

IN-STORE

## Shangri-La evokes Chinese tradition in Shanghai Tang-decorated Christmas tree

November 30, 2015



*Ornaments on the Shanghai Tang tree*

By STAFF REPORTS

Hotelier Shangri-La is celebrating its Asian heritage at its property at The Shard in London through the placement of a one-off Christmas tree decorated by Shanghai Tang.

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Shanghai Tang, a Hong Kong-based high-end apparel brand, was inspired by the mythical traditions and romantic legends of China, thus connecting Western and Chinese culture in one effort. Unveiled Nov. 17, the Shangri-La Christmas Tree brings holiday cheer to the property's public space and is elevated further by the floral designs of the hotel's florist, Laura Kuy.

Deckin' the halls

The tree is decorated with two styles of brass ornaments. The ornaments have a clean, modern aesthetic that references the traditional Chinese auspicious elements of the Hulu and Double Fish.

Shanghai Tang selected these motifs as a representation of China's culture and symbolic beliefs and to spread goodwill and wishes of fortune during the holiday season. The tree is topped with a gold star to connect the effort to Western culture.

As explained by Shangri-La, the Hulu is an ancient fruit that represents good fortune and protection. The Hulu is shaped as a figure eight and was originally hollowed out to be used a vessel to carry precious items. Said to have magical properties, the Hulu protects the bearer from evil spirits.

The Double Fish is a symbol of love, harmony and abundance. It is also a metaphor for a harmonized state and is associated with a blissful, romantic union.

SHANGHAI TANG  
上海滩



*Illustration for the Shanghai Tang Christmas Tree at Shangri-La, at the Shard in London*

To hang each ornament, Shanghai Tang selected ribbons of red, blue and yellow with a star print. These pops of color reflect the brand's "wit, creativity and imagination."

Overall, the collaboration is representative of the influence of Chinese culture and global trends.

Elsewhere in the British capital, fashion label Burberry took on the project of designing the famous Christmas tree in the lobby of Claridge's hotel in London.

In an ongoing tradition honoring fashion from around the world, the tree has been decorated by designers from a variety of different countries over the past five years. By partnering with Burberry for this year's collaboration, Claridge's is celebrating British heritage for the first time, making it an especially exciting holiday spectacle ([see story](#)).

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