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### FONTANA PARK HOTEL LISBON, PORTUGAL



PHOTO GALLERY

This design hotel has been wowing Lisbon since it opened on Boxing Day 2007 in an up-and-coming neighbourhood, north of the city's major sights. The building dates from 1908 and was originally a factory making iron products. Renowned Portuguese architect Francisco Aires Mateus has retained the striking façade and a few wrought-iron features from this period while opening up the central area, adding a courtyard garden with a stunning waterfall wall and cleverly integrating a new construction. The bold lobby and bar area is particularly impressive, with black floors, black furnishings and translucent walls, the starkness softened with greens and browns from floor-to-ceiling pictures of moss and trees. The 139 guest rooms are pared down, with black and white furniture and a few surfaces of micronised cement introducing subtle textures in cream. A little fine-tuning was about to take place at the time of our visit, rethinking ill-placed mirrors and dim lighting in some of the bathrooms; a Japanese restaurant, Bonsai, had yet to open. But the hotel's other restaurant, Saldanha-Mar, serving Mediterranean dishes in an all-white

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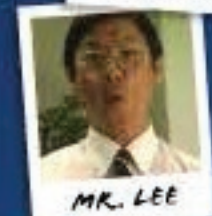
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