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“A rare example of minimalism in Singaporean Buddhist architecture.”

JILLIAN JAPKA

Minimalissimo

Reading Room

Jillian Japka
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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.

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. Signs of nature are also present in the interior: the wood panelling covering the walls, floors, and ceiling is light enough to allow the grain to peer through. 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. Bookshelves and architectural nooks hold symbols of Buddhism. These objects feel more like a part of the architecture due to their careful placement within the design. Lighting is used to draw attention to specific pieces, therefore signifying their importance. The plant life scattered throughout the space were sourced from a local Bonsai master.

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.

Full article –
www.minimalissimo.com/articles/reading-room