

The Okura Tokyo selected as one of the featured hotels in "DESIGN"
a book published by The Leading Hotels of the World.
Event to commemorate the book launch held on November 5

The Okura Tokyo (Location: Minato-ku, Tokyo; General Manager: Kenji Takayanagi) has been selected as one of the hotels with the best designs in the book “Design: The Leading Hotels of the World (hereinafter ‘DESIGN’)” which will be published in December 2024 by The Leading Hotels of the World (hereinafter ‘LHW’), the largest independent luxury hotel collection in the world, based in New York City, and it was announced at the book launch event held on November 5, 2024 .



The book was produced to celebrate LHW's unparalleled legacy as a pioneer of excellence in luxury hospitality, having represented more than 400 hotels in 80 countries since its founding in 1928, and to introduce hotels with the artistry and craftsmanship to create memorable spaces. The book features 74 hotels, and top journalists and photographers from the fields of travel, design, and culture have contributed their unique perspectives on the architectural beauty, interior design, and location of each hotel.

Phil Koserowski, Senior Vice President, and Chief Marketing Officer, at LHW, visited Japan for this event. We were joined by Shinji Umehara, President and Representative Director of Hotel Okura Tokyo, who served as the head of the Hotel Okura Tokyo Redevelopment Preparation Office upon the opening of The Okura Tokyo in 2019, and Taro Kiguma, Editor in Chief, ELLE DECOR Japan at Hearst Digital Japan Co., Ltd., who served as the facilitator for a discussion on the design advantages of The Okura Tokyo, and on the importance of hospitality and the role of design in luxury hotels.

■ Comments from Phil Koserowski, Senior Vice President, and Chief Marketing Officer, LHW

The Okura Tokyo received high marks for its harmonious blend of traditional and modern design that embodies the values of LHW, and was selected as one of the hotels worthy of special mention in DESIGN. Through the minimalism rooted in the traditions of Japanese architecture, the design elicits a sense of luxury and serenity, symbolizing a fusion of understated, refined elegance and contemporary aesthetics. This hotel, which architect Yoshio Taniguchi (who designed the Okura Tokyo) has revamped for the future while paying homage to his father Yoshiro's original design, is one of the pinnacles of our collection.

■ Comments from Taro Kiguma, Editor in Chief, ELLE DECOR Japan at Hearst Digital Japan Co., Ltd.

The Okura Tokyo's lobby has a unique atmosphere that makes one feel a weight lifted off their shoulders, yet it never feels cramped; it is a wonderful space filled with peace and tranquility, where one can feel the gentleness of harmony. While many Japanese buildings feature “scrap-and-build” designs, it was a very meaningful choice to carry over traditional elements from the former main building, such as the use of LED lanterns, the maintenance and inheritance of furniture, and the natural continuation of the mezzanine in the lobby. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of hotels in Japan, especially in Kyoto and Tokyo, that emphasize design, and I feel that The Okura Tokyo is the pioneer of this trend.

■ Comments from Shinji Umehara, President, Representative Director, Hotel Okura Tokyo Co., Ltd.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for choosing our hotel among the many hotels at LHW and for creating such a wonderful page for us. As a hotel, it is meaningless for us to have wonderful design and architecture if it is not comfortable for our guests. Generally, the Okura Lantern and wall decorations in the lobby are considered to be distinctive, but Mr. Yoshio Taniguchi said that the overall spatial composition is also a distinctive feature of the building. An environmental study of the lighting and sound was conducted prior to the demolition of the previous building, and a thorough study of the comfort and functionality of the building was performed. By calculating all elements with precision, we believe we were able to create a space that is minimalist, yet luxurious and serene. Okura has always strived to be “a Japanese hotel that serves and welcomes people from throughout the world.” While we continue to pursue internationalism, we have made it our mission to promote Japanese beauty and culture to the world. Providing comfort and genuine beauty by infusing the spirit of harmony into everything you see and touch is the very spirit of Okura, which has remained unchanged since the company's founding. We believe that this spirit will become a tradition and be passed on to the future over the next 50 to 100 years.

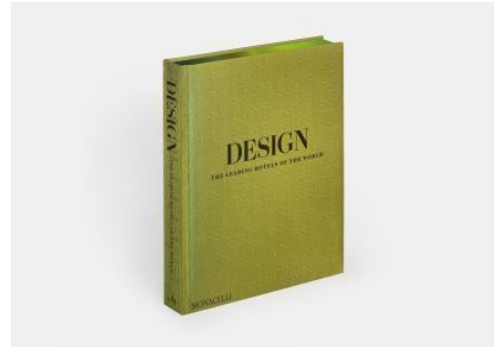
■ About “Design”

The book is the first in a series of publications designed to provide a thematic overview of the approximately 400 hotels affiliated with LHW over a five-year period. As the title suggests, the book is based on the theme of “design” and lists 74 member hotels, of which The Okura Tokyo was selected as

the main hotel for its particularly exceptional design. The Okura Tokyo was photographed specifically for the book and is featured across ten pages. The book will be published by Phaidon, a US-based publishing company with a long history of publishing art-related books, and will be available at Kinokuniya, Tsutaya, Amazon, and other bookstores from December 2024, as well as through the The Okura Tokyo online store.

Bibliographic information

Name of book: Design: The Leading Hotels of the World
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[*Click here for more information on "DESIGN"](#)

About The Leading Hotels of the World®:

In 1928, 38 independent hoteliers came together to create LHW which now comprises more than 400 hotels in over 80 countries, making it the largest collection of independent luxury hotels. Since its inception, the Company has carefully curated a selection of distinctive hotels, resorts, inns, chalets, villas, and safari camps, from the snow-capped Alps of Europe to the African veldt, to share them with adventurous souls who seek the remarkably uncommon. The LHW community is made of exceptional individuals, united by a passion for the surprising discoveries and details that come with every travel experience. LHW hoteliers are artisans of hospitality whose expertise, commitment to excellence and individual flair allows them to create story-worthy moments for their guests. It is these authentic, individualized moments, combined with the warm high-touch service these hoteliers and their team provide, that keeps discerning travelers returning again and again. LHW's collection covers the globe and promises a broad range of destinations and unique experiences, enhanced by LHW's tiered guest loyalty program, Leaders Club. From converted former palaces and countryside retreats run by the same families for generations, to gleaming skyscrapers in dynamic urban centers, serene private island escapes, glamorous tented camps – and beyond – travelers are invited to explore, find inspiration, and experience unforgettable travel moments.

About The Okura Tokyo:

Reprising the cherished Okura legacy, The Okura Tokyo opened its doors in 2019 as a fresh iteration of the former Hotel Okura Tokyo, meeting the contemporary needs of Japan's capital city with two complementary brands: The Okura Heritage Wing (140 rooms) and the Okura Prestige Tower (368 rooms). The former, a 17-story structure, recalls many of the most beloved spaces of its predecessor, continuing the Okura tradition

of providing serene Japanese beauty and elegance in a world-class setting. The latter, rising to 41 stories, offers wonderful vistas of the city from its guest rooms, which begin on the 28th floor. Together the two accommodate a range of tastes while providing incomparable Japanese-style hospitality and the highest standard of comfort and luxury in their 508 guest rooms, five restaurants, two bars, and 19 banquet and meeting venues, among them the 2,000-square-meter Heian Room. Other facilities include Okura Fitness & Spa, the Chosho-an tea ceremony room, and the Okura Garden, a 13,000-square-meter oasis that is open to the public. The Okura Museum of Art, established in 1917 as the nation's first privately operated museum, anchors the landscaped entrance square.

The Okura Tokyo supports sustainable production and contributes to waste-free consumption with its original Wagyu brand, Okura Beef. Pedigree Tajima heifers are bred and grown exclusively for the hotel under contract by a ranch that practices circular agriculture. The hotel procures the meat of each cow in toto, ensuring that no cuts go to waste. The first member of hotel of THE LEADING HOTELS OF THE WORLD® in Japan, and a member of Virtuoso®.

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