"A rare example of minimalism in

Singaporean Buddhist architecture."

JILLIAN JAPKA

Minimalissimo

Reading Room

Jillian Japka

In a quiet neighbourhood of Singapore, far from the hustle and bustle of city life, sits the unassuming Reading Room. Guided by Buddhist principles, the design was created as a space to contemplate, relax, and escape from the outside world. As with all of Right Angle Studio's designs, the intent was to create an engaging and timeless environment. This concept is further amplified by the influence of Buddhism in the space.

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The design is sleek and modern, yet reminders of tradition abound. While minimalist in nature, the room is full of an eclectic mix of old and new architecture and artefacts. The rice paper room dividers, the sprinkling of traditional furnishings, and the symbolic art pieces merge seamlessly with the contemporary interior design. Stone plinths flank the reception desk, a rough contrast against the smooth wood. And nature itself-living plant life—is a crucial feature of the room. Reading Room intentionally breaks from other Buddhist designs in Singapore. Typically, Buddhist architecture uses a lot of gold and opulence, which can symbolise luxury. Right Angle Studio redirects visitors to the more spiritual aspects of Buddhism with the natural colours and subtle forms in their design.



