

SPACE

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL DESIGN

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RYNE JIAYIN FENG

Senior Designer
HBA LOS ANGELES

hba.com

Ryne began her interior design career after graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design, working on hospitality, museum, and educational projects across the U.S, Hong Kong and mainland China. These international experiences have shaped her as a well-rounded designer with a multi-faceted perspective. Passionate about woodworking, ceramics and sculpture, Ryne brings a hands-on sensibility to her work – designing bespoke elements and curating materials, artwork and accessories to create spaces with depth, character and lasting impact.

Selected project (pictured):

Ryne is currently working on the JW Marriott Dana Point in California as Lead Designer for HBA. The design draws inspiration from the region's rich surfing history and Acjachemen culture..

Spotted emerging talent in hotel design?

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What's your favourite part of the design process and why?

My favourite part of the design process is getting to know the location, culture and people involved in the project. Growing up in Suzhou, a city with over 2,500 years of history, I've always been fascinated by how history and culture shape the way people live and interact with their surroundings. Doing this kind of research is always exciting because you uncover these little magical moments – unique details about the site or the community that make the project special. It's inspiring to see the creativity and effort people put into improving their spaces. That kind of energy drives my work.

If budget weren't an issue, what's the most extravagant feature you'd add to a hotel design concept?

If budget weren't an issue, I'd love to create a big immersive, interactive installation that fills the entire lobby space. Something like the Rain Room by Random International or Sun Force Ocean Life by Ernesto Neto, where guests are invited to run, jump and interact with the installation. The idea is to transform the lobby into an experiential environment where art and design come to life. It wouldn't just be a space to pass through; it would be a moment of connection and play where guests become part of the art itself.

What's been the biggest learning curve of your career so far?

The biggest learning curve of my career has been understanding the importance of stepping back and immersing myself in the creative process while staying current with rapidly advancing technology and social media. These two approaches often feel contradictory, especially when clients request designs that follow specific trends, which can sometimes leave you feeling lost or disconnected. However, I've learned that with effort, reflection, and gained wisdom and experience, it's possible to find a balance. By combining creativity with contemporary relevance, I would love to create unique experiences that meet client needs while offering lasting impact.

Which global city is your ultimate source of design inspiration?

Suzhou, without a doubt. While globalization has made many cities start to look alike, including Suzhou, there's still a part of the city that beautifully preserves its rich history, culture and artistic heritage. Historically, Suzhou was home to the finest watchmakers, jade carvers, woodworkers and ceramic artists – a tradition of excellence that continues to thrive today. Every time I go back to Suzhou, I spend much time with these artists and craftsmen, discussing their work while immersed in creating art pieces of my own. It's an endlessly inspiring experience.

