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Upper crust

Where work meets leisure in shameless delight

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A STATE-OF-THE-ART CONFERENCE ROOM, a spa that specialises in all forms of treatments, rooms strewn with the best from the tech world: LCDs, Wi-Fi, projectors, self check-in kiosks... But what really whets the appetite of the high flier? Fails us, but not these hotels, who have defied the norm to get to their goal – satisfying the well-heeled business traveller...

THE ZURI
WHITEFIELD, BENGALURU

It is said that at the heart of any good hotel is a rocking discotheque. If that holds water, then The Zuri is the place to be. Made at a whopping cost of 225 crores, its highlight is not the African-themed 162 rooms, but a posy of stress busters it lines up for its residents – a half of an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an up-to-date gymnasium, rooftop teppanyaki bar, Maya spa and the cherry on the top, Bling, the discotheque. The kiwi martini served here is said to be the best in town, and the most ordered drink next only to sake!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Purists may differ, but the African theme is something that grows on you, slowly. Big maharaja sofas, drop-down claw lamps, bubble chandeliers, big vases... the place, with its wide corridors and heavy use of silver, gives the appearance of a modern-day palace rather than a hotel.

Even the main décor in the rooms is a zebra print silver throne and a silver bust of Buddha. But the high point of living here is the in-room massage and the touchscreen-monitored infinity pool that makes you want to swim even on a cold day. However, much of The Zuri's real charm lies in the sense of familiarity it infuses.

You get everything that one expects from a business hotel: international dialling, satellite TV, butler service for club rooms, Wi-Fi-ed surroundings... you name it. Divided into two wings – east for smokers and west for non-smokers – The Zuri boasts of an IT-savvy business centre. But its real strength is the people who work like genies to make your stay pleasurable. Even the food served to you is specially plated by the chef himself.

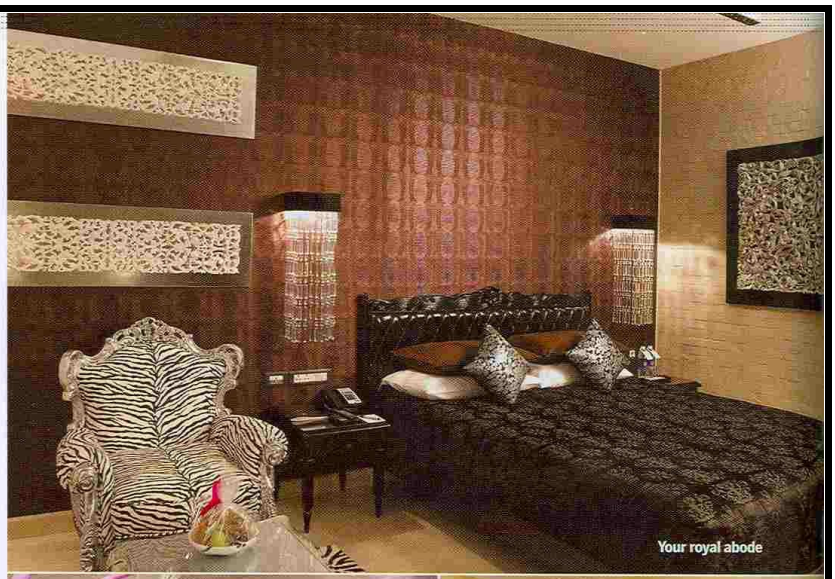
SAYS THE ZURI

"This hotel was created keeping in mind the likes of Richard Branson – people who know what they want and how they want it. And that's the reason why everything here – from the design of the rooms, the layout, food, to the facilities is so very international," says Priti Chand, Asst. VP, Communication.

YOU'D LIKE TO STAY HERE BECAUSE...

Of the tech savvy staff, who use walkie-talkies to ensure quick service, the swimming pool with an open grill and the round-the-clock boutique that houses the best in formal wear – from shirts to ties to wallets – just in case you've lost your luggage or vying for something more weather-suitable.

The icing on the cake is the teppanyaki bar, with a cigar and scotch cellar. It's the only thing that can make you believe that tomorrow everything will be fine.

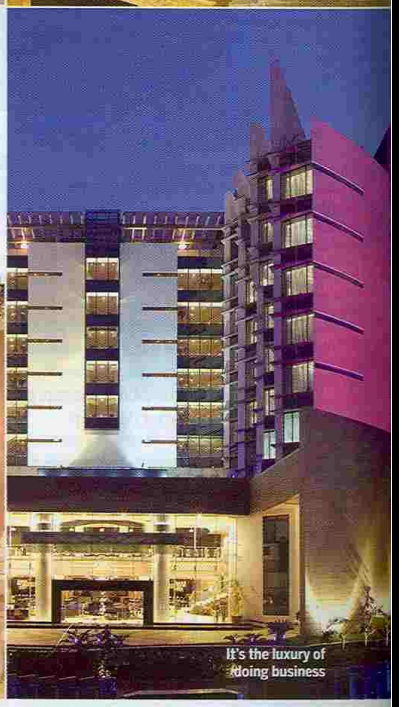

Your royal abode

The bling factor

Maya spa: the feel-good room

DESIGNED FOR THE LIKES OF RICHARD BRANDSON, EVERYTHING HERE – FROM ROOMS TO FOOD TO THE FACILITIES – IS SO VERY INTERNATIONAL

Dine and wine, the Italian style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