

# THE PEAK

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## POWER LIST 2025

ENTER THE VANGUARDS

FRONT ROW (FROM LEFT): HAZLEEN AHMAD, JOHN TAN, ASSAAD RAZZOUK, DIANE CHIA  
BACK ROW (FROM LEFT): MARIE CHEONG, LEE HAOMING, FELIX LEE, MATIN MOHDARI, EUGENE NG







# Lifestyle

At Aman Nai Lert Bangkok, instead of glass walls trumpeting the view, the architecture choreographs a gradual reveal.



## A PHILOSOPHY OF SUBTLE

*Aman Nai Lert Bangkok redraws the coordinates of city hospitality by refusing noise, resisting spectacle, and building a new kind of luxury around spatial intelligence.*

To understand the architectural ambition of Aman Nai Lert Bangkok, it is helpful first to understand what it isn't. It isn't a spectacle, nor is it a selfie set. It doesn't borrow the visual vernacular of Thai temples and blow it up into a five-star fantasy.

In fact, its greatest strength is in what it resists: ornamentation, pastiche, drama. This is restraint at its most luxurious.

Designed by legendary architect Jean-

Michel Gathy, the property is situated on the rarest of sites—Nai Lert Park, one of the last remaining private green sanctuaries in central Bangkok. In lesser hands, this would have been reason enough to build something loud and dominant. Gathy does the opposite. He listens. The hotel is designed not to impose on its surroundings, but to retreat into them.

"There isn't a feature that guests don't see — it's more certain than that," Gathy

tells *The Peak Singapore*. "I think people don't see it, but they actually feel it, and that's even more important."

That ethos—of designing for sensation rather than spectacle—is evident in how Aman Nai Lert Bangkok opens up to the park. Instead of glass walls trumpeting the view, the architecture choreographs a gradual reveal. Public spaces are framed with shadowed thresholds and softened light, forcing the eye to adjust slowly,



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TEXT ZAT ASTHA PHOTOS AMAN



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01 The swimming pools wraps gently (and carefully) around a 100-year-old tree.

02 The Cigar Bar is a haven for cigar aficionados.

03 In the suites, walls are finished in tactile materials — stone, timber, woven fabric.

allowing nature to reassert its dominance. The result is immersive, not showy. You don't look at the park. You step into it.

Gathy's design vocabulary here is grounded in Thai architectural principles, but refuses to treat them as decorative motifs. There are no golden garudas, no over-explained Buddha heads. Instead, the local influence shows up in proportion, material, and rhythm. "The references to local culture are subtle," he says. "They make you feel comfortable, but you don't know why."

This subtlety plays out across the entire spatial experience. Rooms are designed to cocoon. Ceilings are intentionally lower in private areas, expanding upward in public ones to guide the flow of energy.

Walls are finished in tactile materials — stone, timber, woven fabric — that echo Thai craft without performing it. The lighting is warm, directional, and minimal. Everything serves atmosphere. At Aman Nai Lert Bangkok, nothing competes.

Look closer, and you'll notice how the materials aren't simply high-end — they're calibrated. Marble is used sparingly, often

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04 Wood finishes are kept matte, aged just enough to suggest tactility without appearing distressed.

05 On the 19th floor, the Aman Club brings another layer of spatial strategy.

06 At the arrival lobby, a breathtaking art installation of 3,000 spinning tops forming the Thai numeral one.

honed instead of polished, to avoid visual glare. Wood finishes are kept matte, aged just enough to suggest tactility without appearing distressed.

Elsewhere, metalwork is brushed, not polished, drawing your eye to the form rather than the reflection. The goal is to evoke longevity, not trend, a deliberate move away from the kind of fast luxury that ages poorly and toward something rooted,

measured, and enduring.

Still, that's not to say the design lacks ambition. Quite the contrary. It's just that the ambition here is emotional precision. Gathy isn't trying to impress you with forms. He's trying to dissolve your sense of urgency.

At the core of the property's design logic is what Ted Tucker, general manager of Aman Nai Lert Bangkok, calls "emotional hospitality" — an intangible but deliberately constructed sense of being at ease. "A guest once told me, 'I didn't feel like I was staying at a hotel — I felt like I came home to a place I didn't even realise I'd missed,'" Tucker recalls. "That really stayed with me."

That ease is not incidental. Instead, it's baked into every design decision, from the hidden circulation routes that reduce

staff visibility to the recessed niches that create visual softness. The guest's journey is choreographed to feel intuitive, private, and almost domestic. Even the reception spaces reflect this.

"Our original vision was for a single, expansive space that opened into the gardens," Gathy shares. "But due to various practical considerations, we separated the hotel and residence receptions. The hotel now has a more intimate entrance, while the residences enjoy a grander one."

It's a rare glimpse into the design negotiations that happen behind the scenes — and a testament to how Aman's architectural ideals are never sacrificed lightly, even when adapted to real-world constraints.

Upstairs, on the 19th floor, the Aman Club brings another layer of spatial strategy

*"A stay at Aman Nai Lert Bangkok should not be a whirlwind itinerary. Instead, it's a calibration."*



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**07** Aman Nai Lert Bangkok offers a variety of F&B concepts, with two accessible to the public: the all-day bar and lounge 1872 and the Italian restaurant, Arva.

**08** The gym comes with Technogym equipment and a roster of personal training, reformer Pilates, and HIIT workout classes.

**09** Hydrotherapy facilities include dry and steam saunas, hot tubs, cold plunge pools, and experiential showers.

to life. Accessible only to guests, Aman Club Founders, and residents, it offers panoramic views of the city — but not in the usual floor-to-ceiling glass box style.

The space is segmented and curated: live jazz anchors the sonic landscape, while warm materials keep the ambience personal rather than corporate. It's Bangkok from above, reimagined not as a conquest, but as a context.

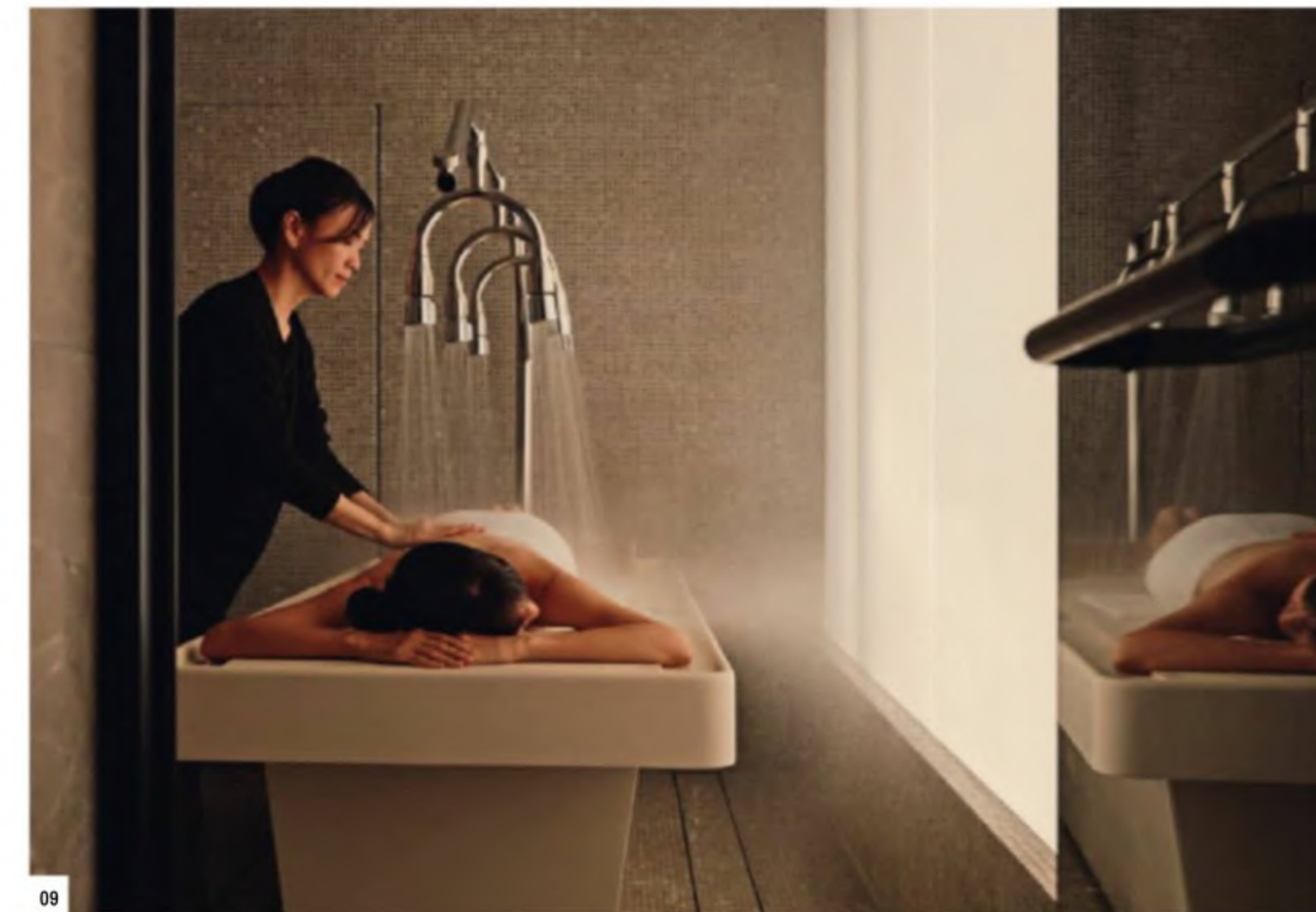
What also sets Aman Nai Lert Bangkok apart in the region is its integration into a multi-functional development — home to both a luxury hotel and branded residences — without compromising the brand's hallmark discretion. That delicate balance is architectural sleight of hand: shared infrastructure without shared experience.

And yet, for all this quiet excellence, the property is surprisingly accessible in spirit. Tucker insists that even a one-night stay is enough to understand its philosophy. His recommended sequence: "Start with the Aman Spa — our treatments are rooted in traditional Thai healing. Then take a quiet stroll through Nai Lert Park. End the day at the Aman Club."

A stay at Aman Nai Lert Bangkok should not be a whirlwind itinerary. Instead, it's a calibration. And that's perhaps the most seductive thing about the property: It recalibrates your sense of what luxury architecture is meant to do. It doesn't impress through sheer volume



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or extravagance, but through restraint, control, and an almost invisible mastery of space. It reminds you that good design doesn't need to announce itself. It simply needs to know exactly what not to do.

In doing so, Aman Nai Lert Bangkok quietly redraws the coordinates entirely

for urban hospitality in Southeast Asia. There's no spectacle here, no gimmick, no overreach. Just a clear-eyed understanding of place, purpose, and poise. And once you've seen it done this well, it becomes challenging to unsee everything else that isn't. ☯