

Timeless charm, playful art and the origin story of Japan's ancient capital inspire this urban oasis

# Where Refinement Meets Elegance



Right – The design features elements of 'asobi gokoro'—a playful spirit reflected in quirky signage, ceramics, and door handle details



Above – The design concept blends traditional and contemporary codes to offer a rejuvenating retreat



**B**LINK Design Group has crafted the ultimate urban sanctuary nestled in the historic Higashiyama district of Kyoto, Japan. Surrounded by iconic landmarks, from Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines to traditional architecture framed by cherry blossoms and cedar-covered mountains, the Six Senses Kyoto offers a retreat-like setting while embracing the concept of *miyabi* – a heightened refinement and appreciation of nature.

BLINK's philosophy of 'placemaking' is central to the project, beginning with a deep dive into the Heian era, a period of refined sensibilities and poetic subtlety. Biophilic design elements, such as pocket gardens, *ikebana* and natural materials, connect guests with nature, enhancing well-being and creating contemplative spaces throughout the hotel. Traditional elements like *washi* partitions

and *Sakan* plasterwork complement the modern biophilic touches, honouring Kyoto's historical artistry. Local arts and artisans play a key role in Six Senses Kyoto, providing guests with unique, culturally enriching experiences. The design features elements of *asobi gokoro* – a playful spirit reflected in quirky signage, ceramics and door handle details. Inspired by the Tale of Genji, the lobby sets the tone with *orihon*-style folded ceiling details and *hiromi* paper screens.

The resort's dining area, *Sekki*, draws inspiration from the life of a tree, offering textures reminiscent of Kyoto's imperial gardens. *Café Sekki* evokes rock gardens with a raw aesthetic, while *Nine Tails* cocktail lounge features intimate seating and live herb displays. The rooftop bar and banquet spaces pay homage to Heian-period architecture and the layered elegance of Kyoto's traditional attire. The Six Senses Kyoto spa reinterprets *onsen* bathing and the calming effects of moving water, blending traditional and contemporary wellness practices to offer a rejuvenating retreat. The hotel combines thoughtful design rooted in Kyoto's cultural heritage and a commitment to luxury and sustainability throughout.