

New Hotel, Part of a Renewal Project, Opens in Naples

Naples isn't exactly known for its sleek architecture, but the Romeo Hotel, which opened last month, might help change the city's crumbling Old World image. The Romeo, an 85-room hotel designed by the Tokyo-based Kenzo Tange Associates, is the first step of an initiative to transform the area between Piazza Municipio and the cruise ship terminals into a tourist-friendly promenade.

Standout features include a rooftop restaurant, guest rooms decorated in earth tones with Tabu wood floors, an open-space lobby with a cigar room, a music lounge, a sushi bar and another bar, a 7,600-square-foot spa on the penthouse floor and 22 suites with dramatic views of Mount Vesuvius and Capri.

The hotel also has an impressive art collection, which includes the works of the painter Francesco Clementa and the sculptor and painter Lello Esposito, and a permanent photography exhibition that celebrates the culture and traditions of Naples. Nightly rates start at 330 euros, or \$432, at \$1.34 to the euro (www.romeohotel.it).

