

Maja Hotel Kyoto, capsule hotel designed by industrial designer Harri Koskinen, opened December 21; first floor includes first overseas branch of Finland-based Cafe Aalto!



Chaharu Hotels & Resorts Co. Ltd. (a company of the Dogo Onsen Chaharu Group; CEO: Eiji Kawamoto) is pleased to announce the December 21, 2019 opening of Maja Hotel Kyoto, a capsule hotel designed by Finnish industrial designer Harri Koskinen, in the central Kyoto neighborhood of Kawaramachi.

The hotel comprises 60 capsules, called huts, which come in two sizes and feature a distinctive triangular roof modeled on the shape of a house. Harri Koskinen is responsible for all creative design related to the facility, including its interiors, graphics, and related products.

Each capsule features an electrical outlet cover, a dimmable light with a timer, a hook, and a clothes hanger, all of which are original designs, in addition to textiles such as a roll-up curtain and Jacquard-woven bed linens by Finnish lifestyle brand Marimekko. The textiles are decorated with Harri Koskinen's "Maja Kyoto" pattern, which also adorns the pouches (¥6,000), tote bags (¥4,500), and cushion covers (¥4,500) sold at the hotel shop. As an opening offer, guests may book a special overnight stay that includes an original pouch as a present.

The first floor of Maja Hotel Kyoto houses the first branch of the Finland-based Cafe Aalto, a cafe located inside Helsinki's Academic Bookstore, which is the work of renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. The Kyoto branch of Cafe Aalto is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and serves Finnish-style cinnamon rolls, coffee, and traditional Finnish delicacies such as salmon soup. The chairs, tables, and other furnishings used in the cafe are the first reproductions of the furniture designed by Alvar Aalto exclusively for Cafe Aalto in Helsinki.

Note: All prices are exclusive of consumption tax.

Images and press releases can be downloaded here: <http://urx.red/whfM>



<For inquiries, please contact>

PR contact: Email: press@maja-hotel.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR



Harri Koskinen

Born in Finland in 1970, Harri Koskinen is an internationally renowned designer whose bold and fresh design aesthetic has been recognized since the early days of his career. In 1996 his “Block Lamp,” created for Design House Stockholm, was added to the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City, propelling Koskinen to worldwide fame. He has since held the role of Design Director at Iittala and worked with several other brands and labels. He established the Friends of Industry design agency in 2000 and launched his first namesake collection, Harri Koskinen Works, in 2009.

Koskinen has designed furniture, tableware, glassware, lighting, watches, textiles, and many other products for leading international brands, winning worldwide acclaim for his expression of simplicity and practicality through minimal design. He has been awarded several major design prizes, such as the Kaj Franck Design Prize (2014), the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Prize (2009), the Pro Finlandia Medal (2007), and the Compasso d'Oro prize (2004).

His major clients include Alessi, Arabia, Artek, Cassina IXC, Design House Stockholm, Finlandia Vodka Worldwide, Genelec, Iittala, Issey Miyake Inc., Montina, Muji, Panasonic, Seiko Instruments Inc., Swarovski, Venini, and Woodnotes.

Comment by Harri Koskinen:

“When I first received this commission, I was very surprised by the uniqueness of the project. The name I chose for the hotel, Maja, means ‘hut’ in Finnish. The hotel is all about creating a comfortable and warm, home-like experience, which is achieved through the use of materials, lighting, and space. It offers an experience you’ll want to have over and over again. My aim is for the huts to be cozy and comfortable small spaces where you can get away from the bustle of the city, rest, and sleep. They incorporate warm wood, soft linens, and functional light, making them ideal for reading a book. I hope you come, find and love us in Maja Hotel Kyoto.”

ROOMS

The hotel features two types of capsule rooms: sleep-in huts and walk-in huts. Their distinctive triangular roofs, lights and switches, textiles, and other design features are all the work of Harri Koskinen, down to the smallest details.

60 capsule rooms in total

40 sleep-in huts (15 on 2F, 25 on 4F) / 2m², W112cm x L200cm x H105cm (at the highest point)

20 walk-in huts (all on 3F) / 3m², W142cm x L215cm x H210cm (at the highest point)



FACILITY

Reception, lounge for guests, lockers, shower rooms.
Guests are served breakfast at Cafe Aalto.



Marimekko for MAJA HOTEL KYOTO

Finnish lifestyle design company Marimekko's original textile pattern "Maja Kioto" is designed by Harri Koskinen and featured in items such as the roll-up curtains and jacquard-woven bed linens, which are used in Maja Hotel Kyoto, and pouches, tote bags, and cushion covers, which are sold at the hotel shop.

Pouch ¥6,000, tote bag ¥4,500, cushion cover ¥4,500

Note: All prices are exclusive of consumption tax.



PRODUCT

Harri Koskinen has designed a variety of products for Maja Hotel Kyoto. Many of these, including textiles produced by Marimekko, an electrical outlet cover (USB 2 / Concent 3), a dimmable light with a timer, hooks, and clothes hangers, are used in the hotel's capsule rooms.

The legs of the large table in the second-floor lounge are made of wood from a tree that used to grow in the hotel building's courtyard, while the Iwatemo KI-0202HK chairs in the lounge were designed by Harri Koskinen and incorporate handicraft traditions from Iwate Prefecture. The subtle curvature of the KI-0202HK's backrest and seat helps achieve both comfort and stability. Made of solid white ash wood, these chairs also appear at Cafe Aalto on the first floor, where the black version of the design is used.



FLOOR GUIDE

- 4F** Showers / 401-425 (sleep-in huts)
- 3F** 301-320 (walk-in huts)
- 2F** Reception / 201-215 (sleep-in huts)
- 1F** Cafe Aalto

ACCESS

92 Tsuchiyacho, Yanaginobanba-dori Rokkaku-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto

From Kyoto Station, take either the Karasuma subway line to Karasuma Oike Station or the Tozai subway line to Kyoto Shiyakusho-mae Station. The hotel is a 6-minute walk from either station. It is an 8-minute walk to the hotel from Karasuma Station on the Hankyu Kyoto Line, a 9-minute walk from Sanjo Station on the Keihan Main Line, or a 12-minute taxi ride from Kyoto Station.

OUTLINE OF PROPERTY

Official name: Maja Hotel Kyoto

Address: 92 Tsuchiyacho, Yanaginobanba-dori Rokkaku-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto

Telephone number: 075 205 5477

Opening hours: 24 hours (check-in 4 p.m., check-out 10 a.m.)

Building details / site area / total floor area: Steel, 4 floors / 239.2m² / 682.8m²

Number of rooms: 20 walk-in huts, 40 sleep-in huts

Opening date: December 21, 2019

Prices: sleep-in hut (2m²) from ¥7,000, walk-in hut (3m²) from ¥8,500

Website: <https://maja-hotel.com>

Instagram: [maja_hotel_Kyoto](#)

Managed by: Chaharu Hotels & Resorts Co. Ltd.

Production and planning: Spiral / Wacoal Art Center Co. Ltd.

Creative direction: Harri Koskinen / Friends of Industry Ltd

Direction: Nino Inc.

Architecture: Zero One Office / Hn-Architects Inc.

In cooperation with: Sanwa Company Ltd.

Chaharu Hotels & Resorts Co. Ltd.

CEO: Eiji Kawamoto

Address: Inbound League 604, 5-15-14 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

<https://www.ch-resorts.co.jp>

Operates Mayu Tokyo Woman, a women-only capsule hotel in Tokyo

Chaharu Co. Ltd.

Operates Dogo Onsen Chaharu, a hotel where the generous hospitality of Ehime is mixed with both Japanese and Western comforts, and Chaharu Hanare Dogo Yumekura, where the essence of Ehime can be felt with all five senses.

CAFE AALTO



Cafe Aalto in Kyoto



Cafe Aalto in Helsinki

The first floor of Maja Hotel Kyoto houses the first branch of the Finland-based Cafe Aalto, a cafe located inside Helsinki's Academic Bookstore, which is the work of renowned Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. The Kyoto branch of Cafe Aalto is modeled on the original in Helsinki, and features reproductions of the marble and wooden tables and black leather and brass frame chairs designed by Alvar Aalto exclusively for Cafe Aalto. In a tribute to Aalto, the Kyoto cafe's distinctive blue tiles reproduce the architect's signature wall tiles.

Open from 7 a.m., Cafe Aalto in Kyoto serves breakfast, Finnish-style cinnamon rolls and blueberry pie, traditional Finnish delicacies such as salmon soup, and coffee, wine, and other beverages selected by Cafe Aalto owner and sommelier Marco Saracino. The cafe, which is supported by leading Finnish tableware brand Iittala, uses mainly the Raami line of tableware designed by British product and furniture designer Jasper Morrison.

Cafe Aalto in Kyoto invites guests to immerse themselves in the world of Alvar Aalto and to experience the Finnish lifestyle.

The design of Alvar Aalto



Marble tables, wooden tables, chairs

These tables and chairs were originally designed in 1954 for a cafe in the Rautatalo Building (1955) in Helsinki. After that establishment closed down, Cafe Aalto acquired the furniture, which has been in use at Cafe Aalto in Helsinki since its opening in 1986. The tables and chairs at Cafe Aalto in Kyoto are reproductions created with the permission of the Alvar Aalto Foundation.



Blue tiles

These blue wall tiles, originally designed in 1957, were reproduced for the Kyoto cafe as an homage to Alvar Aalto. The color was changed slightly on this occasion.



A330S Golden Bell Savoy pendant lamp

This iconic lamp was conceived in 1936 for Restaurant Savoy in Helsinki and was first used at the 1937 Paris World's Fair, where it illuminated the Finnish pavilion. Combining beauty of the form with a warm, soft light emitted by a highly functional structure, the lamp is considered an epitome of Alvar Aalto's design philosophy.

A810 floor lamp

Designed by Aalto in 1959 for Villa Kokkonen, a historic home in Järvenpää, Finland.

MENU



BREAKFAST

Aalto | ¥1,500 / Poet's breakfast | ¥1,600

Choose either "Aalto," a traditional Finnish breakfast with toast, ham, cheese, tomatoes, cucumber, and jam, or the "Poet's breakfast" with a croissant and a variety of fruits. The breakfasts can be combined with juice, coffee, or other drinks of your choice.



Salmon soup | ¥1,500

This traditional Finnish dish, a simple soup with large pieces of salmon, potato, carrot, and other vegetables, is best enjoyed with dill and butter.



Cinnamon roll | ¥750

You can't have a Finnish coffee break without a cinnamon roll. Our version, made with the recipe used at Cafe Aalto in Helsinki and to the same size as the original, is flavored with cinnamon and cardamom and topped with pearl sugar.

Blueberry pie | ¥750

Summer is blueberry season in Finland, and Finns love to use the berries they pick to make pies. Our blueberry pie combines ample berries with cream cheese and a satisfyingly crunchy crust.



Coffee | ¥600

Our coffee is selected by Marco Saracino, owner of the original Cafe Aalto in Finland, the country that drinks the most coffee per capita in the world. This mellow medium roast is a Kyoto original.

Beer | ¥750

Lapin Kulta (Finland)

Wine | from ¥500

Selected by Marco Saracino

OTHER | Helsinki Long Drink ¥1,200 (2 drinks)

A gin and grapefruit soda cocktail popular in Helsinki, where it is enjoyed after a sauna and on other everyday occasions. Our mixture marries high-quality craft gin with organic pink grapefruit soda.

Note: All prices are exclusive of consumption tax.

Official name: Cafe Aalto

Address: 92 Tsuchiyacho, Yanaginobanba-dori Rokkaku-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto

Telephone number: 075 205 5476

Website: <https://cafeaalto.jp> (Japan) / <http://cafeaalto.fi> (Finland)

Opening hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Last orders: Breakfast 11:30 a.m., food 9 p.m., drinks 9:30 p.m.

Closing days: None

Area: 106.55m²

Number of seats: 58