



Art Deco offers a diversity of style, from London's BBC Broadcasting House (left) and the bronze reliefs of the Chanin Building in New York (right) to the arresting architecture of Napier, New Zealand (below)

倫敦英國廣播公司
廣播大樓 (左圖)、紐約Chanin大樓
的青銅浮雕 (右圖) 和紐西蘭
Napier市的有趣建築 (下圖),
盡顯裝飾藝術的多元風格

Deco style

經典重現

by DANIEL ALLEN



Marvel at the enduring appeal of an architectural style that stands tall from Paris to London and New York to Shanghai

遍佈巴黎、倫敦、紐約和上海的裝飾派藝術建築風格，散發恆久的魅力

FROM GIN SLINGS in chrome-clad bars to dance floors filled with flappers and the sound of big-band jazz, the term Art Deco evokes images of a sophisticated era. Born against a backdrop of great social and technological change, this eclectic design style dominated the golden age of the 1920s and '30s and represents one of the 20th century's most exciting and enduring artistic movements.

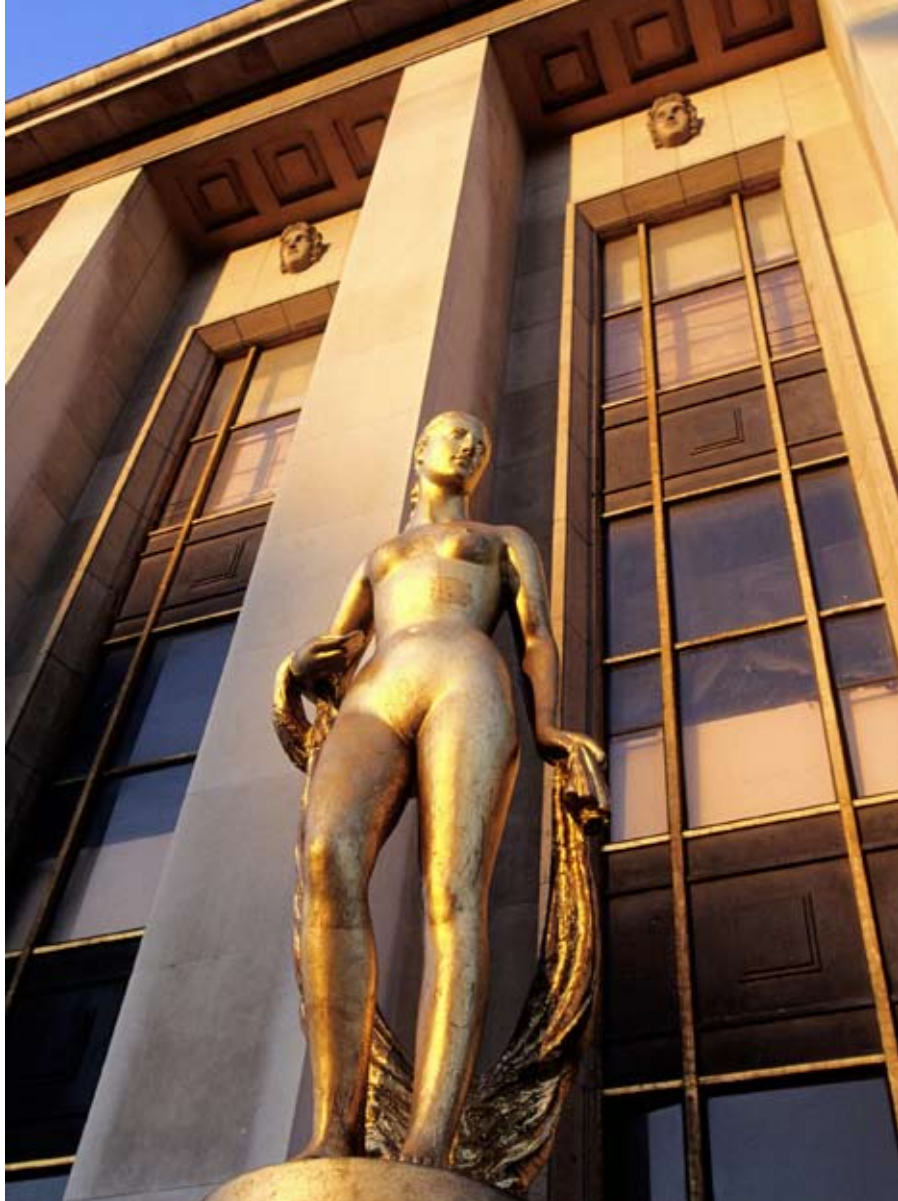
"Like many movements Art Deco was the synthesis of diverse styles and philosophies," says Paul Nicholls-Whiteman of Art Deco Decadence, a British-based consultancy specialising in Art Deco design and customised shopping trips.

"Ascetic Bauhaus lines, abstract Cubist shapes and the sleek lines of modern machinery combined with patterns taken from ancient civilisations. It was a rebellion against Art Nouveau, retaining the curves and natural motifs of its forerunner, but rejecting the florid shapes and pastels in favour of stronger colours and materials such as metal and plastic. Early Hollywood chipped in with shiny fabrics, subtle lighting and mirrors. To me, it remains the very epitome of class. It's just like candy for the eyes."

Those who thought modernism should be austere found Art Deco to be anathema but, after the deprivations of World War I, societies in many countries quickly fell in love with its frivolous opulence and joyous excess. With an emphasis on mass production, the Art Deco style was highly pervasive and influenced everything from architecture and industry to fashion and home décor. Art Deco buildings emphasised modernity and ornamentation, characterised by symmetrical contours and geometric embellishments. Contradicting all other styles of architecture at the time, it was all about form over function.

The term Art Deco was coined in the 1960s, based on the seminal Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925. With a hotbed of progressive artists and designers, such as Le Corbusier, Robert Mallet-Stevens, Rene Lalique, Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann and Coco Chanel, the French capital led the way in Art Deco, defining a style that soon spread across the globe.

Perennial Parisian favourites for Art Deco fans include the Palais de Tokyo, now a contemporary art museum, the Palais de Chaillot (look out for the golden statues and great views of the Eiffel Tower), and Les Puces, the world's biggest antiques market at Porte de Clignancourt. "This is a total must-see for Art Deco lovers," says Nicholls-Whiteman. "In the fantastic maze of alleys beside the Rue des



Prominent figure:
a golden statue
outside the Palais
de Chaillot in Paris
(above)

閃爍瑰麗：巴黎Palais
de Chaillot外的黃金
雕塑（上圖）

Warm welcome:
the lobby of
New York's Waldorf-
Astoria hotel (right)

歡迎光臨：紐約
Waldorf-Astoria酒店
大堂（右圖）





included everything from upmarket hotels and office blocks to cinemas and subway stations.

“If you know where to look, London has some fine Art Deco buildings,” says Nicholls-Whiteman. “From the Streamline Moderne Daily Express Building on Fleet Street, Battersea Power Station and BBC Broadcasting House to sumptuous hotels such as the newly reopened Savoy, Claridge’s and Sheraton Park Lane, Art Deco turns up all over the place.”

Guy Oliver, an architecture and design specialist who has acted as consultant for Claridge’s hotel for nearly 20 years, says: “As an Art Deco jewel in the heart of Mayfair, Claridge’s has always been at the centre of London society. From the very beginning, there’s always been a very strict emphasis on design here, and the hotel showcases

some beautiful work by Art Deco pioneers such as Basil Ionides and Oswald Milne. Those inspired to shop for Art Deco can browse at leisure in the nearby Grays Antiques.”

No city took Art Deco architecture to such towering extremes as New York. “This was the capital of the Art Deco skyscraper,” says Tony Robins, a founder and former Vice-President of the Art Deco Society of New York. “New Yorkers embraced Art Deco – they found it invigorating and symbolic of an exhilarating, forward-looking era.”

While Art Deco edifices such as the Chrysler and Empire State buildings are glittering examples of their genre, the influence of the movement went way beyond downtown Manhattan.

Rosiers you can often pick up some gorgeous Art Deco pieces, from art and jewellery through to furniture and even large garden pieces.”

One of Paris’s earliest Art Deco hotels, the Hotel Lutetia, is located in the heart of the fashionable Saint-Germain-des-Prés area. “This is the only hotel in which Art Nouveau and Art Deco can be admired next to each other,” says Laura Cambiaghi, International Director of Sales. “Guests should look out for the beautiful façade, the balcony of the Eiffel suite with its decoration of vines, and the stunning Lalique chandeliers.”

The Art Deco era also left its imprint in London. Throughout the 1930s a host of the capital’s architects incorporated the style into their designs, which

Classic storey:
New York’s Chrysler Building (above) was constructed between 1928 and 1930

經典之作：建於1928與1930年間的紐約佳士拿大廈（上圖）

A relief adorns an entrance to Rockefeller Center (top right)

洛克菲勒中心入口的浮雕（右上圖）



Fine lines: entrance to the Chrysler Building (above)

對稱線條：佳士拿大廈入口（上圖）

Lavish affair: the lobby of Claridge's hotel in London (above right)

豪華裝潢：倫敦 Claridge's 酒店的大堂（右上圖）

“Many of New York’s architects and developers were inspired to create buildings that ranged from our world-renowned skyscrapers through to apartment houses and all manner of commercial structures,” says Andrew S. Dolkart, Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at New York’s Columbia University. “Art Deco found its way to hotels, department stores, movie theatres, transport terminals, nightclubs, churches, restaurants – just about every building type.”

One of New York’s greatest Art Deco institutions, and celebrated hangout of the rich and famous, is The Waldorf-Astoria hotel. “Visitors and guests can expect to see a wealth of Art Deco design here,” says the hotel’s Marketing Manager Jonathan Stas. “In 1929, the architects Shultze and Weaver commissioned French artist Louis Rigal to design and execute numerous elements within the building. Among these are the massive, carved-stone bas reliefs adorned with gilt figures, as well as the murals and 148,000-piece Wheel of Life mosaic in the Park Avenue entrance and

lobby. A weekly hotel tour reveals all the Art Deco treasures in detail.”

It was forces of nature rather than a citywide fascination with à-la-mode design that led to the development of another haven for Art Deco aficionados. After a massive earthquake and subsequent fires destroyed the New Zealand town of Napier in 1931, talented young architects jumped at the chance to rebuild the downtown area in contemporary architectural style.

“Napier is unique,” says Robert McGregor, Heritage Officer of the Napier Art Deco Trust. “In contrast to most other Art Deco hot spots, this is a small-town location but still boasts a wide array of buildings with incredibly high architectural interest. Personal favourites include the Municipal Theatre with its gaudy neon light fittings and chrome speed lines. There’s also the Masonic Hotel, a Napier icon with its parapet ornaments and leaded glass canopy, and a beautifully decorated restaurant.”

Napier’s tourism industry largely revolves around

Art Deco found its way to hotels, movie theatres, nightclubs, churches, restaurants – just about every building type

酒店、電影院、夜總會、教堂、餐廳，裝飾派藝術的影子無處不在



讓人聯想起不落俗套形象的「裝飾派藝術」(Art Deco)，是一種兼收並蓄的折衷主義設計風格，誕生於社會與科技出現變革的時代，主宰了20年代到30年代的黃金時期，而且是20世紀最活躍而持久的藝術運動之一。

英國裝飾派藝術顧問公司Art Deco Decadence的Paul Nicholls-Whiteman解釋道：「裝飾派藝術和許多藝術運動一樣，糅合了不同的風格與哲學。」

「裝飾派藝術把包豪斯建築學派的簡約線條、立體主義的抽象形狀、現代機械的流暢線條，以及取自古文明的圖案共冶一爐；它背棄新藝術(Art Nouveau)風格——保留其曲線和自然基調，卻摒棄了過份華麗的形狀和粉色，改而選擇較濃的顏色，以及金屬和塑膠等物料。」

那些認為現代主義藝術風格應當是樸素的人，本來並不喜歡裝飾派藝術，然而在第一次世界大戰、經歷家園破碎後，他們很快便愛上它的奢侈與豪華格調。裝飾派藝術的影響遍及各層面，從建築、工業，到時裝、家居設計，堪稱無遠弗屆。裝飾派藝術的建築物強調現代化、裝飾性、對稱的輪廓線條及幾何細節，著重形態多於功能，有別於當時其他風格的建築。

直至1960年代才出現的名稱「裝飾派藝術」，實源自1925年在巴黎舉行的國際展覽會Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes。當年被吸引到法國首都出席盛會的藝術家與設計師，包括Le Corbusier、Robert Mallet-Stevens、Rene Lalique、Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann及Coco Chanel，令巴黎成為裝飾派藝術開枝散葉的地方，為這種藝術風格寫下定義，並快速風靡全世界。

在巴黎，一直深受裝飾派藝術迷愛戴的建築包括Palais de Tokyo、Palais de Chaillot（請留意金色雕像和艾菲爾鐵塔的宏偉景色），以及位於Porte de Clignancourt的全球最大古董市場Les Puces。

位於Saint-Germain-des-Prés中心地帶的Hotel Lutetia，是巴黎最早期的裝飾派藝術酒店之一。酒店的國際銷售總監Laura Cambiaghi說：「酒店的正面十分漂亮，值得賓客們細意欣賞，還有艾菲爾套房的露台及它的藤蔓花飾，和美國美奐的Lalique水晶燈。」

在英國的倫敦，裝飾派藝術亦留下了印記。Nicholls-Whiteman說：「如果你知道在哪裏尋找，倫敦其實也有一些出色的裝飾派藝術建築。從艦隊街上流線現代的每日快報大樓、Battersea Power Station、英國廣播公司廣播大樓，到最近

重新開幕的Savoy Hotel、Claridge's及Sheraton Park Lane等豪華酒店，裝飾派藝術隨處可見。」

建築師及設計師Guy Oliver指出，Claridge's酒店是裝飾派藝術的瑰寶，他並推薦遊客到Grays Antique Market購買裝飾派風格的物品。

沒有城市好像紐約那樣，把裝飾派建築發展至高空極限。紐約Art Deco Society of New York的創辦人及前副主席Tony Robins表示：「這裡是裝飾派摩天大樓的首都。紐約人很接受裝飾派藝術，認為它充滿朝氣，象徵奮發人心和有遠見的年代。」地標建築包括佳士拿和帝國大廈。

The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel是紐約最為人熟悉的裝飾派建築之一，它的石雕淺浮雕、壁畫，以及大堂那幅以148,000小塊拼合而成的馬賽克《Wheel of Life》，均盡顯這種藝術風格。

紐西蘭是裝飾派藝術迷的另一個桃源。於1931年，Napier市經歷了大地震和火災，在災後重建時，建築師便以新的風格重建新的城市。

Napier Art Deco Trust基金會的文物主任Robert McGregor說：「Napier相比起其他大部分的裝飾派藝術熱點，可謂獨一無二。儘管Napier是個小城市，卻擁有一系列極具建築價值的建築物，讓我們足以自豪。」這些出色的建築包括The Municipal Theatre，以及作為該市地標的Masonic Hotel。

Napier的旅遊業主要圍繞裝飾派藝術，像為期兩周的節日——Art Deco Weekend於1989年設立以來，每年均吸引數以千計的遊客到訪（今年舉辦日期是2月3至20日）。

然而，沒有地方比上海更能展現裝飾派藝術時期的gin酒和爵士樂文化。那個時期的上海經濟迅速增長，促使當地的建築師競相以新風格代替早期的古典裝飾風格。

皇家亞洲學會上海分會的主席Peter Hibbard說：「上海的裝飾派藝術，無論是原創與否，均呈現那個時期的精神。」他指出，法租界內的小巷、上海外灘美術館和華懋飯店，均不容錯過，而華懋飯店更是外灘最受愛戴的裝飾派建築地標。

華懋飯店為「費爾蒙和平飯店」，花了三年時間及6,400萬美元進行大翻新，近期重新開幕。負責總管這項工程的Hirsch Bedner Associates駐新加坡主管、建築師Ian Carr指出：「超過百多年來，和平飯店一直是上海的地標。」

上海朗廷揚子精品酒店是另一座近年重新裝修、具有裝飾派藝術歷史的酒店。酒店的市場傳媒總監王斌新表示：「酒店原名揚子飯店，於1934年開幕，是上海上流社會的活動場所。今天，這座經過精心復原、結合西方裝飾派藝術設計與老上海精髓的建築傑作，將令裝飾派藝術的愛好者目不暇給。」

洋溢經典時代風格的裝飾派藝術，展現了現代文化歷史一個重要時期。由誕生至今已近一個世紀，那些尋找它的人會發現，裝飾派藝術的風格依然典雅如昔。



Cathay Pacific flies 12 times a week to Auckland, four times a day to London, three times a day to New York, 11 times a week to Paris, and three times a day to Shanghai

國泰航空每周有12班航機飛往奧克蘭；每日有四班航機飛往倫敦；每日有三班航機飛往紐約；每周有11班航機飛往巴黎，及每日有三班航機飛往上海

Kaspar the Cat is seen as a good luck charm for diners at London's Savoy hotel

倫敦Savoy酒店的Kaspar the Cat為客人帶來好運





The Masonic Hotel (left) is Napier's largest Art Deco hotel

Masonic Hotel (左圖) 是 Napier 市內最大的裝飾派藝術酒店

First-floor octagonal atrium of the Fairmont Peace Hotel (above)

費爾蒙和平飯店一樓的八角形中庭 (上圖)

Art Deco. Established in 1989 and now stretching across two weeks (3-20 February), the town's Art Deco Weekend attracts thousands of visitors every year. Many of the events, ranging from aerobatic displays and steam-train rides to jazz concerts and a Gatsby Picnic, are free, with guests dressing up in glamorous, Art Deco style.

Nowhere else embodied the gin-and-jazz culture of the age more than Shanghai, so it's little wonder that the city embraced Art Deco in all its swinging sophistication. On the back of a booming economy, the city's architects rushed to replace the Beaux-Arts buildings with exciting and more decorative examples of the new movement.

"Shanghai's Art Deco, whether it's original or faux, still conjures up the spirit of the age," says Peter Hibbard, President of the Royal Asiatic Society in Shanghai. "Strolling down lanes in the French Concession, there's so much to discover. Of special note are the Rockbund Art Museum by British architect "Tug" Wilson, who was responsible for much of Shanghai's Art Deco architecture, and, of course, the Cathay Hotel, which for years was the Bund's most beloved Art Deco icon."

The Cathay, now known as the Fairmont Peace

Shanghai's renovated Fairmont Peace Hotel retained its distinctive copper-sheathed roof

上海費爾蒙和平飯店裝修後保留了獨特的銅罩樓頂



Hotel, has recently reopened after a three-year, US\$64 million renovation. "The Peace Hotel has been a Shanghai landmark for more than a century," says architect Ian Carr, the Singapore-based Principal of Hirsch Bedner Associates who oversaw the acclaimed revamp. "It was our intention to recreate its former grandeur and majesty, restoring this Art Deco icon to its rightful place as one of the world's finest hotels."

Another renovated Shanghai hotel with an illustrious Art Deco history is the Langham Yangtze Boutique. "Formerly known as the Yangtze Hotel, this was the playground of the Shanghai elite after it opened in 1934," says its Director of Communications Tony Wang. "Today, lovers of Art Deco will find a beautifully restored masterpiece of the genre, combining western Art Deco design with elements of old Shanghai."

Art Deco reflected a key period in modern cultural history – the age of the Charleston, Greta Garbo and the setback style of the world's first skyscrapers. Nearly a century later, those who seek it will find the eye candy as sweet as ever. ■

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full page