

**Heritage feel**

**Naumi Liora**  
 55 Keong Siak Road  
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 www.naumiliora.com

EVEN before it welcomes its first official guest, the Naumi Liora at Keong Siak Street is already creating a buzz.

The boutique hotel will only open at the end of the month, but travellers have tried to make reservations while curious passers-by press their faces against the hotel doors to see what is inside. Naumi Liora is the sister hotel of Naumi at Seah Street.

Unlike the Naumi which is targeted at travellers with more disposable income, Naumi Liora is "still a business boutique

hotel, but with more affordable accommodation while still offering personalised service", says Cindy Lim, marketing communications manager for Naumi Hotels.

Room rates range from \$380 to \$580 at Naumi Liora, while its sister property charges from \$320 to \$750.

The 79-room Naumi Liora is housed in 10 conservation shophouses, which were built in 1858. It used to be The Royal Peacock Hotel and later The Saff, before the Hind Group bought it last year.

Architecture firm URBNarc was brought in to revamp the hotel. Its founder Gaurang Khemka says: "We wanted to give a contemporary flavour to the hotel yet still retaining its heritage."

Ms Lim says that while Naumi is about luxury, Naumi Liora, which means light in Hebrew, is about fun and relaxation. This explains the hotel's bright orange colour scheme, tempered with beige and dark brown.

The rooms are spread across the shophouses, and guests walk down long sloping corridors to get to their rooms. Some rooms require guests to take a step up to enter, while others come with their own little walkway.

The hotel offers three categories of rooms: quaint, heritage and porch.

Quaint rooms are the smallest and so called because of their charming and cosy nature. Heritage rooms come with the building's original French windows which have been restored, and most overlook Keong Siak Road. Porch rooms are so named because of their private outdoor terraces where guests can enjoy a drink while overlooking the Duxton Plain Park, behind the hotel. "These terraces were not found in the previous hotel. We added them to give guests a new experience," says Mr Khemka.

The Quaint and Heritage rooms are

comfortably spacious for single travellers, while couples will like the Porch rooms.

The number of rooms is kept the same as before, but the bathrooms have been made bigger. The use of frosted glass between the bathroom and the sleeping area also helps to make the rooms look more spacious.

Timber lattice screens are a common feature in the rooms and around the hotel. The floral lattice pattern even extends to the hanging lights. Mr Khemka explains that the pattern is taken from Peranakan tiles which add to the hotel's heritage feel.

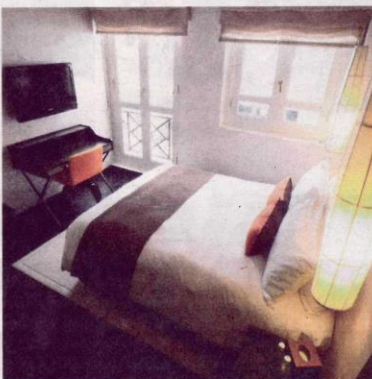
He also commissioned a series of sculptures done by local artist KY Huang, which depict figures in motion and having fun.

The building's signature tangerine colour has also been preserved. At night when it is lit up, the hotel becomes the area's beacon, living up to its name.

Continued on next page >>

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Architecture firm URBNarc founder Gaurang Khemka



**LIGHT FLAIR**  
 (Clockwise from left) Patio belonging to the porch rooms; hotel's facade; sculptures by local artist KY Huang; porch room; Heritage room with original French windows; lobby with floral patterns taken from Peranakan tiles. PHOTOS OF NAUMI LIORA: JOSEPH NAIR/ST

