

SHANGHAI ART DECO



The 32-room hotel oozes old world opulence, with 15-foot ceilings, art deco chandeliers and chaise lounges. The historic ambience reaches its height in the hotel lobby, a living museum of memorabilia from the owner's private collection.

Also housed in a neoclassical heritage villa, but sporting a trendy contemporary vibe, **JIA Shanghai** (+86 21 6217 9000) sets a standard in terms of refined designer lodging. Just off the high-end drag of Nanjing Lu, JIA's 55 "quietly theatrical" guestrooms feature dark timber floors, Bisazza mosaic bathrooms and signature pieces by the likes of Knoll, Minotti and Hans Wegner. All rooms are kitted out with high-tech conveniences, a surround sound system and white marble kitchenettes. There's also a glam Italian restaurant Issimo and JIA's trademark residential lounge, where the jet set mingles over breakfast, afternoon cake and evening wines.

Eat

For high-brow dining that is sure to raise a few eyebrows, don't miss **Jade on 36** (+86 21 6882 8888). Shangri-La's signature restaurant features birds-eye views of the Bund and a swank design by Adam D Tihany (think giant snuff bottles and fuchsia-inlaid 'jade box bar') – but it's the French chemist-cum-chef Paul Pairet's molecular mastery that steals the show. Twelve tasting menus arouse the palate with courses like seared foie gras served with a lime-ginger meringue, and a lemon tart which involves a fresh lemon meticulously taken apart and recreated over a four-day process so that the entire fruit is edible.

Clockwise from opposite page: Looking up from the lobby of the Hyatt Pudong; Pudong architecture by night; The bedroom at JIA.

