



# The Entertainment Park Yuzi Paradise

桂林山水甲天下

「愚自樂園」人自愉

Quintessentially Reserre 一書羅列世界百大名旅館，廣西桂林「愚自樂園」是全中國人選其中之一。自古有云「桂林山水甲天下」，石林疊山，鬼斧神工、自然天成固然是先天優勢，若細究其上榜原因，不只是自然環境，而是非凡個性始然。

「愚自樂園」的誕生是台灣籍主人人生的夢想。這堪稱「藝術村」的總體營造，籌備至今快二十多年，全區八仟畝，目前只規劃了八百畝，當中四十六間房客的「蓮之酒店」，前後已有四十七個國家、兩百多位國際藝術家，駐村創作留下各式藝術品。直到今日，當時年長的有些已不在人間，年輕沒沒無聞的，現今卻是國際知名藝術家。支撐起耗資無數的是父子倆的理想，賺得什麼？留下什麼？滿滿村落遍地開花的驚人藝術仙境……。

曹老先生自嘲，此為自愚也！於是「愚自樂園」的名號就此誕生，「自愚而愉人」！特殊卡斯特山景、柔美湖畔、原生松林、蔥郁原野、一望無際的視野，渾然天成的洞窟內滿是萬年鐘乳石、石筍與地下伏流。「愚自樂園」是自然原生與匠師藝術融為一體的人間仙境。也是中國唯一「雙料」入選世界百大旅館



和獲法國羅萊夏朵酒店聯盟 (Relais & Chateaux) 的「樂園」。

搭乘小車環繞藝術園區一周，觀賞草坪上、樹林裡、岩壁上的創作便要耗時兩個小時。八百多畝地上，多以「仙」與「龍」為創作主題，從一九九七年至今已舉辦過十一屆國際雕塑創作營，留下四十七國家兩百多位藝術家大作，是樂園提供吃、住與創作費用，才換得如今壯闊又精緻之場景。

入口處、園形草坪大地（原為水景）佇立各國雕塑家各式作品，一望無際的



大地，真不知從何走起。時而發見掛在石壁上大陸「朱煜」的作品「時裝」；時而發現樹林裡台灣「朱銘」大師「人間舞台系列」、台灣創作家「幾米」的「有問題請舉手」；時而看見藝術館前方德國「伊伯哈爾克」（Eberhard Eckerle）的「魔圈」、旅館前方日本「伊藤隆道」（Takamichi Ito）的「光在風中飛舞」；隨著不等角度看到忽而彎曲波浪、忽而成直石柱，是波蘭大師「芭芭拉·法蘭德」（Barbara Falender）的「水火之間」；暮然轉折突現一方水域，其中豎立一石柱林陣是法國「克萊爾·艾氏肯那伊」（Claire Echkenazi）的「風之林」。趨近中央雕塑草原撒落一地各石雕作品——奧地利「哈特威格·穆雷特

斯」（Hartwig R. Mulleitner）的「平衡」、義大利「希爾瓦諾·卡洛伊」（Silvano Cattai）的「扭轉乾坤」……豐富程度無法勝數！

其間路過一創作工坊，極大比例尺度彷彿像是大理石加工廠、造船廠。而這便是眾藝術家駐村的創作源地，也提供遊客、房客參與版畫、彩繪、陶藝、書法、國畫、傢俱製作。偌大工坊內部，圓筒上方一圈掛著歷來兩百多位藝術家的照片，而筒內卻是極高聳天窗、天光乍洩，讓這創作園地燦爛輝煌。

旅館名曰「蓮之酒店」，多以「蓮」為設計主題。以舊有宿舍 Remodel，像是大地建築逐層退縮形成大斜面，沿草坡一路而上，隨時可爬上達到其巔峰。

四十六間客房，有的東方古韻、現代簡約、洞窟魔幻、民族風情、時而前衛時尚、時有懷舊經典。

隨處可見藝術創作，如令人莞爾的裸身美女樓梯扶手欄杆……不一而足。主館後方是「蓮餐廳」，只見四座巨大鑄銅蓮葉交疊，騰空其下方成爲半戶外玄關，以蓮意象禪味成爲優雅現代美饌主義。內部多爲東方神韻，樟木雕刻大門、白雕花屏風、吧檯皇帝狩獵用的獵椅以及大紅燈籠。中庭部份是「松林咖啡」，在松林裡仍見處處藝術創作於其間，更將巨松樹梢掛上 LED 燈及圓燈籠，於是松林、星空與一輪皎潔明月，舖陳旅人好心情。

著名的國際藝術中心陳列最近創作與





珍藏。新建建築創作靈感來自桂林山水，依勢而築、順勢而為，山景、地景與自然共舞，以30度、60度重疊交錯、層巒疊翠，山勢連綿起伏，既是山水桂林，也是建築意匠。

主人特別推薦必體驗之處——「飛翼SPA」，除了SPA享受之外，各間個室設計各不相同，甚至還有挑空式的SPA房，而其主要空間充滿禪風，天光與流水聲像是洗滌身體也洗滌心情。

而我卻又得到一項極罕有高端接待——「鐘乳石洞火鍋午膳」。主要園區旁另一片未開發更大的山林，約莫有一百座小山，每山必有洞，有洞必有鐘乳石，而當中只開發一處，其它的靜待未來，其中最長的石窟長約兩公里。趨近一座小山，前方水瀑奔騰而下如花果山水簾洞，爬昇入洞又拾級蜿蜒而下幾近六層樓高度之下，到處是石筍與鐘乳石，一反一般石窟潮溼霉味，原來石窟上方打了幾處天窗，採光通風良好之故。再往前更水平深入卻見——「藍洞」名曰「地下伏流」深不見底，藍澄澄地閃耀著金光，令人窒息的唯美「土耳其藍」配襯的是一桌四人份的魚火鍋料理。

美食過程記憶猶新，而場所空間的精神震撼力，留下一場夢囈，不可置信，像是齊天大聖孫悟空的水簾洞。據主人表示大導演李安與英國安德魯王子等稀有貴客都大讚不已！這是中國人或台灣人的驕傲，AMAN、BANYAN TREE、

FOUR SEASON 完全無法提供的。

「桂林山水甲天下，陽朔山水甲桂林」，到了陽朔果然氣宇非凡，但過多的商業性，令人有些心疼。倒是想起這片桂林洞窟，自然與文創產業的結合，獨一無二，筆墨難以形容，依稀殘留著西遊記，齊天大聖到此一遊的驚豔，教人不禁興起「愚自樂園」山水甲陽朔的喟嘆！

<http://www.yuzile.com/>

Quintessentially Reserve, a publication that features 100 of the world's most luxurious and unique retreat hotels, has included the Yuzi Paradise located in Guilin, Guangxi, as one of the most popular retreat place in China. As the old saying goes: "Guilin's landscape is second to none". Although the natural environment has given Guilin an edge, one only has to take a closer look at the reason why Yuzi has been selected to know that it is not just about the natural beauty but also about the extraordinary thought process behind the whole concept.

Yuzi Paradise is the manifestation of a lifelong dream of its Taiwanese owner. This 'art park' has been 20 years in the making, occupying a total of 8000 acres of which only 800 acres have been developed to date. Located within the park is the 46-



room Homa Chateau, adorned with a diverse range of artwork created by more than 200 international artists from 47 countries. To date, some of the older artists have passed on while the others have progressed to become well-known international artists. This beautiful and grandiose dream, funded by the father-son team – is it commercially viable? Or was a legacy created ...of a picturesque village strewn with astoundingly beautiful works of art?

Senior Mr. Tsao has claimed that this is the foolishness to amaze himself! Yuzi paradise is so named because of the pun on the word 'yu' which could mean folly or entertainment – the former meaning describing Mr. Tsao's personal folly while the latter refers to the entertainment of others! So Yuzi Paradise is

the manifestation of one man's foolish dream for the entertainment of others. The famous karst limestone formation, tranquil lake, virgin pine forest, stretching plains beyond eyes can see, natural caves with magnificent age-old stalactites, stalagmites and subterranean streams. Yuzi Paradise is as the heaven made of amalgamation of nature and world-class artists' stunning craftsmanship on earth. This paradise is also China's very first 'twin win', having been named as one of the world's 100 most luxurious hotels & retreats and being initiated into France's Relais & Chateaux franchise. It takes about two hours to ride on the travel cart to enjoy the art works all over around the park. Across the 800 acres of land, most of the art works are themes of 'fairies' and 'dragons'. All these



are works of international artists from 47 countries who had participated in one or more of the 11 annual sculpture symposia, the first of which started in 1997. International artists were invited to these camps at the expense of the park management who sponsored the living expenses, accommodation, and all costs pertaining to the materials and resources needed to create sculptures. The outcome is the magnificent works of art displayed around

the park today.

At the entrance, the round lawn (originally a water feature) is adorned with diverse sculptures, leaving one to wonder where to start. One can find artworks everywhere, the wall hanging entitled “Fashion” by China’s Zhu Yu; Taiwanese master Zhu Ming’s “Earthy Stage” series in the forest; Taiwanese artist Ji Mi’s “Raise your hand if you have a question”; German artist Eberhard Eckerle’s

“Monster Ring” displayed in front of the art museum; Japan’s Takamichi Ito’s “Lights Dancing in the Wind” at the front of the hotel; Polish master Barbara Falender’s “Between Fire & Water” to depict undulating waves or vertical stone pillars by different view angles; then turn around and be accosted by a pool of water from the center of which emerges a stone tower – the work of French artist Claire Echkenazi entitled “Forest of the Winds”. The

lawn in the central is sporadically adorned with myriad stone sculptures – “Balance” by Austrian Hartwig R. Mulleitner; “Turning the Tide” by Italian Silvano Cattai ..... a stunning and rich display that is beyond compare!

Check out the workshop along the way, its massive size as if it uses as a factory for granite and marble works, or for building ships, the answer is none of the above. It

is the creative workshop for all the invited artists, and it also opens to tourists and hotel guests who wish to participate in activities like framing, painting, pottery, calligraphy, traditional painting and furniture making. In the middle section of the workshop stands a cylindrical pillar, filled with the photos of the 200 or so visiting artists, reaching high into the skylight above. Through the window of cylindrical pillar, the light bursts into myriad

rays and shining exuberantly on the creative workshop.

The hotel is called Homa Chateau, based on the lotus theme. Remodeled from old dormitories, it is built into a wall of rock and has a natural slope and grassy pathway which leads to the summit. There are 46 rooms of varied styles – ancient eastern, modern minimalist, cavernous fantasy, folksy – all depicting an eclectic mix of the ultra-trendy



and retro.

Works of art abound e.g. the naked lady adorning the handrails of the stairs, bringing a smile to anyone. At the back of the main hall is the “Lotus Restaurant”, a Zen inspired semi al fresco dining area that serves elegant and modern fusion cuisine under a canopy formed by 4 massive bronze lotus leaves. The interior exudes oriental charm with a carved camphor door, flower engraved

screens, the past emperors’ hunting chairs as bar stools and huge red lanterns. The atrium houses the ‘pine forest café’. With diverse artworks tastefully displayed around and the gigantic pine trees embellished with LED lights and round lanterns, the entire scene depicts the harmonious union of pine trees, the star-studded night sky and brilliant moon – warming the weary traveler. The world-renowned international art center showcases

the most recent artworks and treasures. The ultra-modern architecture draws its inspiration from local Guilin landscape, balances topography with nature, building layer upon layer at 30 and 60 degree angles depicting the undulating slopes and mountain ranges of Guilin – truly an awe-inspiring architectural feat.

The owners strongly recommend the Flying Spa which not only provides top notch spa

services but also an out-of-world experience where every room is styled differently, some intentionally left empty to embrace the Zen spirit of calming harmony. At the spa, expect to be cleansed in both body and soul by comforting by natural light and soothing sounds of gently flowing water. I was treated to have a rare treat – hot pot lunch at a stalactite cave. The huge rock forest that is in a yet-to-be-developed area of the park, there are about a hundred hills of which comprise many caves and stalactites. Among which only one has been developed so far; one of which is about 2 kilometers long being put on the to-do list. Approach a small hill and admire the cascading waterfall concealing the entrance to the cave, much like the mythical ShuiLian Cave of HuaGuo Mountain. Crawl into the cave, up some spiral steps and descend about six floors to a cavernous area filled with stalactites. The expected stale damp air of subterranean caves does not exist due to the holes have been drilled on the cave ceiling, providing ventilation and natural light. Look further inwards to see the ‘blue hole’ - “subterranean stream” of unknown depth. Its breathtaking bright blue waters reflecting golden rays, the Turkish blue illuminating a table of four enjoying meal of fish hotpot.

Although the memory of the delectable meal remains, the ethereal environment is surreal and dreamlike, unbelievable – like the

mythical ShuiLian Cave in the Monkey God legend. According to the owner, privileged guests and VIPs like the famous director Lee An and His Royal Highness – Prince Andrew were full of praise for the artistic setup! This is the pride of the Chinese and Taiwanese, a feat that places like Aman, Banyan Tree and Four Seasons cannot possibly compete with.

“ The Guilin landscape is second to none. Yang Shuo’s landscape is the best among Guilin”. Indeed, Yang Shuo is exquisitely beautiful. However, it is overly commercialized, what a pity. Remembering the splendor of Guilin cave where homogeneity of nature and cultural creativity are second to none, I am at a loss of how to describe it on words. It is a subtle depiction of the mythical journey to the west, an ethereal place visited by the deities. In that context, one would be tempted to say that “Yuzi paradise’s landscape is better than Yang Shuo’s”! 

