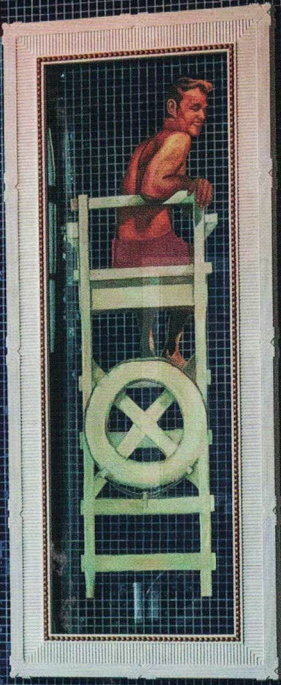
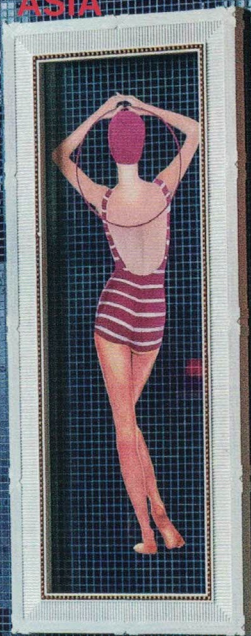


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Hotel de la Coupole, Sapa, Vietnam

A

STAY AT THIS GRANDIOSE Bill Bensley–designed hotel is like a night at the museum. The designer spent five years collecting antiques from Parisian flea markets to represent the hotel’s French haute-couture concept, a nod to the wealthy colonialists who used Sapa as a hilltop retreat at the turn of the 20th century. Reminders of local hilltribe culture are also everywhere you turn, with Matra indigo batiks cloaking elevator walls and lampshades that evoke the tribe’s structured headwear and silver jewelry. The hotel’s 249 rooms rise straight into Sapa’s perpetual cloud cover, complementing the moody design and the eponymous glass-domed rooftops with a constant misty backdrop. During clear moments, the balcony from my emerald-painted Deluxe room framed Fansipan Mountain, the highest peak on the Indochinese Peninsula. Should you wish, you can reach that peak directly from Hotel de la Coupole via cable car. hoteldelacoupole.com; doubles from VND6,696,000. —ELOISE BASUKI

