

# interior design TODAY

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## TRADERS ENTRANCE REINVENTED

Ed Ng and Terence Ngan, AB Concept, have unveiled their first project in London with the launch of Mei Ume Restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square.

Located in the 1922 headquarters of the Port of London Authority at Ten Trinity Square, Mei Ume, which takes its name from the Chinese and Japanese words for 'plum blossom,' fuses Eastern and Western heritage. Originally a gateway for traders from the East to trade commodities such as tea, silks and ceramics, Ed and Terence sought their inspiration for the design from the building's history.

Upon entering Mei Ume, guests are first met with an impressive screen created by using an enamel paint technique on glass with colourful plum blossoms. The screen is suspended from two metal columns encompassing the design of typical portholes that are repeatedly seen throughout the restaurant. Strategically placed at the reception, this piece fuses the two worlds, East and West, into one, allowing guests to feel as if they have entered a different era in time.

The main dining room is complete with bold red accents, a continuous theme throughout the restaurant that represents happiness and celebration in Chinese culture.

As all of the original columns from the 1922 building remain intact, Ed and Terence faced the unique design challenge to preserve the original mouldings, yet reinvent them with a new spirit and purpose. Intricate metal motifs have been erected on top of each column suspending three halo structures and resulting in three cosy alcoves for diners seeking privacy. The English heritage of the Grade II listed property establishes itself in the form of custom table lamps lining the large bronze-framed windows, which face the hotel's courtyard.

[www.abconcept.net](http://www.abconcept.net)