

# IFDM

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## A rich blend of history and nature, spaces and decor

Designed by Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA) and winner of two prestigious Design Awards, the new Four Seasons Kyoto amazes in virtue of its size, the sheer elegance and rigour with which it inserts itself in the greenery of a centuries-old garden and its seasonal changes



It is as though nature is whispering, in Kyoto, even if its recurring events leave their unequivocal touch with the passing of each season. Cherry trees break into blossom in the spring, moss basks in the shade of luxuriant trees in the summer, maples which turn red in the autumn and the silent cloak of snow which resets the cycle, in preparation for all things new. Therefore, it was only natural that Kyoto, so reluctant to reveal its secrets, was selected by the Four Seasons as the perfect solution for guests who have every intention of discovering these treasures. The actual resort site certainly makes this easier: the near thousand-year-old garden Shakusuien Ikeniwa is located a few minutes away from the centre and is immersed in centuries of history. For Hirsch Bedner Associates, the studio which designed the project, consideration

of the place's uniqueness becomes an intellectual elaboration both of mankind's ties with nature, and of the continuity of a symbolically rich tradition of spaces and elements. Narrative structures are almost always supported by a highly evident geometry which is inserted as a rhythmic sign between fragments of greenery and the pond's placid waters. Hosts are welcomed in the lobby, along a bamboo forest which leads to a sanctuary. This spacious interior was designed in collaboration with the Japanese artist Ramon Todo and is reminiscent of a Zen garden, with its Aji stone pavements, moved by plays on light created by brise-soleils in shoji paper, fluttering along ample glass walls. The 123 rooms and suites, along with 57 residences, reinterpret traditional Japanese homes and the regal concision of their forms. Recurring elements include: oak wood flooring,

