



thailand exotiq

ETHEREAL
EXPRESSIONS
CULTURE & CUISINE
IN CHIANG MAI
LOI KRATHONG
LANTERN FESTIVAL
TRENDY THONGLOR

HOLIDAY SEASON
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Lanna Heritage



ABOVE: Columns pay homage to traditional stilted houses
ABOVERIGHT: Leafy spaces exude an air of natural elegance



CULTURE, ART AND
ARCHITECTURE
COLLIDE AT
RAYA HERITAGE, A
GORGEOUS NEW
CONCEPT HOTEL IN
THAILAND'S ROSE OF
THE NORTH

✦ Sandrine Martin

Founded along the Ping River and flanked by jungle-covered mountains, Chiang Mai offers a welcome retreat for those looking for a slice of the slow life. At the new Raya Heritage, guests can appreciate the region's roots in natural living while still enjoying the utmost comfort and impeccable design.

In Chiang Mai, people are still inspired by the region's roots from the historic Lanna Kingdom which covered northern Thailand as well as parts of Laos, Myanmar and China during

the 13th to 18th centuries. Today, the area is often thought of as one of the country's main cultural hubs with a thriving arts and handicrafts scene.

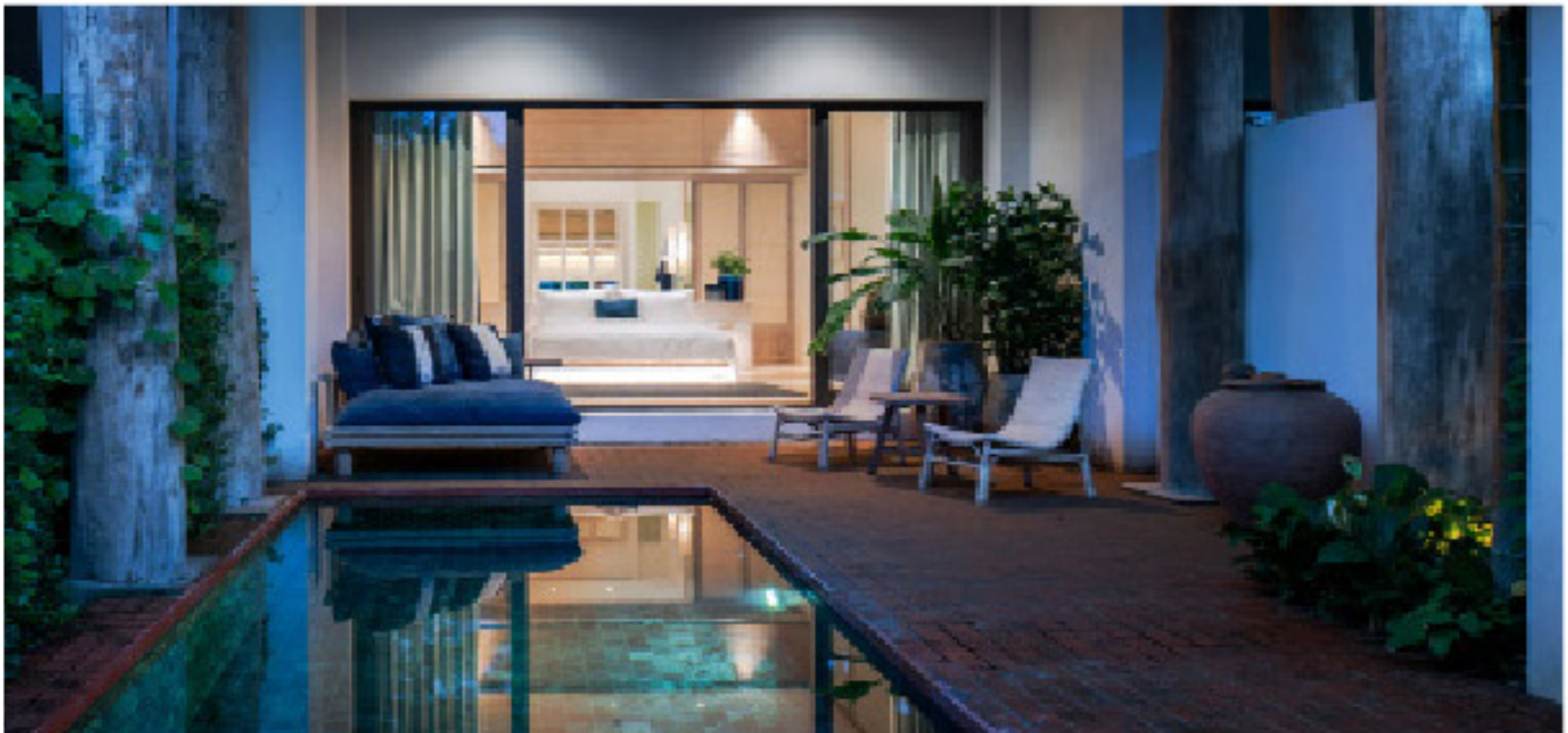
Raya Heritage honours the region's past through the hotel's architecture, art and artefacts, and aims to promote a balanced life between community and nature.

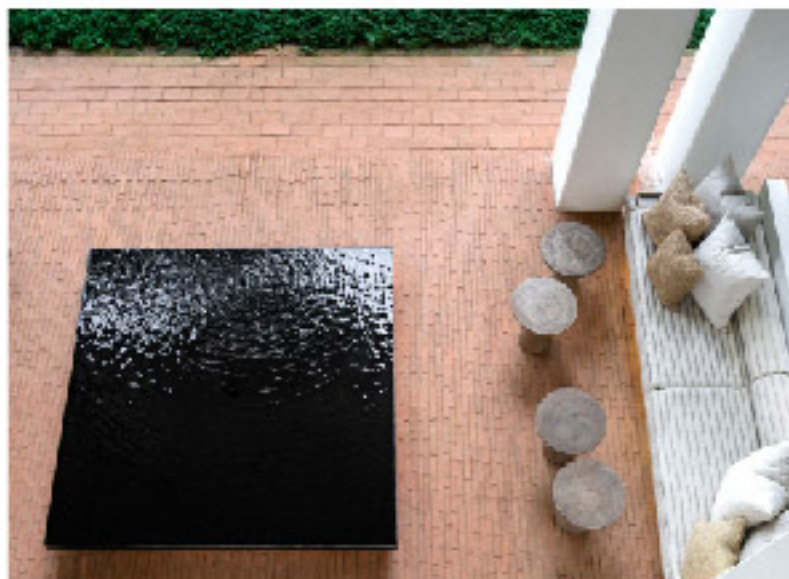
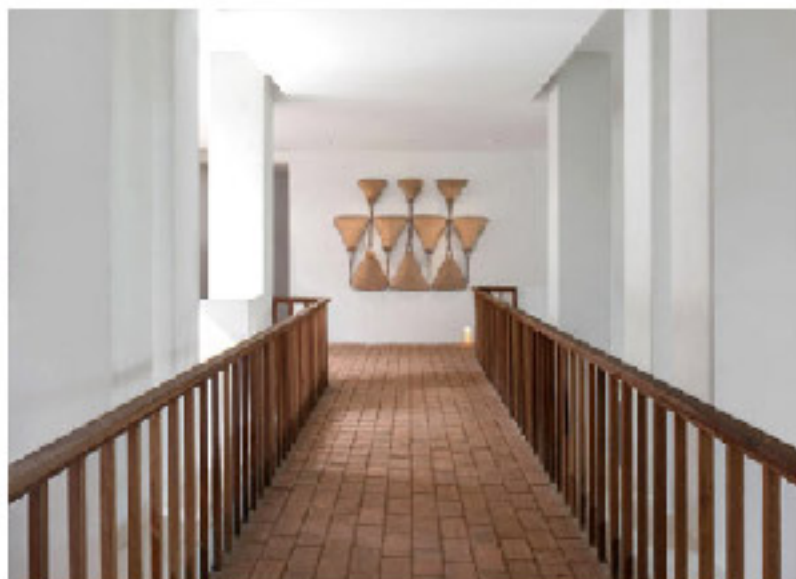
"We're going back to a better future right now," says Naphat Nutsati, Raya Heritage's general manager. "People in the old days, whether in design or architecture, paid attention to the details. And so are we."

Artful Architecture

Raya Heritage's simple yet impactful architecture paired with carefully chosen design components certainly makes an impression.

In a garden setting on the edge of the Ping River, the 33-suite resort was designed by Thai architect Boonlert Hemvijitrphan who incorporated traditional northern Thai building elements, such as substantial wood columns and beams, classic terracotta

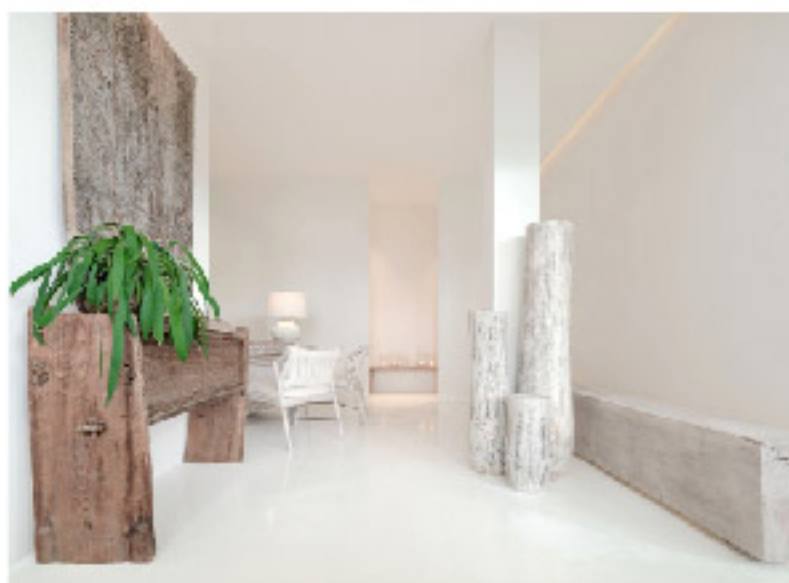
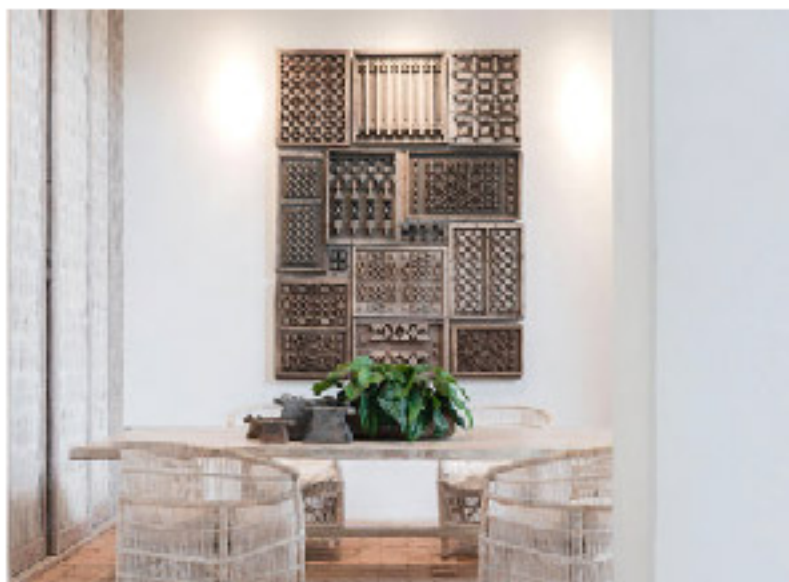




tiles and delicate mulberry-paper screens, with a modern neutral colour palette and high ceilings. The result? A fresh space that feels comfortably familiar yet still original. Guests can lazily lounge on their spacious river-facing verandas, a feature that the resort says is a nod to when villagers would gather on their porches every evening.

Designer Details

To complement the architecture, designer Vichada Sitakalin had a clear vision to decorate the resort with curated furniture, artefacts and accessories sourced from local weavers, potters, woodcarvers and other artists.



"ORGANIC WASN'T A NOVEL CONCEPT BACK THEN, IT WAS A WAY OF LIFE. THIS IS ONLY BEING REDISCOVERED NOW AS WE START TO REALISE HOW FAR WE HAVE GOTTEN AWAY FROM BALANCED LIVING."

From the teak-framed mirrors to ceramic tiles, the design elements found throughout the resort were all handcrafted, including natural cotton, linen and hemp fabrics created through village weaving cooperatives. This kind of natural beauty and dedication to detail is apparent even in the dyes used to colour the fabrics, which are made naturally with ingredients like local indigo.

"I appreciate culture. I appreciate craftsmanship. I appreciate the old ways of doing things and the way people in the past approached artistic endeavours as a part of everyday life," muses Vichada when asked about her aesthetic.

"In the past, people were much better at sustainability than we are today. 'Organic' wasn't a novel concept back then; it was a way of life."

Though just a 20-minute drive from the city centre, Raya Heritage feels worlds away both in time and space. Guests can only hope that the sense of serenity and simplicity will follow them wherever their travels take them after staying at the refined property.

*Suites starting from 8,486 THB.
rayaheritage.com*



OPPOSITE PAGE:
ABOVE LEFT: Brick walkways are reminiscent of Chiang Mai's ancient city wall.
ABOVE RIGHT: Reflections of the past.
CENTRE: Pattern and texture add to the minimal space.
BELOW LEFT: Simple yet refined decor.
BELOW RIGHT: Carefully chosen design details.
THIS PAGE:
ABOVE: Lounge underneath fresh foliage.
CENTRE: Spacious bathrooms beckon.
BELOW: Natural indigo was used to dye the dark blue textiles throughout the property.