



Muriel Brandolini's
Manhattan
Masterpiece

Urbane Legends

CITY LIVING in Atlanta, BEIRUT, New York,
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DISCOVERIES

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1. A CORRIDOR AT HOSHINOYA NARA PRISON, A 1908 JAIL THAT HAS BEEN METICULOUSLY CONVERTED INTO MODERN ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE ADVENTUROUS AESTHETE. 2. THE KENGO KUMA-DESIGNED CAPELLA KYOTO. 3. A GUEST ROOM AT IMPERIAL HOTEL, KYOTO.



Hoshinoya Nara Prison

A former penitentiary may not sound like an obvious place for a luxury recharge. At Hoshinoya Nara Prison, however, architect Rie Azuma has adapted a 1908 jail into five-star accommodations. Inside the grand red-brick complex are 48 suites that each span at least nine interconnected cells. (Picture steel pillars, wood paneling, and original moldings and brickwork.) Lounges, a restaurant, a museum, and after-dark gramophone sessions complete the package. hoshinoresorts.com

Capella Kyoto

Architect Kengo Kuma modeled Capella Kyoto after a traditional *machiya* town house, mixing stone, paper, wood, and tatami into a contemporary cosmos of craft. Built on the site of a former school, the low-tiered structure features 89 guest rooms by Brewin Design Office, with deep bathtubs, calligraphic textile art, and haiku-inspired vistas. SoNoMa, a satellite outpost of the restaurant SingleThread, offers a micro-seasonal menu of California and Kyoto flavors at an intimate 12-seat counter inspired by a teahouse. capellahotels.com

Imperial Hotel, Kyoto

What's old is new. That idea has shaped Imperial Hotel, Kyoto, designed by New Material Research Laboratory, the architectural practice of Tomoyuki Sakakida and artist Hiroshi Sugimoto. Quiet and elegant, with a materials palette that includes moss-green carpets, salvaged tiles, and mature Zelkova wood, the 55-room property rises around the façade of a 1936 theater and community center in Gion. Contemporary artworks (including Sugimoto's ceramic panels gouged by a meteorite) and a pool lined with monolithic boulders underscore the dialogue between past and present. imperialhotel.co.jp —DANIELLE DEMETRIOU



1. HOSHINO RESORTS. 2. CAPELLA KYOTO. 3. MASATOMO MORIYAMA.