

# hospitality design

december 2015 [hospitalitydesign.com](http://hospitalitydesign.com)

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## loke thye kee residences

→ The inner-city portion of George Town in Penang, Malaysia is home to well-preserved Straits-style architecture, which is why it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. Located in its heart, Loke Thye Kee is a circa-1919 purpose-built restaurant, whose adjacent five shophouses have been redeveloped into a five-room boutique hotel by owner 1919 Global. Singapore-based Ministry of Design (MOD) was responsible for the period-sensitive interior and graphic design of the two-story 6,800-square-foot property, aptly dubbed Loke Thye Kee Residences.

“I was inspired by the romance of Penang in the 1900s—the mood and design of that bygone era was beguiling,” says MOD founder and director of design Colin Seah. “We wanted to recall a similar charm in our design for the residences, but with an added contemporary twist that would modernize the experience and make it relevant for living today.”

Weathered red bricks cladding each interior of the long and narrow shophouses are highlighted by concealed LED cove lighting in the suites, while geometric Peranakan floor tiles were reused in the reception, exterior passageway, and corridors. Designed for extended-stay guests, each suite includes a private terrace, small kitchen, lounge area with marble-topped dining table, and deconstructed bathrooms. And to keep the guestroom as open as possible, MOD created glass boxes for wardrobes and as sink enclosures.



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