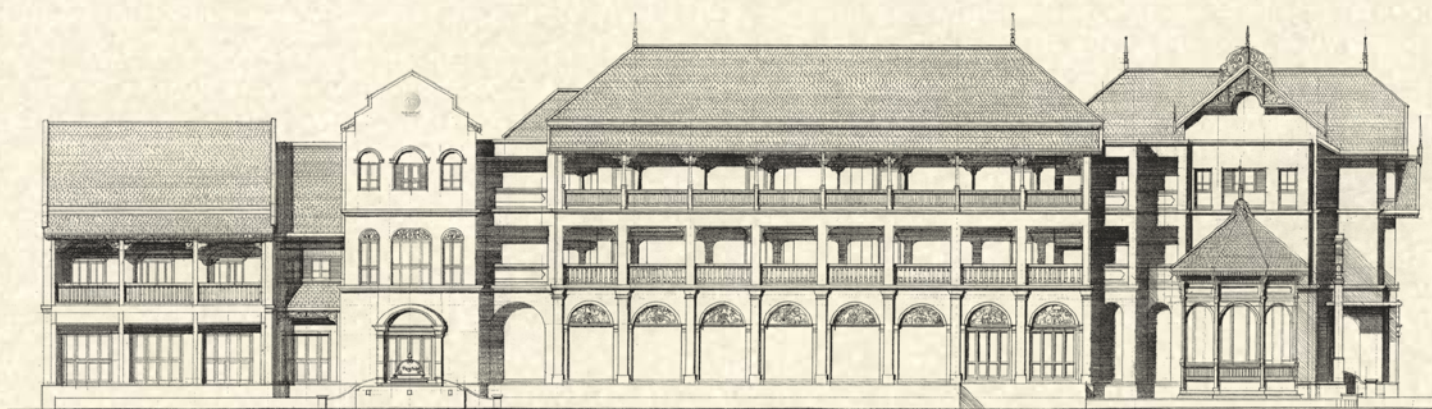




# Ping Nakara

BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA



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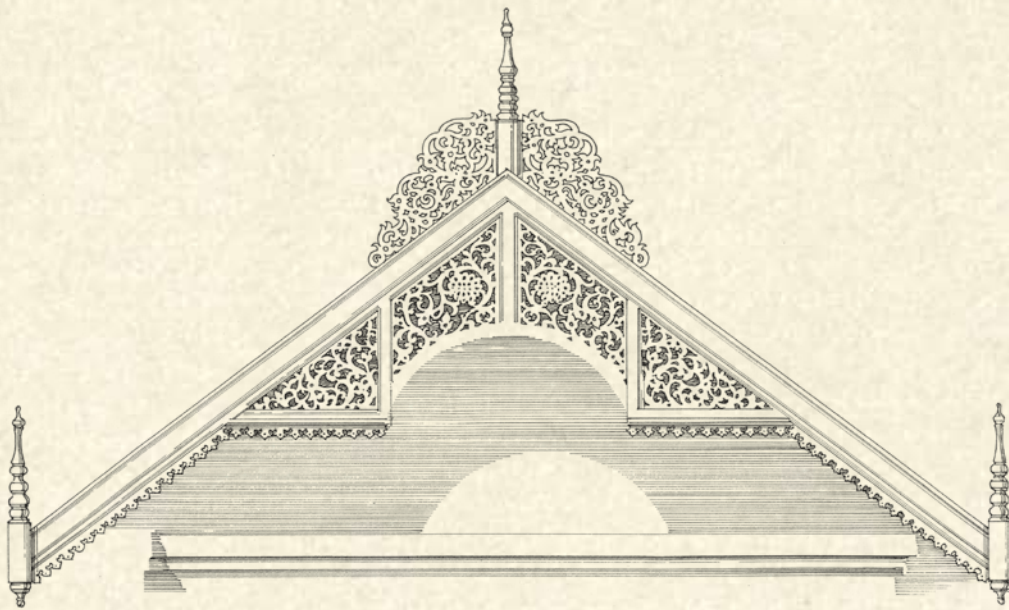
## Ping Nakara Boutique Hotel & Spa

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## The Origins of 'Ping Nakara'

Ping Nakara boutique hotel is located on Charoenprathet Road, an area which was the center of the teak industry in early 20th century. The first Forestry Office in Thailand was established here during the reign of King Rama V, and subsequently many local, Burmese and Western timber merchants made their base in the environs. The British and French Consulates also occupied properties along the bank of the Ping River.

During that period, the increasing political and trade relationship with Western countries had an influence on Chiang Mai architecture. Colonial-style buildings and Victorian ginger-bread motifs were adapted and combined with the traditional wooden structures built by local craftsmen, forging a new and exquisite style, a unique Lanna architectural expression.

Over the intervening years, many of the old buildings have faded and fallen, and the few remains were not ideally suited to modern ways of living. A desire to preserve this valuable Lanna architectural inheritance is the origin of the hotel. The breath of the yesteryear has been revived in the creation of new buildings which harmonize the atmosphere of times past with the needs of modern life, resulting to Ping Nakara.

## Inspiration from the Past

"Ping Nakara – a Lanna Colonial Hotel that evokes the warmth and luxury of the past age."

The primary concept of the hotel design was inspired by merchants' colonial-style houses and ginger-bread buildings from the early 20th century of Chiang Mai.

The 7 buildings, each of which has its own unique style, consist of 19 lodge rooms and 5 spa rooms with modern amenities where travelers long for. All the details were not just a simple replica of the past but were well-thought and recreated based on the traditional models such as the five designs of fretwork on the wooden panels above the doorways and windows, and traditional cast iron of the doorknobs, latches and beds.

Each room is differentiated from others by way of structure and decoration through the use of varying colors and styles of natural furnishings, offering a variety of feeling and atmosphere. All these designs are based on careful study of traditions and motifs found in the local area in the past, in keeping with the intention of preserving the best of the past for our guests.





## Lanna Colonial Architecture

Through observation and study of the architectural styles on Charoenprathet Road and its vicinity, our architects found that most old buildings in the area were exquisite and elegant structure with the sense of the Lanna influence. Therefore, the architects decided to use these buildings as a model for Ping Nakara in order to preserve the ancient identity of Chiang Mai. Architects applied seven configurations to create a group of buildings of different shapes and heights in order to reduce the tall and slender feeling exposed by the 3-storey structure and to fuse the diverse styles of period houses together.

In addition, every detail that forms the Ping Nakara has been freshly reconstructed. Chief among these were the 16 bas-relief stucco works around the pool. The plaques, which took 2 years to complete, reflect the timber merchants' way of life in the past. Also, each of the 19 lodge rooms is distinguished in its design with different structures, colors and uses various themes of painting. The furniture was specially designed and produced exclusively which in-line with the colonial era, such as the sets of writing tables, beds, chairs and the classic style ceramics.

## The Inheritance of Lanna Arts

Ping Nakara wants to let our guests experience the magnificence of Lanna culture and architecture with all of their five senses – sight, sound, touch, smell and taste.

Every decorative detail – the fretwork, sculptures, stucco works and the large oil painting of cloth patterned with the zodiac on the wall in the lobby – reflects the local identity of Lanna.

Our restaurant emphasizes the serving of fine Thai and Lanna cuisine to preserve the unique taste which reveals the identity of Thailand. The hotel atmosphere is filled with the fragrance of specially formulated natural oil which made from various herbs and plants created by our Nakara Spa. Our guests will feel relaxed and comfortable with the soft instrumental Lanna music playing in the background throughout the hotel vicinity.

Moreover, the hotel also offer guests an alms-giving activity every morning and a 9-temple merit making program as well as a demonstration of activities of Lanna arts and crafts such as floating lanterns, Lanna flags, etc.





Ping Nakara is located on Charoenprathet Road – formerly the center of the golden teakwood industry in the area. The structure is designed and built in a Lanna colonial style, using old Chiang Mai merchants' houses as a model.



'Ping Nakara' combines 7 structures, each with a distinctive architectural or decorative style, but all working harmoniously together to offer guests elegance and exquisite impression of times past.





All of the rooms are decorated in a colonial style with wall paintings of flowers by local Lanna artists. The rooms, which take their names from flowers, are furnished with dark-colored teakwood furniture and finished with delicate gingerbread-house style fretwork above the doors and windows.



The hotel has a majestic and magnificent lobby with a high ceiling and traditional colonial chandelier at the center of the room. On one side of the room, shows an oil painting featuring local woven fabrics and representing the zodiac signs with pure gold leaf. The floor of the lobby is decorated with antique-pattern floor tiles providing a classic atmosphere.





The delicate patterns of wooden fretwork reflect the high skills of Lanna craftsmen in the past. This valuable art is still practiced after being passed down from generation to generation.



The stucco work used on the colonial buildings in the past inspired similar use throughout the hotel.





From this angle, the noticeable similarities and differences between four of the building styles applied, also shown on how they blend harmoniously into a warm and elegant whole.



The side of the hotel is decorated with fine and delicate fretwork.  
The pattern of each piece of fretwork in the hotel has been redesigned specifically for the hotel.





The gable of the hotel is decorated with exquisite white fretwork which provides a beautiful contrast to the blue sky. The sun shining through it casts an attractive shadow on the wall.



At the entrance of the hotel, the arch is decorated with a bas-relief stucco Puranakata pot, the symbol of Ping Nakara. Under the Puranakata pot are the words ‘อาคารปิงนคร’ (Ping Nakara Building) and an auspicious Pali phrase reading “Sotthi Hontu Nirantarung” to bless our guests.





At the side of the hotel facing the swimming pool, the details of the building cast shadows on its own white structure producing diverse patterns that change throughout the day—a spot favored by newly-weds.



The rectangular infinity swimming pool offers a private and comfortable area to relax with food and beverage services. On the right side of the pool is the hotel restaurant. Parallel to the pool is the Colonial-style veranda. The hallway is decorated with 16 bas-relief stucco plaques telling the story of the forest industry.





The Rotunda—This octagonal shaped hall is used as a place for waiting guests or relaxing with books from the library.



Grand Deluxe Room—The walls of the room are painted in light green, while sponge technique is applied to add dimension to the surface of the wall. The room is decorated with a painting of a cork tree, from which the room takes its name.





The veranda runs parallel to the swimming pool, and is a fine place to rest and relax. The floor is decorated with antique patterned tiles and lining the walls are wooden cabinets containing rare and ancient artifacts, all lit by brass lamps. On the far-end wall above a wooden cabinet is a painting of a map of Chiang Mai in times gone by, capturing the charm of the city before the onset of modernization.



The comfortable library receives sunlight from both sides of the room and is furnished with dark colour furniture together with sofas covered with plain and classic patterned cloths. Most books in the library are about the arts and cultures of South East Asia.





The small dining room is furnished with rattan-wood furniture and offers guests a vintage feeling. Swimming pool can be seen from here.



Tranquil, pleasant, and shady dining area with art and decorative details all around.





The spa and office sections are intentionally presented and styled differently from other parts of the hotel, with dark-colored wooden fretwork, elegant arched entrances and plain lathed-wooden banisters which explicitly convey the sense of the Lanna Colonial style.



We are honored to receive numerous awards, including three Prime Minister Awards from PM Creative Awards and Thailand Boutique Awards for 'Culture' and 'Architecture', together with two awards from 'Lanna Architects Association' and 'i-design magazine'. This recognition gives motivation to everyone who is a part of the creation of Ping Nakara and inspires us to continue in our goal to preserve the best of Lanna.