

# design anthology



The new Mandarin Oriental  
Qianmen is spread over 42  
courtyard houses in a traditional  
*hutong* neighbourhood in Beijing

# Wanderlust

Designer destinations

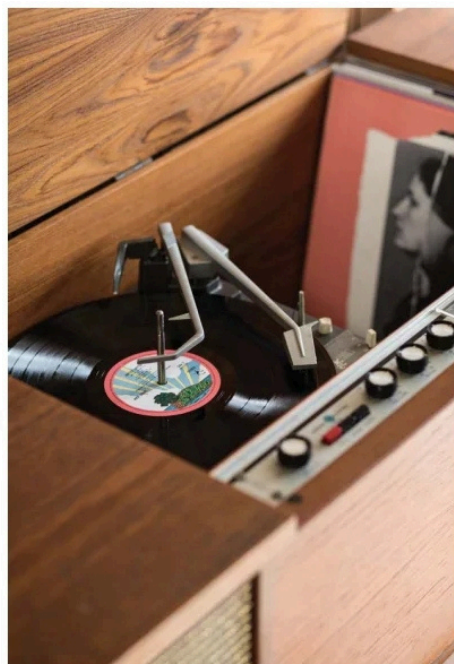
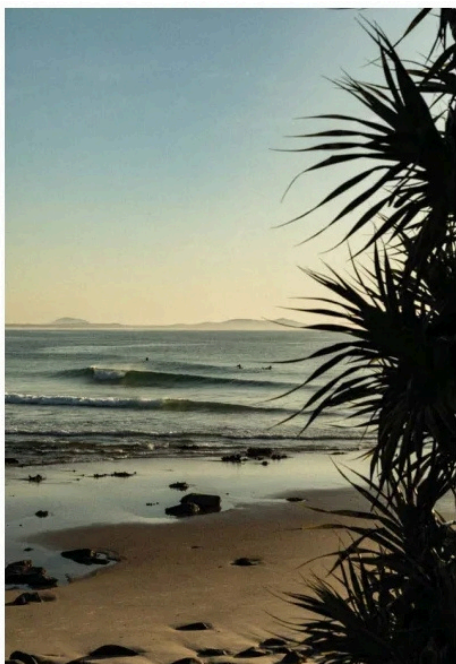
# Checking In

Our pick of the latest design-forward lodgings from around the world

## CRESCENT HEAD

### Sea Sea Hotel

The northern New South Wales coast is the setting for this 70s-inspired surf club hotel. The brainchild of creative director and designer George Gorrow, creator of The Slow in Bali, and his wife Cisco Tschurtschenthaler, the 25-key property styles itself as a cultural hub as much as a place to stay, with art exhibitions, music performances and a communal surf club underlining the offering. Rooms are inspired by 70s surf culture, and despite their contemporary take will feel immediately familiar to those who stayed in similar properties of yore. In this case, though, Gorrow and his network have created bespoke homewares, amenities, scents, surfboards, music, objects, art and sculptures throughout the hotel. Chef Daniel Medcalf brings the best of the nearby Macleay Valley to restaurant Sea Sea Sane Kitchen, complemented by the hotel's own newly launched natural wine label Zamiang. The proposition is playful but always conscious of the experience and the season, with a heated pool, open fires, sauna and ice baths rounding out the offering.





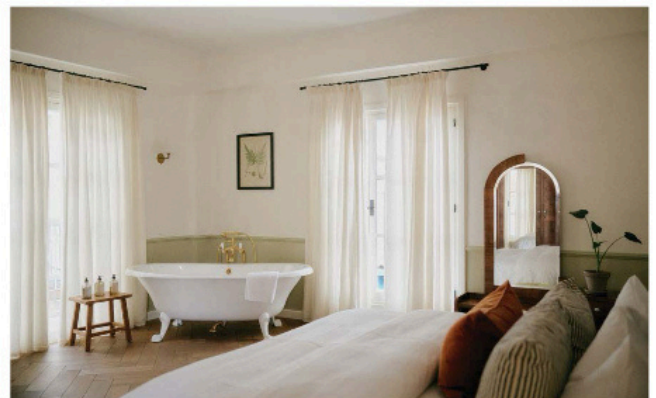
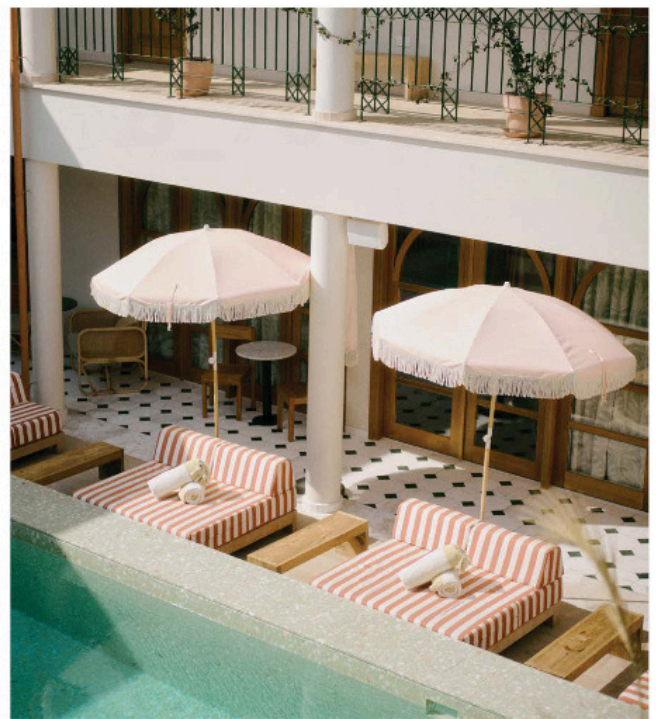
KOLKATA

## Taj Taal Kutir

This Taj Hotels property makes its home by a 45-hectare lake within an eco-park in the storied city of Kolkata. The C-shaped plan with a centre and two wings maximises the views of the lake, pool and landscaped surroundings, lending the property the air of a resort in the city. The facade and interiors have been realised by Delhi-based Studio Lotus, and refer to the area's rich past. The former is a modern reinterpretation of local neoclassical landmarks, its warm white exterior contrasting with Juliet balconies and black Bahama shutters reminiscent of Bengal's traditional *khorkhori* windows. Suites and public spaces continue this monochromatic approach, with black and white terrazzo floors and furniture and millwork in black-stained teak. Throughout, motifs and patterns inspired by local crafts impart a distinct layer of regional identity. Cocktail bar Rhyddim brings rich red walls and Art Deco motifs reminiscent of a jazz club, while all-day dining venue the Verandah is light and breezy. A spa, fitness centre and in-house yoga instructor await if you're up to leaving the pool.



Image by Avesh Gaur



CYPRUS

## The Agora

This appropriately named former marketplace is set in the picturesque town of Lefkara, a village perched between olive groves and mountaintops overlooking the sea and rolling hills. The abandoned building was happened upon by Aleksander Eng, who with partner Emilie Green Novél resolved to revitalise the space and draw tourists to the town. The tone is set on entry: walking through the lobby takes guests directly into an open-air courtyard, with white pillars, marble floors and striped sunbeds that surround a green terrazzo pool. Within, the design leans mid-century modern, with attention paid to materials such as sustainable oak flooring. Guestrooms feature rattan and dark-stained wood that harks back to the colonial style, and are outfitted with fabrics and decorative touches that are either bespoke or sourced from antique and vintage shops around Europe and the Mediterranean, with amenities by Danish brand Frama. Plant-filled cocktail space The Bar is airier than might be expected, but anchors itself with a geometric wooden bar, while restaurant Novél's homey chic welcomes after a day of sightseeing.

