despite being situated on the ground floor, is definitely an "in" location, a distinction it owes not least to its quite unique interior design and decoration. The bar is used in the morning hours as a breakfast buffet; but in the evenings it opens up to become a mirroring surface providing a clear view of the whole array of ice-cooled bottles – a sight bound to tempt one to order another drink.



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### 7. ZUMA Restaurant Hong Kong

On one of the upper floors of the same shopping mall one descends, first through the bar and then down a winding open staircase, into the ZUMA restaurant. ZUMA is at the same time a restaurant, a bar and a lounge and there are currently some thirteen restaurants worldwide operating under this brand name. They serve contemporary Japanese cuisine.

What impresses above all in its interior design is the honest way in which the materials used are handled. The bar appears to have been hewn out of a single large block of rock and brings a beneficial sense of still and enduring nature into our hectic daily routine. The whole designed environment has a refreshing effect and its pervasive naturality goes to reinforce the guests' faith in the restaurant's skilful handling of all the natural and authentic ingredients that go to compose the dishes featured on the menu.



### 8. Mott 32 Hong Kong

This restaurant designed in a languidly elegant Asian Chic style is to be discovered in the basement of a building in the middle of Central Hong Kong. Descending into the restaurant past curtains formed from chains, one is submerged in a world displaying an unconventional charm that is all its own. Blended into the urbane, loft-like atmosphere are certain poetic details, such as wall-paintings featuring sublime embroideries. The ladies' and gentlemen's toilets share a common vestibule. The doors to the toilet cubicles are made only of latticework but effectively ensure complete privacy thanks to the ingenious way the lighting has been designed not just here but throughout the entire restaurant.

The cuisine served in the restaurant is a mix of classic Cantonese dishes with some signature dishes inspired by the cuisine of Peking. The name Mott 32 refers to the street which formed the



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nucleus of New York's Chinatown in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. There is another Mott 32 restaurant in Vancouver and yet another is soon to open in Bangkok.



### 9. The Upper House Hong Kong

And now let us turn to my final tip – which is also my favourite location in all Hong Kong.

The Upper House belongs to a small, high-quality hotel group consisting of four hotels in total – including, for example, also the Opposite House hotel in Peking. The Upper House in Hong Kong is embedded within a building complex comprising several luxury hotels (such as the JW Marriott, the Conrad und the Shangri-La).

The hotel stands out the other fine hotels around it by virtue of its natural and unforced elegance, by the high quality of the materials used to create it, and by its sensitive integration of various artworks into its whole. Perhaps most of all, though, by virtue of a simply marvellous interplay of architecture and interior design, since many of the hotel's inner spaces provide a perfect view of the outside world, so that a pleasant sustained connection is established between interior and exterior. One has the feeling here of being able to breathe deeply and to recharge one's batteries exhausted by the stresses of everyday life. A Japanese designer has succeeded here, with great skill, in achieving for this luxury hotel a balance between extremely purist stylistic devices and a genteel elegance which serves, in the end, to free and heal the visitor from that inundation of violent stimuli that characterizes life in the big city. My personal tip here: simply reserve yourself a seat in the upper-level bar in order to commune with the city, up close, while relaxing over a glass of wine.



I hope you have all enjoyed my personal tips and recommendations from Hong Kong. Wishing you all the best until we meet again,

With warmest greetings, Corinna Kretschmar-Joehnk