

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SUNRISE KEMPINSKI HOTEL AT YANQI LAKE IS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY CHINESE TRADITION. THE CIRCLE IS SYMBOLIC OF BEGINNINGS, WHILE THE 'FISH MOUTH' ENTRANCE REPRESENTS PROSPERITY



GRAND BALL

A Beijing hotel symbolises China's new dawn

PHOTOGRAPHY: JONATHAN LEIJONHUFVUD WRITER: CATHERINE SHAW

Over the past few years, China's hospitality industry has expanded at an exponential rate. A total of 3,846 million tourists – up 14.7 per cent from 2013 – visited the country last year, and such growth has prompted a scramble among international hotel brands to secure a piece of the action.

However, all this development has resulted in a new set of challenges, with hotels increasingly using design and architecture to differentiate themselves from the competition.

The latest opening to up the architectural ante comes from the Kempinski group.

An hour's drive from Beijing, the Sunrise Kempinski Hotel is housed in a spherical structure that rises from Yanqi Lake. Says its architect Zhang Haoi Ao, of Shanghai Huadu Architect Design Company, 'The circle is symbolic as the beginning in traditional Chinese culture, while the entrance is shaped like a fish's mouth, symbolising prosperity.'

The building's curved form affords each of the 21 floors an extra 25 per cent of natural light, while the 306 guest rooms and suites, sized from 40 to 338 sq m, offer views of the lake or the Yanshan Mountains. The rooms are fitted out by international interior design

firm DiLeonardo – whose portfolio includes the Ritz-Carlton Sharq Village & Spa in Doha and The St Regis Sanya Yalong Bay Resort on China's Hainan Island – to complement the structure's contemporary aesthetic.

The hotel has nine bars and restaurants, offering a range of Chinese regional cuisine as well as international dishes. The pick of the bunch for a pre-dinner cocktail is the top-floor, glass-roofed View's bar, offering perfect lake vistas. ✪

*Yanqi Lake, Huairou District, Beijing,
tel: 86.10 6961 8888, kempinski.com.
Rates: from CNY2,300 (£243)*



Typical Guestroom
Courtesy of Wallpaper.com



Pool
Courtesy of Wallpaper.com



Skyview Lounge
Courtesy of Wallpaper.com