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BORN TO RIDE

BINX WALTON
BRINGS ON SPRING



BIG IN JAPAN
A guest room at the Ace Hotel Kyoto, designed by Kengo Kuma and Commune with an East-meets-West perspective. Opposite: A bathroom.

HOT PROPERTY

ACE MOVE

With its new Kyoto outpost, Ace Hotel Group realizes a dream of its late co-founder.

WHEN Ace Hotel Group was looking to open its first property in Japan, the company had none other than Kengo Kuma—the architect behind Tokyo’s new Olympic stadium—scouting Kyoto locations. “He would walk around taking photos on his iPhone,” says Kelly Sawdon, Ace’s chief brand officer. Ace eventually opted for a modernist landmark, the 1926 headquarters of Kyoto’s telephone company, which is incorporated into the 213-room hotel’s courtyard building, conceived by Kuma himself.

With the Kyoto property, Ace has taken the idea of blending East and West as its core principle. Kuma was paired with Los Angeles firm Commune Design, which, says co-founder Roman Alonso, took inspiration from 20th-century Western talents who worked in Japan, such as Charlotte Perriand, and from Japanese-American designers George Nakashima and Isamu Noguchi. Commune collaborated with craftspeople across Japan, creating tatami-topped tables, rolled-futon upholstered pieces,

and textiles and graphics by non-agenarian mingei folk artist Samiro Yunoki. “There are really interesting moments of high luxury and sophistication everywhere,” says Alonso.

Though Ace, which got its start in Seattle in 1999, has only one other location outside North America, in London, opening in Kyoto is like a homecoming. Co-founder Alex Calderwood, who died in 2013, loved Japan and always wanted to open there. “Seeing the hotel come to life now is really special,” says Sawdon. “It was such a dream of Alex’s.” *acehotel.com. —Andrew Sessa*



CHAINS OF COMMAND

Geometric sunglasses pair with chunky chains for a strong summer look. For details see Sources, page 110.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON ©; F. MARTIN RAMIN, STYLING BY ANNE CARDENAS