

projects peninsula paris

# parisian chic

**A grand restoration of a  
historic French property**

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**The Chinese-French** grandeur of the newly opened Peninsula Paris starts at the entrance: a pair of 5.5-foot-tall white marble door lions greets guests, while inside, a chandelier of 800 handblown white crystal leaves—meant to imitate the trees on Avenue Kléber—dance across the marble-floored lobby.

A \$580 million four-year renovation brought the circa-1908 Hotel Majestic (and later temporary UNESCO headquarters) from its glorious past—where George Gershwin wrote *An American in Paris* during a fortnight sojourn in 1928 and Henry Kissinger negotiated an end to the Vietnam War—to its stunningly modern future. The end result is the handiwork of interior designer Henry Leung, partner of Hong Kong- and Shanghai-based Chhada Siembieda Leung Limited, and architect Richard Martinet of Parisian firm Affine Design. Martinet, with the help of 3,000 workers and several teams of master craftsmen, directed the painstaking architectural restoration.

Strict heritage laws forbade modifying the limestone façade, though minor moderations indoors permitted a more contemporary facelift. “The marble, stucco, mosaics, tiles and ceramics, woodwork, masonry, gold leaf, paint, and many other features have been restored by some of the most reputable French family artisans,” Martinet says, including “those whose ancestors worked on grand conservation projects of French heritage, such as the Louvre and Château de Versailles.”

**1.** White marble door lions greet guests at the Peninsula Paris’ Avenue Kléber entrance.

**2.** A black lacquered reception desk and a chandelier of 800 handblown white crystal leaves evoke a Chinese-French opulence.



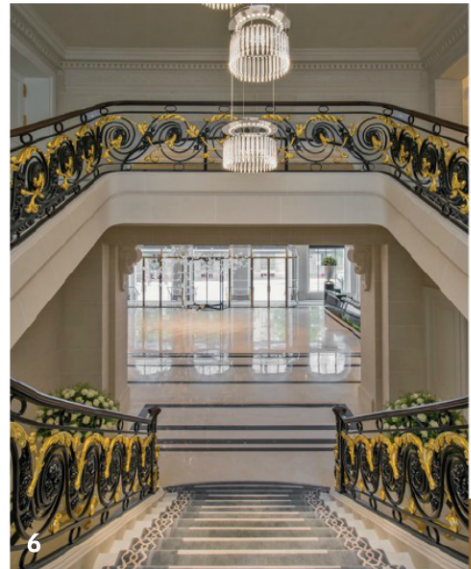
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3. Padded leather headboards as well as contrasting dark and light woods mark the Premiere room.

4. Guests of Cantonese restaurant LiLi are greeted by fictional Chinese opera singer LiLi's face, printed on a woven optical fiber net curtain (a first in the industry) powered by LEDs, set behind a curtain of illuminated trimmings that form a moon-shaped door.

5. Le Bar Kléber's restored original oak panels channel the building's French heritage.

6. The lobby's grand staircase, with its bronze and wrought iron railing.

For instance, 20 stonemasons from historic monument specialist Degaine spent up to three weeks reviving each flower, knot, and ribbon carved on the hotel's façade; Atelier Fancelli refurbished 500 original oak panels from the lobby and bar; and Ateliers Gohard of Statue of Liberty flame fame used 40,000 three-by-three-inch pieces of gold leaf to gild ornamental pilasters and pediments.

For the interiors, Leung strove for an Asian-Parisian blend. "They are based on a combination of Chinese elements and French Art Nouveau style," he says, adding that he was strongly inspired by operatic settings. "I visited the Opera Garnier to experience the richness of its décor and put the two cultures of Paris and Beijing side by side."

The lobby's Belle Époque ceiling of oriel windows and ornate cornices, and a grand staircase with bronze and wrought iron rail by Eiffel Tower metalworkers Schwartz & Meurer are offset by a high-gloss black lacquered reception desk with a gold base—a modernist take on Chinese traditions.

In Cantonese restaurant LiLi, marble columns, chandeliers, and tassels mix with a triptych of Chinese paper-cut panels and a giant crystal installation in the shape of a traditional Chinese opera headdress.

For the 200 rooms (including 34 suites, some of which boast private gardens and Eiffel Tower views), Leung aimed for a more classical Parisian style “inspired by its reputation as the world capital of haute couture.” The padded leather headboards by British artist Helen Murray, he says, evoke saddle-stitched handbags, as do the leather drawer handles, while pearl gray and cream shades dominate the handwoven silk and brocades. “Many other French touches include clear tones contrasted against black borders, dark and light wood, crystal handles, and a reinterpretation of an Art Deco console table as a TV cabinet,” Leung says.

Each room also features contemporary artwork curated by Hong Kong gallery Sabrina Fung Fine Arts. In fact, spectacular art installations breathe modernity into tradition throughout the hotel, says Leung, such as the marble and stone pillar “Moon River” by Catalan sculptor Xavier Corberó. **hd**

**hd** [affine-design.com](http://affine-design.com); [csa-hk.com](http://csa-hk.com); [paris.peninsula.com](http://paris.peninsula.com)



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7. The hotel's serene pool features contemporary décor and a floor-to-ceiling cascading waterfall.

8. The sixth floor L'Oiseau Blanc restaurant, bar, and terrace offers views of the Eiffel Tower.



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## Peninsula Paris

### Owners

**Katara Hospitality, QHotels B.V., and the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels**

### Operator

**The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels**

### Architecture Firm

**Affine Design, Paris**

### Interior Design Firm

**Chhada Siembieda Leung Limited, Hong Kong and Shanghai**

### Contractor

**CBC/PETIT**

### Purchasing Firm

**Purchasing Associates**

### Lighting Consultant

**Fisher Marantz Stone**

### Engineering

**CIEC Engineering**

### Art

**Sabrina Fung Fine Arts**

### Refurbishers

**Degaine, Atelier Fancelli, Ateliers Gohard, and Schwartz & Meurer**

### Landscape

**D-Paysage**

### Graphics

**Alto and Raphael & Jean-Baptiste**

### Lighting

**Debbas France, Vitosi, Targetti Poulsen, and Hudson Valley Lighting**

### Textiles

**Prelle**

### KLÉBER ENTRANCE

### Graphics

**Alto and Raphael & Jean-Baptiste**

### LOBBY

**Dancing Leaves  
Lasvit**

### Plaster Work

**S.O.E Stuc & Staff**

### Vases

**Murray's Iron Works**

### GUESTROOMS

### Bedding

**Simmons Hospitality and RKF Luxury Linen**

### Headboard

**Helen Murray**

### Furniture

**Rosello and Robert Wolte & Partner**

### Flooring

**Tai Ping**

### Millwork

**B&B Italia**

### Lighting

**Vistosi**

### LILI

### Wood Paneling

**Restoration by Atelier Fancelli**

### Gold Leafing

**Ateliers Gohard**

### Lighting

**Andromeda**

### Fiber Optic Hanging

**Design Percept and Declercq Passementeries**

### L'OISEAU BLANC

### Furniture

**Sifas**

### Parasols

**Le Cèdre Rouge**

### Roof

**Ardoisières d'Angers**

### POOL ENTRANCE

### Mosaic

**SICIS**

### Towels

**RKF Luxury Linen**

\*Designers did not provide sourcing for other furnishings shown.