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## IRKY DESIGN FACTS YOU DIDN'T NOW ABOUT FAMED HOTELS

by [Sophie Killip](#)

Share quirky design facts from a range of hotels, both  
big and small, that will delight and surprise everyone from  
avid travellers to the simply curious.

Hotels across the world come in all sorts of shapes and sizes; some have  
stood tall for decades, while others are up-and-coming, newly  
opened or still in development. Experiences in hotels will also differ,  
depending on guests' needs; some become retreats for respite or  
relaxation, others act as homes-away-from-home, or a base for exploring a  
city or town's culture and history.

What many don't know is that hotels often carry their own secrets and  
interesting facts – including accidental asymmetric designs, custom-made  
features, histories that date back as far as 1000 A.D., clock towers that

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Over the centuries, the island and its Grade-I listed buildings have been the abode of monarchs, artists, writers and aristocrats, including Edward VII, George VI and Clara Butt, with Monkey Island even playing host to the Oxfam Ball. In the 1980s, however, the island fell into decline... until it was brought back into the expert hands of YTL Hotels; after a huge investment and extensive renovation, Monkey Island Estate has returned to its former glory, welcoming guests to experience the serene Thames setting and its rich history and architecture.

### **AGON 700 BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA, PUGLIA**

When it opens in the summer, [Paragon 700 Boutique Hotel & Spa](#) is an entirely restored red palace in the heart of Ostuni, Puglia's 'White City'. A five-minute walk from Ostuni's main square, the hotel's red brick stands in stark contrast to the whitewashed buildings of the city, and its lush garden and swimming pool marks it out as an exclusive retreat. With only 11 rooms and suites, Paragon 700 is a boutique hotel that gives guests the chance to explore Ostuni and everything Puglia has to



Palazzo Rosso – the Red Palace – that now houses Paragon 700 has a rich and fascinating history, and has always been at the centre of Ostuni's social and cultural life. Once the home of the city's first mayor, the building has also housed the Biennial exhibition of the Industrial Technical Institute; held classes for the city's Scientific High School in 1971; and acted as the headquarters for the Italian Customs and Financial Police. To this day, the magnificent vaults, centuries-old stones and historical frescos have remained intact, and with the opening of Paragon 700, guests and locals will be able to enjoy this unique piece of the city's history.

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