

Hutong Hideaways

A trio of hutong (laneway) hotels in Beijing's historic heart offer traditional courtyard living with a contemporary twist.

story by **Helena Iveson**

True to its name, 3+1 Bedrooms (17 Zhangwang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie; 86-10/6404-7030; 3plus1bedrooms.com; doubles from US\$146) has just three minimalist rooms plus a suite, all with their own garden courtyards. Stark white decor and industrial-chic flourishes complement the colorful street life outside, which guests can watch from the property's rooftop terrace. **At the other end of the design spectrum, Duge Courtyard Boutique Hotel (26 Qianyanensi Hutong, Nanluoguxiang; 86-10/6406-0686; dugecourtyard.com; doubles from US\$307) is bright and flamboyant, conceptualized by Belgian jeweler Jehanne de Biolley and her husband Harrison Liu Li Nian. Each of the 10 guest rooms is unique: the Imperial suite shimmers with burnished gold, while the Oriental Train room comes with lush brocades and monogrammed wallpaper.** And just steps away is Guxiang 20 (20 Nanluoguxiang; 86-10/6400-5566; guxiang20.com; doubles from US\$110), where 28 charcoal-hued rooms are equipped with mod cons like wall-mounted plasma TVs and Wi-Fi. Don't miss the views from the rooftop tennis court.

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