

# cabin fever

By Jo Baker

IN PATTAYA, Thailand, smooth, streamlined forms coupled with an almost 'pod' aesthetic define the latest hotel in Dusit's hip 'D2' boutique line. Dusit International, known as a hotel mainstay among business travellers, first kicked off the dusitD2 range in Chiang Mai in 2007 with a goal of snagging a new footloose generation of executive travellers. Like its Chiang Mai predecessor, dusitD2 Pattaya Baraquada Hotel strikes a high end balance between contemporary and retro that teeters on kitsch.

The prolific DesignWorld Partnership (DWP) was chosen for the 10,000square metre project. The group had worked with the brand before on the Dusit Resort and Polo Club in Vietnam. D2 Pattaya Baraquada is the brand's first beach hotel.

The designers had the vision to anchor it closely to the water, and the interiors are reminiscent of a great, slightly Zen-nuanced ocean liner. 'Unique, sleek modern design' comprised the hotel's brief, with an emphasis on the 'unique'.

This starts with the shapes; corners appear to have been banished and furniture pieces, from desks and cove lights to the ceiling detail are sensuously curved. Well-rounded beds float ▶





Opposite page, top to bottom:  
The Champagne Bar; VIP hotel lobby.  
This page, clockwise from top left: VIP  
lounge and lobby; Grand Studio room;  
Hotel main lobby featuring Dale Chihuly's  
Fiori di Paradiso ceiling — Chihuly's 52  
vibrant panels form the backdrop of the  
reception desk; Grand King guestroom.



in the centre of each room on island-like rugs, and in some suites the cabin motif is reinforced architecturally by placing the bed on a rounded balcony, overlooking the lounge. Circular mirrors and luminaires are reminiscent of portholes, and the colour scheme – accented with deep blue – manages to be thematic and slightly corporate at the same time.

Strong oceanic themes can also be found in the bar, which shimmers in aquatic shades under a watery light, and where an undulating ceiling adds drama. Here again the designers have achieved trademark structural wizardry with a thin, floating terrace and a series of delicate aerial stairs.

However pulling the scene away from a recreation of the set for the musical Anything Goes, is the sense of real luxury in the materials.

The use of sophisticated recess lighting and backlighting also gives items a sleeker look, while hip retro elements such as floating staircases and contemporary chandeliers create an atmosphere of fun. This carries through to the hotel operation, in which a team of 'gurus', 'whizes' and 'decor' staff – many very easy on the eye – make this a unique if not slightly surreal option. ✨



Photography courtesy of DWP