

# hinge

ARCHITECTURE  
INTERIOR DESIGN

## ONE + ONE = THREE

Two HKU Professors (and students)  
Give to China

## ITALIAN STYLE

Milan Expo 2015

## KID'S STUFF

A Kindergarten in Denmark

# TIME FOR BED

## New Hotel Design



With Compliments

Decca Contract Furniture/

Élan by Decca

Bolier&Co/ Decca Home

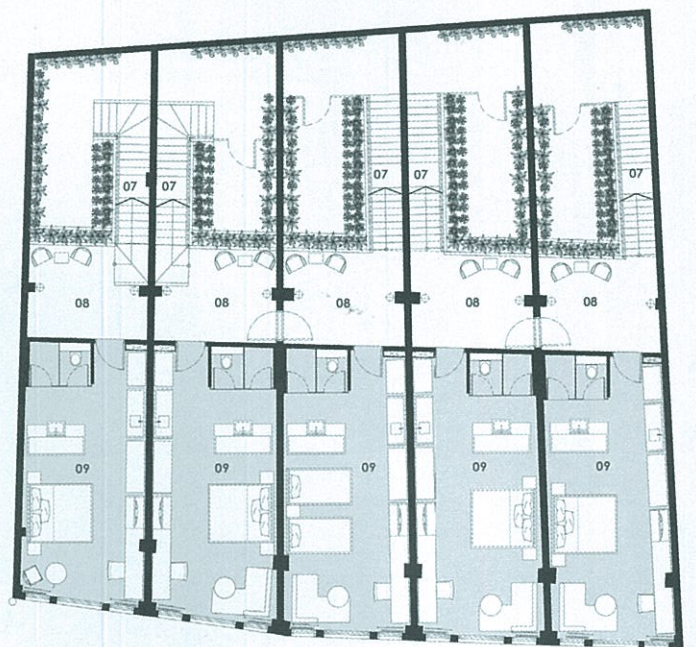
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# Stop 8: Penang

## Loke Thye Kee Residences Penang, Malaysia Ministry of Design

Photography by CI&A Photography (Edward Hendricks)



Time to head north... We aim straight for historical Georgetown in Penang and the Loke Thye Kee Residences, by Singapore's Ministry of Design. Cleverly squeezed into a row of five very old shophouses beside the famed, century-old Loke Thye Kee restaurant, and developed by the same owner, is this boutique property. MOD's Colin Seah harked back to the 1900s to pan Penang's rich colonial past for cues and clues, and he found plenty of romantic visual fodder to mine. "The romance of Penang in the 1900s, the mood and design of that bygone era was beguiling," he states. However, the design also brings history into the present, with a contemporary twist on familiar motifs and materials. It helps that the rooms occupy a building



with this kind of pedigree. The five resulting suites provide guests with short- or long-term accommodations, each boasting a garden forecourt and private balcony. The pitched ceiling in each of the rooms makes their modest overall dimensions seem much grander, and Seah's skilful melding of masonry, tile, wood and glass truly walks the line between eras. LED lighting helps levitate some of the in-room components, such that the actual fixed architecture is better revealed, and the eye sweeps around the spaces fluidly. Modern artworks and accessories play central roles; MOD was also tasked with graphic design and branding for the property.

But none of this would work if the heritage of the building were either over- or under-played. Striking that blessed balance between historicism and disrespect is always the game when updating classic architecture. MOD is expert at this, and the project leaves no one in doubt that this is not a renovation attempt. It is a thoroughly modern place to camp out in style. Even a World Heritage Site like Georgetown has some mistakes and fakes, but LTK Residences isn't one of those. Being old rarely looked so young.