

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2017



Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club **Richard Meier and Joseph Dirand** revive a Miami institution

The Whitby Kit Kemp waxes lyrical at Firmdale's latest opening in Midtown Manhattan

Chablé Resort & Spa Ancient Mayan traditions meet modern-day luxury on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula

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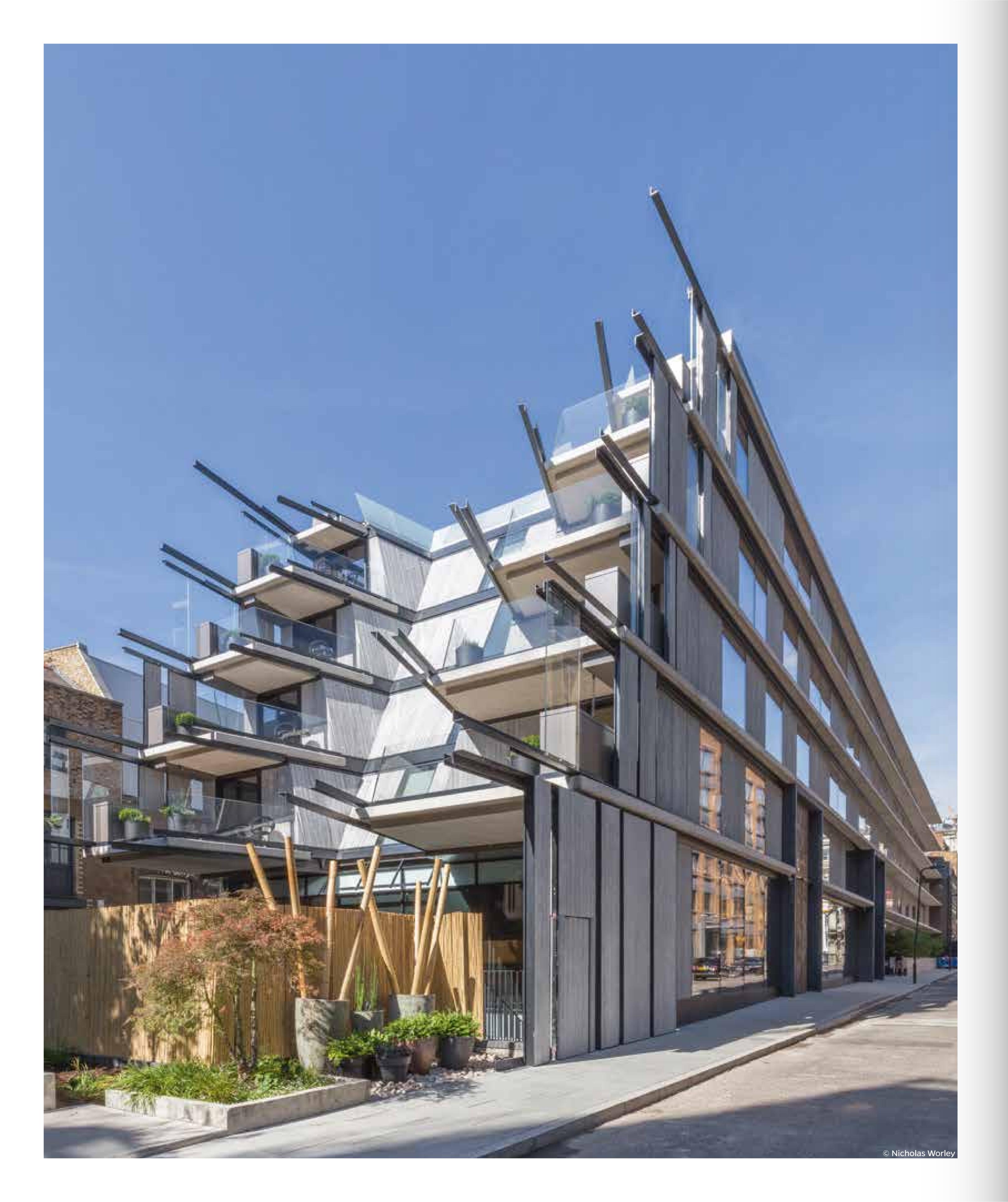


Cover Story

047 Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club

Bringing together Richard Meier's striking architectural extensions with Joseph Dirand's refined interiors, Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts reimagine Miami's legendary Surf Club for a new era and audience.





Nobu Hotel SHOREDITCH

Nobu Hospitality opens its first hotel in Europe, bringing the brand's Japanese influence to London's creative quarter.

Words: Catherine Martin | Photography: © Will Pryce (unless otherwise stated)

| obu Matsuhisa has been smart on his move into the hotel of four design firms. The distinctive exterior is the result of the sector. Building on the success of his world famous restaurant collective efforts of Ron Arad Architects and Ben Adams Architects, N empire, the celebrated chef first dipped his toe in the water while interiors are by local designers Studio Mica and Malibu-based with a hotel-within-a-hotel in the Las Vegas Strip's Caesars Palace. Studio PCH. The same approach was taken at Eden Roc in Miami, before the Working within the confines of a narrow plot on Willow Street, team was confident the brand would succeed as a standalone hotel. Ron Arad Architects created the initial scheme, before it was passed

Since then, a solid pipeline has been announced, with properties in to Ben Adams Architects for completion. For the most part, Arad's vision remains; overhanging floor slabs and cantilevered steel beams Marbella, Los Cabos, Toronto, Chicago and Bahrain currently under construction. 2017 has also seen a flurry of openings with Palo Alto form a frayed edge to the east, where a terraced garden provides and Riyadh set to debut before the year is out, hot on the heels of natural light to the basement restaurant space. Ibiza and London, marking the brand's entry into Europe.

Following its appointment in 2013, Ben Adams Architects Matsuhisa founded Nobu Hospitality back in 1994 together developed the design, taking into account the hotel's surroundings. "We started by looking at the existing planning consent, and with actor Robert De Niro and Hollywood producer Meir Teper. thinking about how to bring Nobu the brand to Shoreditch the Combined with the business sense of CEO Trevor Horwell and COO neighbourhood," explains Adams. "Expressive steel elements reflect Struan McKenzie, as well as a cash injection from James Packer's the area's heritage and interact with the public garden at the end of Crown Resorts in 2015, the group now operates in over 30 locations the building, while bamboo is used to provide screening to the lower around the world. The latest addition, Nobu Hotel Shoreditch, is set in the heart level bedrooms," he continues. "Our palette of concrete, bronze, of London's artistic quarter, offering a dynamic blend of Nobu's timber and glass overlaid with creative textiles and warm fabrics creates a simple, considered and raw aesthetic."

east-meets-west philosophy with the neighbourhood's creative and industrial energy. Of course, the UK capital is already au fait with the Double-height bronze doors mark the entrance to the hotel, brand thanks to restaurants on Old Park Lane and Berkeley Street, embossed with Nobu's sumi-e brushstroke emblem, a pattern that so a planting a flag here was a natural progression for the group. is repeated throughout the interiors. Public spaces and guestrooms

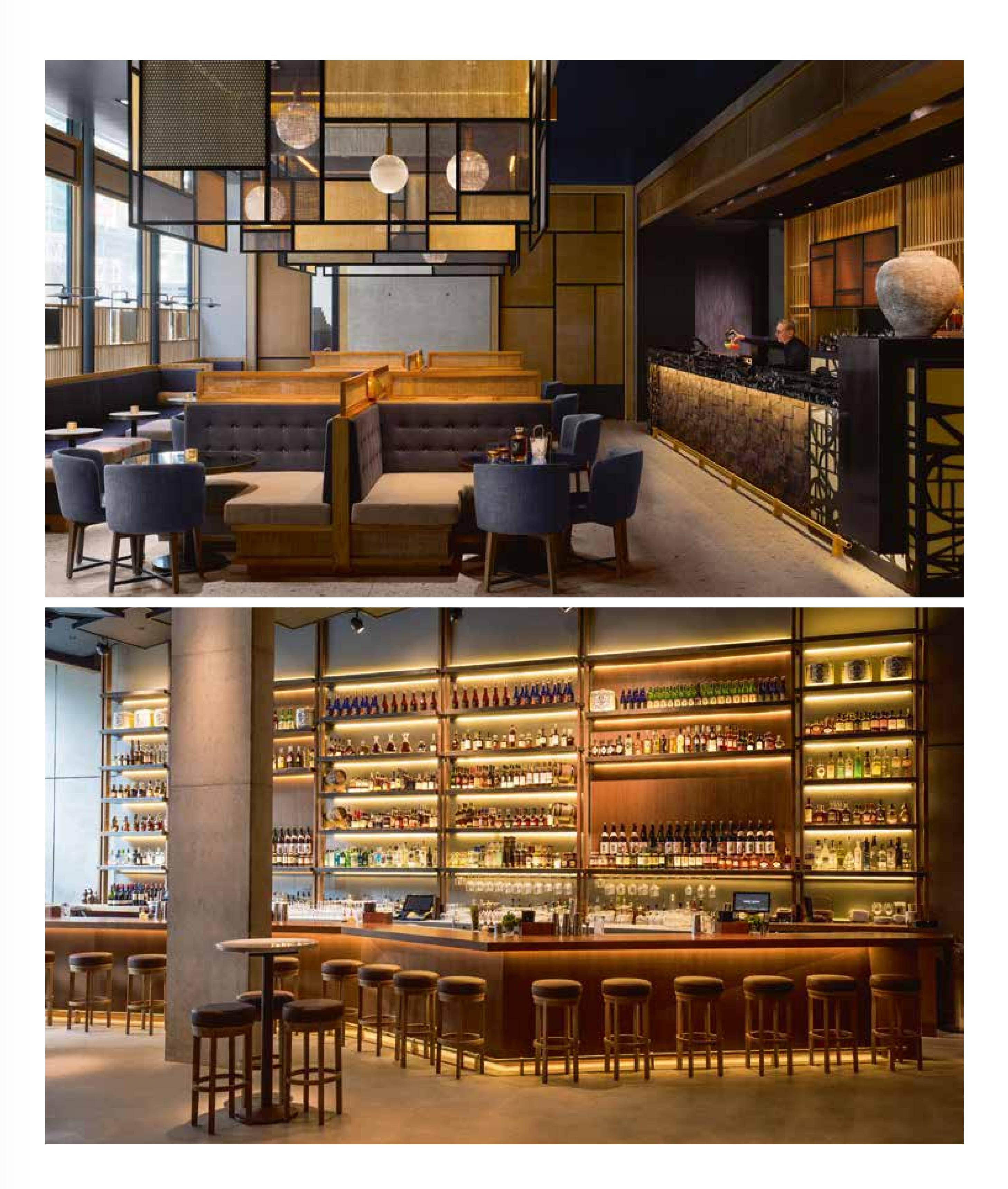
In bringing the hotel to life, Nobu Hospitality enlisted the talents are the work of Studio Mica, who were asked to create an aesthetic

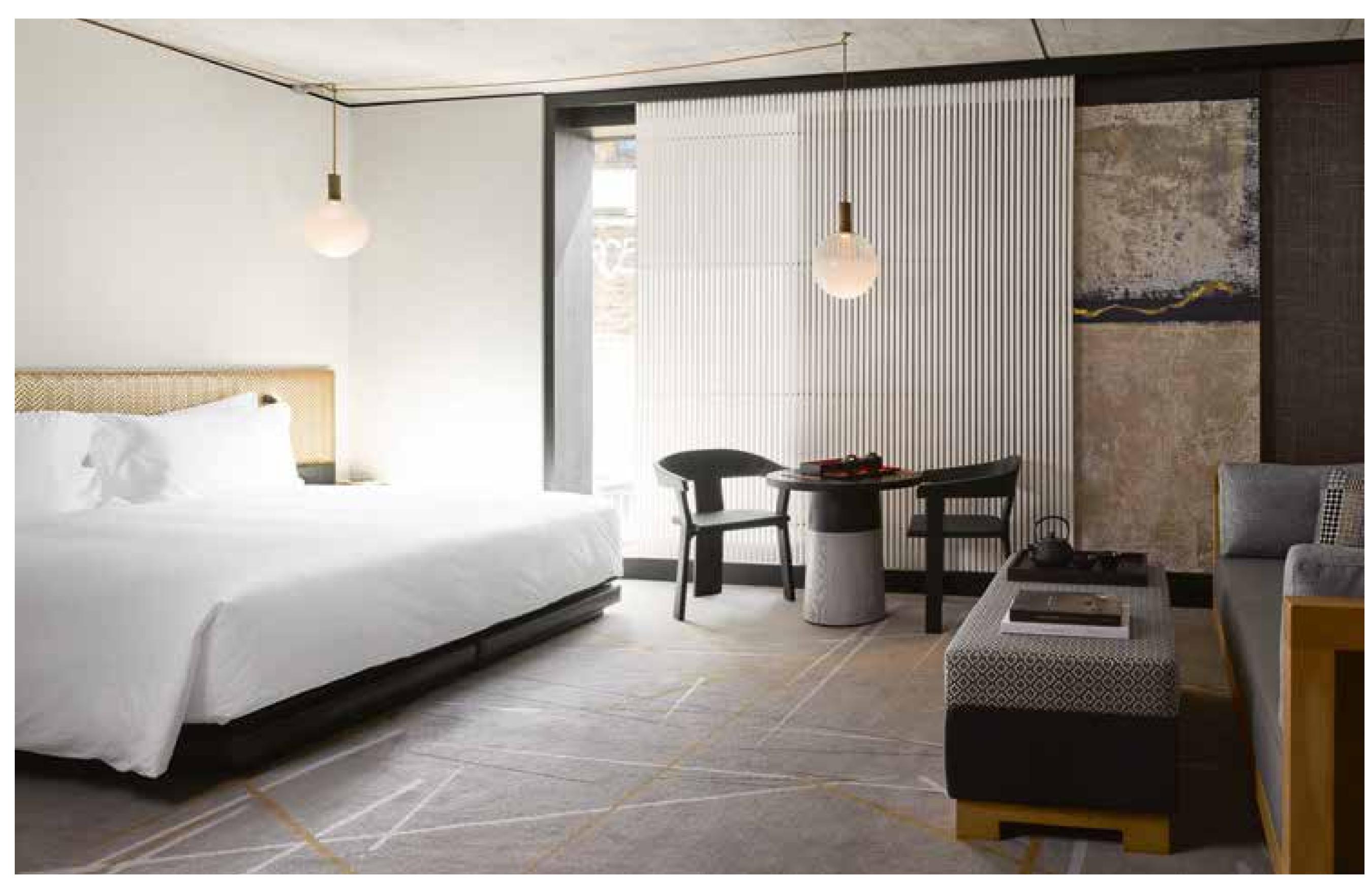


Above: Exposed concrete and tactile finishes make an appearance in the public spaces, complemented by Japanese design sensibilities

that would relate to Shoreditch whilst aligning with Nobu's brand The 150 guestrooms, seven of which are suites, evoke a sense ethos. "We have used a palette of materials that at first glance of contemporary Japanese tranquility. "The concept was to create appear comparable to the industrial fabric of Shoreditch," explains tranquil spaces through simplicity," says Shenton of the calm, Carolynne Shenton, Partner at Studio Mica. The exposed concrete uncluttered rooms. "We pursued this through a palette of materials and tactile finishes of the façade make an appearance in the lobby that are textural and rich as a composition, and are in-keeping with the creativity of the local area and Nobu's values of simple luxury." and adjacent lounge, where an installation of reclaimed roof tiles Such composition can be seen in the guestroom's outer wall, in varying shades of terracotta adds to the rough luxe feel. "We consciously chose to retain the natural appearance of materials where comprising different surfaces that are interchangeable to adjust the possible, using patinated metals and timbers from different species to natural light and ambience of the space. Sichi's artwork and a slatted timber privacy screen are mounted on sliding mechanisms that allow accentuate colour variations," she continues. "We have also embraced them to be repositioned in front of floor-to-ceiling windows or a the cultural heritage of Shoreditch as a centre for both traditional textured woven wall. "The interaction of the four planes creates the craft and contemporary art," Shenton adds, referencing the works changing character of the room through the different qualities of commissioned from local artist Sichi. Integrated into the guestrooms light and shade the screens provide," confirms Shenton, who also as sliding blackout screens, the collection – entitled Taizai, a Japanese designed a bespoke piece of furniture that conceals all manner of expression meaning 'to stay' – is influenced by the landscapes of both Japan and London. The paintings are formed of expressive brush amenities. "Each guestroom has a wall-mounted cabinet that opens up like a bento box to reveal a colourful interior decorated with strokes, layered paint effects and graphical ink lines, each with an origami patterns and red lacquer," she explains. "The cabinet hosts embellishment of gold. Japanese design sensibilities also come into play in the colour an illuminated tea box, used for the welcoming tea ceremony offered scheme. "We accentuated the concrete by painting the enveloping to each guest."

walls a dusky aizome blue," says Shenton. Aizome, the Japanese art Other than a few pieces by Walter Knoll, there is little in the of indigo dyeing, is also used as upholstery in the public spaces and way of loose furniture, maximising floor space and showcasing the guestrooms, offsetting the otherwise earthy palette. custom designed carpets from Newhey. Also of note are the Japanese-





Above: In guestrooms, there is little in the way of loose furniture, maximising floor space and showcasing the custom designed carpets from Newhey

style floor lamps that perch atop a tripod of chopstick-like rods, atmospheres to minimise this linear floorplan: the bar with high manufactured by Artisan and sourced through Kings Road concept ceilings and a towering bottle display, the main dining room with a with a wood ceiling and wood flooring to create a warmer and store Nina's House. In contrast to the guestrooms, bathrooms are more clinical in their design, and feature a striking brass sink made cosier experience, and lastly a private dining room, with dramatic lighting and fireplaces." from Laufen's SaphirKeramik material.

Naturally for Nobu, there's a significant focus on F&B. With its Despite its below ground location, the bar takes in natural daylight through a sunken garden open for dining and private events. It is in own separate entrance, the basement bar and restaurant is the main attraction, serving up Japanese fusion cuisine as well as unique plates this terraced space that Ron Arad will make a return to the project, having been commissioned to create an installation akin to his inspired by the local area. To design the space, Nobu Hospitality turned to Studio PCH, responsible for a number of the group's reflective Thought of Train of Thought at St. Pancras International. Arad will also create a sculpture in the hotel's public garden, set to other outlets. "Our goal was to create a balanced union of London and Japanese culture," say the firm, taking cues from Studio Mica's debut later this year. While Nobu has proved its worth as a standalone property, the public spaces. "We combined the local character with the influence option to add rooms to its already successful restaurants – many of which are located within hotels – remains an attractive offer. Next

of Japanese culture, paying attention to the selection of the materials such as teak, bronze detailing, and concrete structural elements." Given the high ceilings, concrete walls and prominent staircase, not to open in Europe is Nobu Hotel Marbella, which will once again to mention the linear floor plan, the challenge was to design a space be a hotel-within-a-hotel, launching at Puente Romana Beach Resort that was comfortable and welcoming. "We created three different & Spa in 2018.

EXPRESS CHECK-OUT: 150 guestrooms | 1 restaurant | 2 bars | 180m² event space | Spa, gym | www.nobuhotelshoreditch.com Owner: Willow Corp Management | Operator: Nobu Hospitality | Architecture: Ron Arad Architects; Ben Adams Architects | Interior Design: Studio Mica (guestroms and public spaces); Studio PCH (F&B) | Lighting Design: Isometrix | Art Consultant: Visible Art Curated | Structural Engineer: Walsh

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