

hospitalitydesign

The background of the cover is a photograph of a bar interior viewed through a large, arched stone opening. The bar has a rustic feel with stone walls and a curved bar counter. Several high-top stools are lined up at the bar. Above the bar, there are shelves with bottles. The archway is framed by dark metal. The scene is lit with warm, ambient light, and there are some plants and flowers visible around the archway.

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raising the bar

the hd awards issue

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Boatyard Hotel Suzhou, China

Shanwan, in Suzhou's Wujiang District, was built by the water, and the 13-room Boatyard Hotel pays tribute to these surroundings with curved, blackened metal roofs that take cues from the awnings of wupeng boats, traditional Chinese gondolas. Guests reach the lobby by way of a skylight-pierced bridge, passing a docked wupeng along the way that adds gravitas. Here, a bench nestled against an arched window invites introspection, while the reception desk is brightened with a sculptural installation. Guestrooms are defined by vaulted ceilings, expansive windows, and earthy hues. "The project is surrounded by nature, away from the city's noise and fast pace," says WJ Studio founding partner and design director Hu Zhile. "It's more like a transient utopia to escape from life."

Architecture Firm **GOA (Group of Architects), Hangzhou, China** Interior
Design Firm **WJ Studio, Hangzhou**
Owner **Bluetown Group**

"Stunning architecture.
An amazing series of spaces."

—HD Awards judges



Photos by XI ZHANG