

gs
MAGAZINE

www.gsmagazine.co.uk

issue 65

hotels in
JAPAN

plus

W Mexico

Shangri-La

Ham Yard Hotel

Monaco Yacht Club

New Materials





TOKYO STATION HOTEL

The Tokyo Station Hotel, like all great railway station hotels across the globe, is steeped in history and has a wonderful and romantic story to tell. The hotel opened in 1915, occupying space within the newly built Tokyo Station Marunouchi Building. The steel framed brick building was designed with plenty of European influence, a grand and imposing property complete with domed ceilings, arches and columns. The station would welcome visitors from across the world and the grandeur of the building was intended as a beacon of Japanese wealth and style. The hotel was one of the few that survived the great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 although it was severely damaged during air raids in the Second World War. In 1947 the station was reconstructed and the hotel reopened in 1951. During the Tokyo Olympics of 1964, the hotel became recognised as one of the most prestigious in the world. Unlike most Japanese hotels of that time, it immersed itself in European and American culture and became known for its coffee shop, the first to open in Japan, which served genuine sandwiches and hamburger steaks and for its cocktail bar, known as Camellia, presided over by the legendary bartender Hisashi Sugimoto. It is also said that the bar became a favourite of many literary

figures over the decades.

In 2006 the hotel closed for preservation and restoration. The restoration in fact returned parts of the building to their original state. This included reintroducing the third floor, which was virtually obliterated during the war. In addition the building was lifted to replace the original supports (pine wood logs) and the foundations were structurally strengthened to make the hotel earthquake resistant. The property was redesigned by **Richmond International**, the British based designers and the interiors now have an international flavour. Rich in colours and materials, there are now 150 guest rooms in 15 different styles, including the Palace side rooms, two-story maisonettes and the centrally located Dome side rooms. These are splendid spaces laid out to fit the North and South Cupolas on the roof. The windows offer views of the reliefs in the restored domes and of the bustling station forecourts below. The most luxurious space is of course the Royal Suite. The Suite measures 173sq metres and includes a living room, a private study, walk in closets and magnificent marble bathrooms. The views from the Royal Suite follow the Gyoko-dori Avenue to the Imperial Palace. When the station and hotel was first built it was surrounded by fields, these have been gradually replaced with high rise office buildings but the view to the Palace remains unhindered. It is said that



there is an underground passage connecting the two properties; unsurprising perhaps when we consider that the hotel was designed along European lines - there are reportedly underground connections between several of London's more discrete hotels and its Palaces. www.thetokystationhotel.jp