

HOTEL



Rosewood

HONG KONG

Tony Chi spares no detail in designing a legacy jewel for Rosewood's long-awaited Hong Kong flagship.

Words: Eileen Keribar Isvan | Photography: © Courtesy of Rosewood Hotel Group (unless otherwise stated)

The car veers off the busy Salisbury Road and rumbles onto a cobblestone drive, pulling into a lush porte-cochère defined by an impressive mid-century Henry Moore sculpture. Commanding, 5m-tall hand carved bronze doors – diligently crafted and flown in from Bergamo Italy – grace the entrance. At once stately and intimate, the new Rosewood Hong Kong in the city's Tsim Sha Tsui district gives the distinct impression of an art collector's exclusive residence, and evokes a sense that the destination is significant, precious and personal.

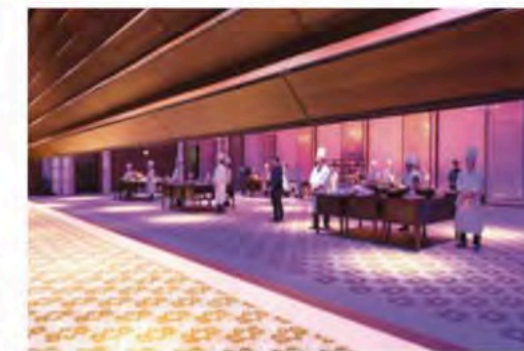
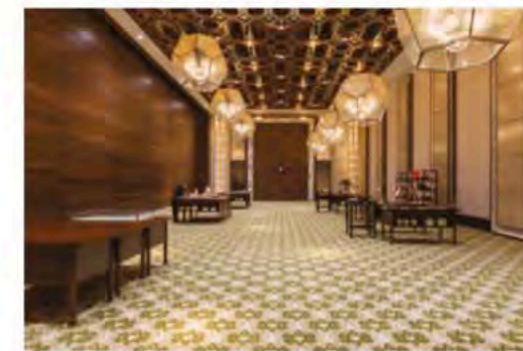
Indeed, 10 years in the making, the property marks a momentous milestone for Rosewood Hotel Group. In the heart of the company's home city and on a site deeply steeped in legacy and urban heritage, it is a defining flagship for the brand in a location that holds emotional resonance for the family at the helm of the hotel group, as well as the Hong Kong public.

Formerly the site of Holt's Wharf, the land was acquired and developed into New World Centre in the 1980s. The creation of Dr. Cheng Yu-Tung and Dr. Henry Cheng – the grandfather and father (respectively) of Rosewood CEO, Sonia Cheng – New World





Above: Offering views over the Victoria Dockside, The Legacy House restaurant is headed up by Li Chi Wai and features seven private dining rooms



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Centre was an ambitious mixed-use hotel as much as it was a symbol of Hong Kong as a globally-recognised financial centre.

"I wanted to create an iconic property that not only showcases the city's rich history but also reflects its bright future," says Cheng. "New World Centre was conceived as my grandfather's ultimate gift to Hong Kong, a celebration of its progress, vibrancy and spirit. Our ambition is to create a new world standard for ultra-luxury hospitality and a focal point of the vibrant Hong Kong lifestyle, reflecting its incredible dynamism, style and diversity."

Described by Rosewood as a 'vertical estate', the property showcases an impressive commitment to the site's heritage, to the brand's guiding philosophy of 'A Sense of Place', and to craftsmanship. In spite of its sprawling nature, grand scales and immense verticality, Rosewood Hong Kong's design feels intimately homely, lavish and distinctly personal.

Architectural firm Kohn Pedersen Fox designed the 65-storey Rosewood Tower as a stepped landmark with massing that reflects the internal programmatic elements. Glinting in the skyline, the cohesive exterior features panoramic glass and is punctuated by rich stone and sleek metal finishes.

Whilst the hotel was a dream commission for interior designer Tony Chi, creating the hotel's interiors was also a tall order. "It was a wonderful project in the sense that the family had a very clear

directive to create a truly comprehensive expression of the brand and the city," reflects Chi. "But it also required the interpretation and fusion of the tastes and styles of three generations into one aesthetic that could stand as a legacy to the family and the site."

In that sense, it is no coincidence that the property feels so intricately nuanced, crafted and detailed. The Cheng family is famous for its ubiquitous jewellery brand, Chow Tai Fook, and Chi ensured that this legacy was reflected throughout.

The true gems of the property however are its 322 generous guestrooms, starting at 53m². Inspired by a concept of residential luxury, rooms are elevated through personal homely touches including eclectic curiosities, rich materiality and texture, and crafted interior details, whilst those with terraces see a smattering of Janus et Cie furnishings overlooking the harbour. Guests step out from the elevator into their own dedicated salon on each floor, a comfortable lounge where they can mingle and relax while admiring the carefully selected haute chinoiserie décor and accessories.

In the 91 suites – starting at 92m² – layered and textured finishes complement sartorial custom furnishings and curated objets d'art that encourage guests to touch, feel and explore the room. Sitting in a bedroom in one of the stunning Grand Harbour Corner suites, one can count no less than 30 distinct materials. Rather than a cacophony of disparate noise, they instead unite to sing a song with depth, and

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