

# Penthouse that made Paris gasp

Overawed **Mike Smith** follows in a celeb's footsteps.

PARIS Hilton couldn't hold back her delight when the door opened to her luxury Sydney hotel suite.

"This is beautiful," Hilton said, according to the Sheraton On The Park's managing director Sean Hunt.

It was in January this year, during the socialite's visit to promote a beer, and Mr Hunt was showing her around her \$4025-a-night Royal Suite.

On stepping out onto the 21st-level private balcony, Hilton added: "Your hotel is lovely".

Not much more was said but there was little doubt Hilton was going to enjoy the exquisite and very spacious surrounds of her newfound home-away-from-home — as well as the lavish features that decorated the hotel's prized penthouse.

The view was as spectacular as Sydney could turn on in the midst of summer... a green Hyde Park sprinkled with fairy lights, a majestic St Mary's Cathedral with its twin spires, Woolloomooloo and its restaurants and the glistening waters of the harbour towards the Heads.

Hilton was the first guest to stay in the suite after a massive refurbishment — a far cry from what she later faced when imprisoned in a US cell.

Even a hardened critic would have a chore finding fault with the impressive corner suite.

The lavish Elizabeth St address has had its share of celebrities: John Travolta, Michael Jackson, Kylie Minogue, Michael Bubl ...

We were told the new-look Royal Suite was the vision of international designer Joseph Pang, who was also responsible for the refurbishment of the hotel's Hyde Park Suites.

We also learned the new furnishings were custom-designed, the rich chocolate-coloured timber blending well with the "warm biscuit tones" of the fabric.

After a couple of glasses of bubbly at the 21st level executive

## SUITE TALK

lounge, it was time to venture to the suite.

Like others before us we were greeted with space, and more space, and plenty of glass to allow natural light to filter through and make it feel even larger.

There was enough space at the dining table to entertain another three couples.

And, if for some ungodly reason we wanted to do some work, the executive desk was as comfortable as it looked with its timber and leather features.

Good news, too, that there is high-speed Internet and an iPod dock. Across the room, however, stood a distraction. In front of the cushy lounge and basket of fruit on the coffee table, partly blocking the view of Hyde Park, was a large plasma screen TV, complete with Bose sound system, that would have been a haven for Hilton when she finally had the chance to put up the feet.

And, if she wanted to watch TV from the comforts of the cosy king-sized bed, there was another screen in the bedroom.

There was also a smaller TV in the adjacent brightly presented marble bathroom with its separate shower, spa bath and private timber shutters.

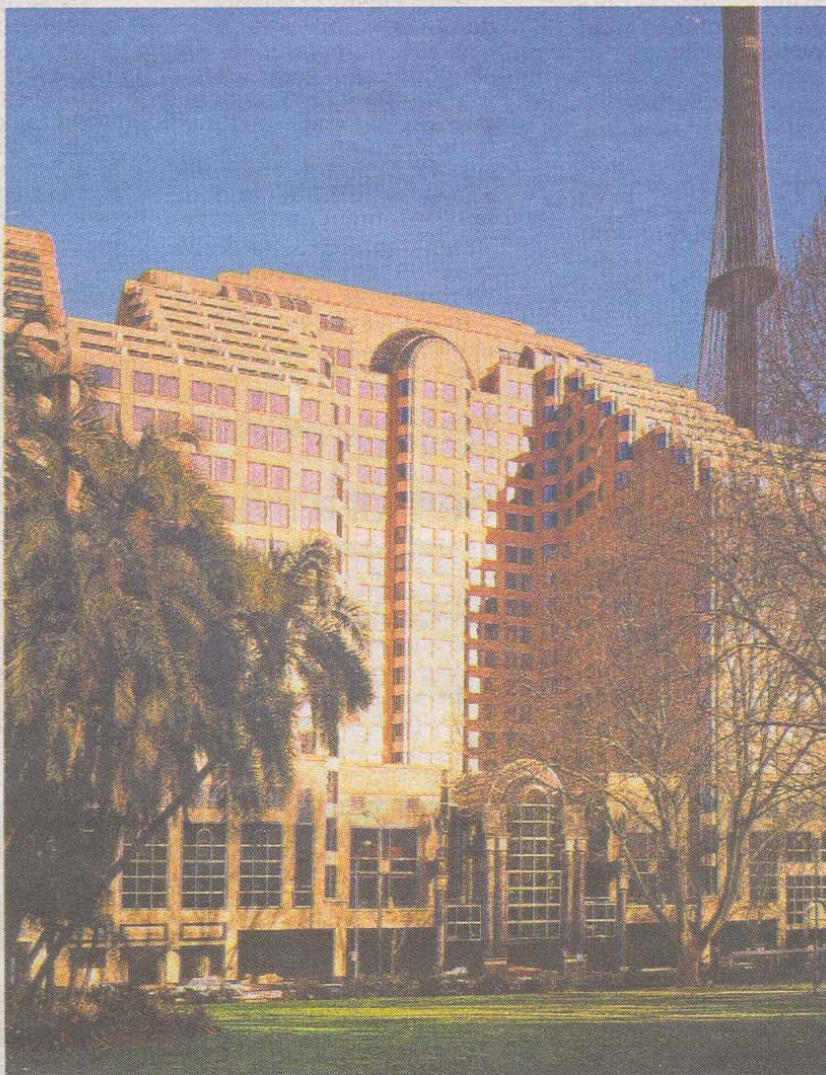
Ms Hilton may not have had the luggage to fill the master walk-in dressing area, but she would have been tempted to go shopping just to fill it.

And, to get into the right mood for chilling out, the smart system lighting controls would have been well received to dim the lights after all the flashes from the cameras of the paparazzi, 21 floors below.

■ The writer was a guest of the Sheraton On The Park.

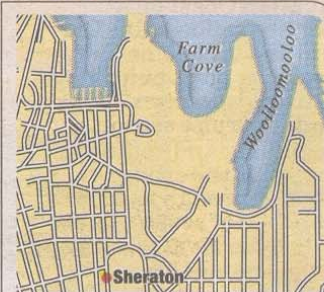


Plush: The lavishly decorated Royal Suite bedroom at Sheraton On The Park



Sun-drenched: Front view of the Sheraton from Hyde Park

DESTINATION >>



**Sheraton On The Park, Sydney**

**Location:** Elizabeth St.

**Packages:** Weekend surprise from \$245 a night on Friday nights, from \$285 a night on Saturday and Sunday nights with an upgrade to a Hyde Park view room, including breakfast for two in Botanica Brasserie, parking and access to the Health Club.

**Hotel dining:** Botanica Brasserie, midweek lunch \$59, Saturday \$69. Dinner \$69, weekends \$95. Bookings (02) 9286 6650 or email fb.reservations@sheraton.com

**Details:** Sheraton On The Park, (02) 9286 6000, [www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/sydney](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/sydney)