



## Ohtel

One of Wellington's swankiest seaside neighbourhoods, Oriental Bay, is home to one of the city's swankiest hotels, Ohtel. Not only does the spot make for one of the best night-time views of the city but it's only a stone's throw away from many of the city's top attractions, which include restaurants and clubs, theatres, Te Papa and of course, Oriental Bay beach.

This is, of course, if you can actually bring yourself to leave your room, each one, a unique masterpiece of mid-20th century modern chic and design, and an utterly unique experience – a testament to the owner, Alan Blundell's taste and his obvious love for auction houses. Each of the boutique hotel's ten rooms have been individually kitted out with 1950s and '60s-style furniture, lighting and decorations, which act as the perfect counterpoint to the hotel's contemporary architecture and artwork.

The styling cues might be care of the 1950s but the technology is well and truly 21st century. Complimentary high-speed internet outlets are provided in all rooms with wi-fi in the lobby. On demand digital audio, Sky, podcasts and local TV are presented care of a media centre and LCD flat screen.

Sure, the rooms are a slick homage to chic design but at the same time, they are completely unpretentious. They still feel like the kind of place you can relax in comfort. And integral to this are the impressive bathrooms, which actually form a focal point for each room. Large expanses of glass reveal luxurious two-person baths and oversized showers. Each bathroom also gets a large panoramic backdrop of New Zealand scenery care of photos taken by Blundell on his trips around the country.

An architect originally, Blundell was so inspired by the hip designer urban hotels he experienced on a trip to New York that the seed for his own New Zealand version was sown.

Blundell sat on the boutique hotel idea until, unexpectedly, the perfect site came on the market – at the city end of Oriental Bay, tucked into the steep coastal cliff face just across the road from Waitangi Park. The site was small but big enough for exactly the type of hotel that Blundell had in mind.

While the superb architecture and fit-out might have benefited from Blundell's design background, the hotel hasn't forgotten about the other important areas of luxury accommodation. Ohtel's utterly professional staff make you feel entirely welcome without being overbearing – an important line to maintain in a small boutique hotel.

While the hotel doesn't have a full room service menu or in-house restaurant, it does serve breakfast, café-style meals and drinks in hotel's stylish lobby. If you need something of more substance, there are some of the city's best restaurants just a quick walk away. But then again, you would have to bring yourself to leave your room.

Ohtel offers up two suites, four deluxe rooms and four studios with room rates ranging between \$250 and \$450 depending on selection and season. **M2W**

Ohtel  
66 Oriental Parade, Wellington  
04 8030600  
ohtel.com