

SHANGHAI CMC



One of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, with a population of over 20 million people, Shanghai has long been a centre of commerce and cultural exchange between the East and West, making for one of the most diverse and intriguing cityscapes in China. During the 1930s, a wealth of European and American buildings sprung up along the Bund, which now, sitting alongside the futuristic skyscrapers that China's growing economy has brought to the city, gives it a feeling unlike any other part of the People's Republic.

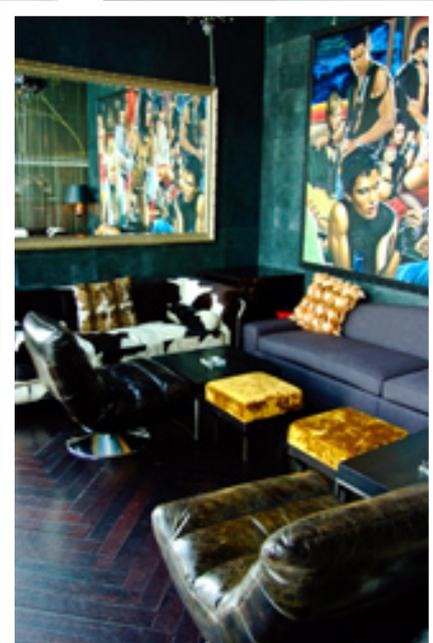
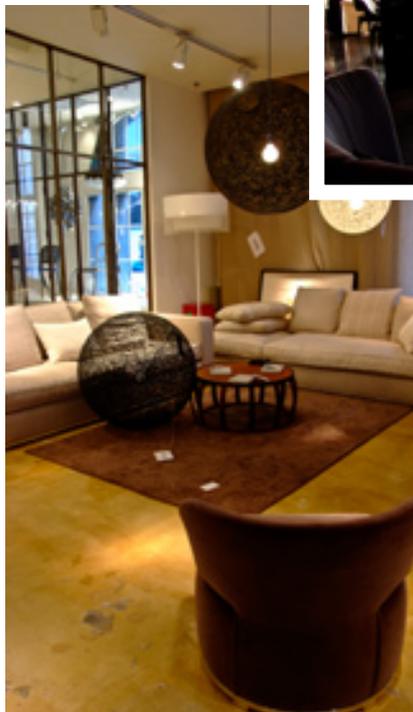
While visitors head to Beijing to see ancient temples and imperial palaces, Shanghai has emerged as a place to party throughout the night in cosmopolitan style. Known for years as the place to find big-brand hotels, situated in skyscrapers with stunning views and crowded lobbies, in recent years a new, smaller and more stylish scene has also been emerging. If you plan on visiting Expo 2010 Shanghai, here are the hip spots to visit, stay, eat and drink...

140SQM GALLERY

Sitting on the second floor of a French 'heritage architecture' building is 140sqm Gallery (www.140sqm.com), specialising in conceptual art from internationally recognised and emerging artists. Owned by an experienced curator, Liu Ying Mei, the gallery has displayed the artwork of Roland Fischer, Mu Yu Ming, Zhang Jian-Jun, Tian Yibin and more since it opened in 2007.

DDM WAREHOUSE

Since 2000, DDM Warehouse (www.ddmwarehouse.org) has been host to hundreds of art exhibitions by rising Chinese artists, as



well as live music performances. Every May, Rock for Charity invites local bands into the modernist, urban-industrial building to raise money for the Shanghai Sunrise charity which helps provide education to underprivileged kids. The gritty and sparse loft space makes for an interesting atmosphere, complimented by electronic music and indoor smoking.

DESIGN REPUBLIC

Owned by American-trained Chinese architects Rosana Hu and Lyndon Neri, Design Republic (www.thedesignrepublic.com) caters for the city's growing demand for well-known designer goods. Expect to find names such as Philippe Starck, Charles Eames, Frank Gehry, Alessi and Reidel in this oak, concrete and bronze space.

JEAN-GEORGES

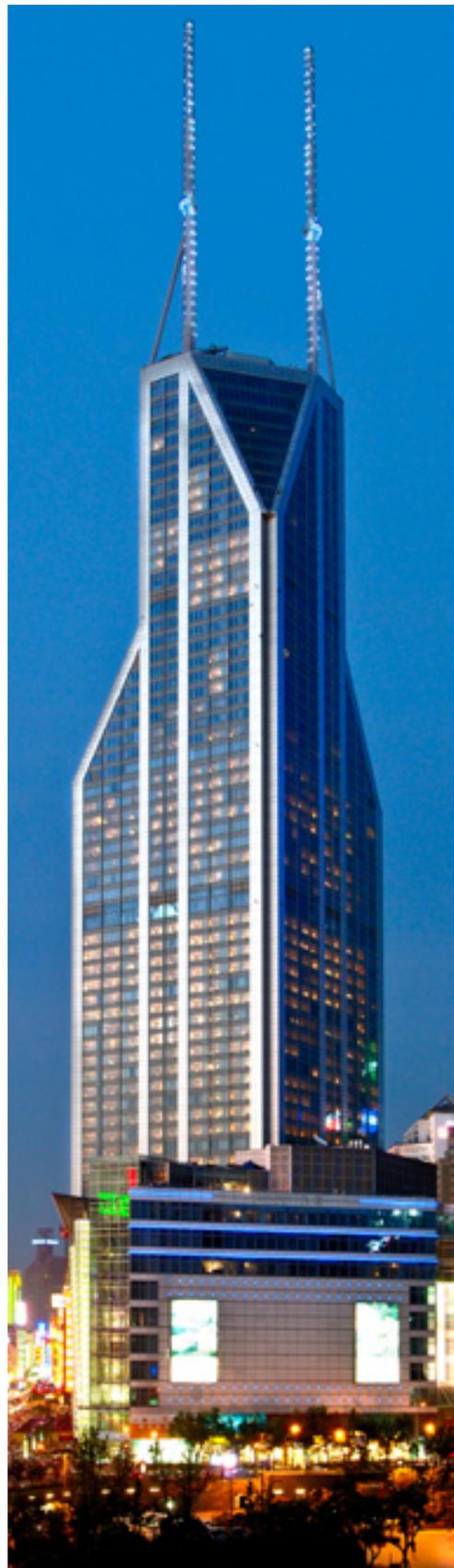
From acclaimed French restaurateur Jean-Georges Vongerichten (www.jean-georges.com), this restaurant in the heart of the city serves up modern French cuisine in a decadently stylish interior – there're even sofas finished in eel-skin. As it is one of Shanghai's top restaurants, early reservations are advised.

JIA HOTEL

Taking its name from the Mandarin word for 'home', *jia*, this boutique residence uses fantastic pieces of one-off designer furniture to make it one of the most charming and original places to stay in the city. Located in a traditional building tucked away in a quiet but convenient part of the city, Jia Hotel (www.jiashanghai.com) is the first port of call for anybody hip and trendy visiting Shanghai.

LE ROYAL MÉRIDIEN SHANGHAI

If you like your hotels to come with a little more brand recognition, check into Le Royal Méridien Shanghai (www.starwoodhotels.com). Part of the Starwood chain, this 66-storey building rises majestically into the city's skyline, while inside you'll find chic interiors.



M1NT

A hip and stylish nightclub, perched high above Shanghai, with dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows offering spectacular 360° views of the Bund, Pudong, Nanjing Road, People's Square and Huaihai Road, the exclusive members-only club caters for the city's most well-heeled. CNN calls it "the exclusive cocktail club that caters to jet-set billionaires," and its reputation is already famous, thanks to other M1NT (www.m1nt.com.cn) venues in Hong Kong and Cannes, and soon Beijing.

MR & MRS BUND

The gigantic menu at Mr & Mrs Bund (www.mmbund.com) was created by renowned Shanghai-based French chef, Paul Pairet, and offers diners 'global French' cuisine in a stylish, 'modern-regal' setting until late into the night. Their 'late night set menu' offerings will satisfy partygoers' appetites with excellent value for money.

Photos: (centre left): Design Republic; **(top centre):** Jean-Georges; **(bottom centre):** Mint; **(centre right and far right):** Le Meridien Shanghai