

SEASONS' GREETING

Shanghai's scenic water towns have always been a day trip away. Now, with the opening of Zhouzhuang's Blossom Hill boutique hotel, visitors at last have a stylish place in which to spend the night. Thomas Dariel of Dariel Studio has reinterpreted Zhouzhuang's 900-year history by transforming three Ming dynasty buildings into a unified 20-suite boutique hotel. Dariel's concept centres on the 24 seasons of the traditional Chinese solar calendar. dividing rooms into four areas laid out according to sun exposure and natural light intensity, and offering colours from light yellow to deep purple. Other design accents include eye-catching ceramic tiles, coloured Ming-style chairs, ink-inwater photography and calligraphy brushes. blossomhillinn.com, darielstudio.com.







Artist to watch

We love the take on the ancient art of calligraphy by Shanghai artist Ma Nan (above). Taking inspiration from her art teacher-calligrapher father, she focuses on the tension between traditional methods and modern freehand brushwork. Her recent show at Shanghai's Elisabeth de Brabant Art Center was a big hit with an audience captivated by her expressive interpretations. elisabethdebrabant.com.