



Case Study | klapsons, The Boutique Hotel, Singapore  
Total light control experience at hotel guestrooms



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**The Challenge:** To make lighting an integral element of this chic and sassy business hotel, creating a sense of freshness during the day and romance in the evening.

Situated in the heart of Singapore's central business district, klapsons is a four-storey boutique design hotel which aims to differentiate itself from other conventional hotels by being fun and innovative.

The hotel aims to create a unique experience for guests — a place that is cosy, personal and home-like. The core design theme is about celebrating being singular — no two of the seventeen rooms are the same, bringing freshness and new perspectives to both business and leisure travellers.

In addition to the luxurious amenities and designer furniture placed in the rooms, klapsons also values the convenience of modern technology and this is where Lutron plays an important role — it offers klapsons' guests a sense of quality as soon as they step into the hotel.

#### Project Requirements

- To help klapsons become a fun and innovative place that differentiates itself from other conventional hotels
- To create a home-like and unique staying experience for guests of the hotel
- Comprehensively manage lighting and control tropical sunlight throughout the property
- To provide distinct atmosphere during breakfast, lunch and dinner operations for in-house contemporary restaurant — Lucas

## The First Hotel in Singapore that Combines Commercial and Hospitality Space

The owners of the klapsons, The Boutique Hotel attempted to bring a new perspective to conventional business and leisure travel to Singapore by providing a hip and fashionable hotel with quiet sophistication and a subtle sense of designer luxury that affords functionality.

In early 2000, when Adrian Lee, Director of klapsons, The Boutique Hotel, took over the office development Tower Fifteen, he noticed a large plot of land beside it that lay undeveloped. Thinking of introducing a unique design-inspired luxury hotel to Singapore, he decided to build a boutique hotel targeting business travellers. Three years later, Adrian finally put together a compact and niche hotel that combines commercial and hospitality space in a location second to none.

### Design for a Memorable Stay

Renowned designer William Sawaya of Sawaya & Moroni set the design tone of klapsons as “contemporary luxury”. Welcoming the guests upon arrival at the hotel is a unique stainless steel sphere that functions as the reception and check-in desk. The ceiling, like the sphere, is designed to

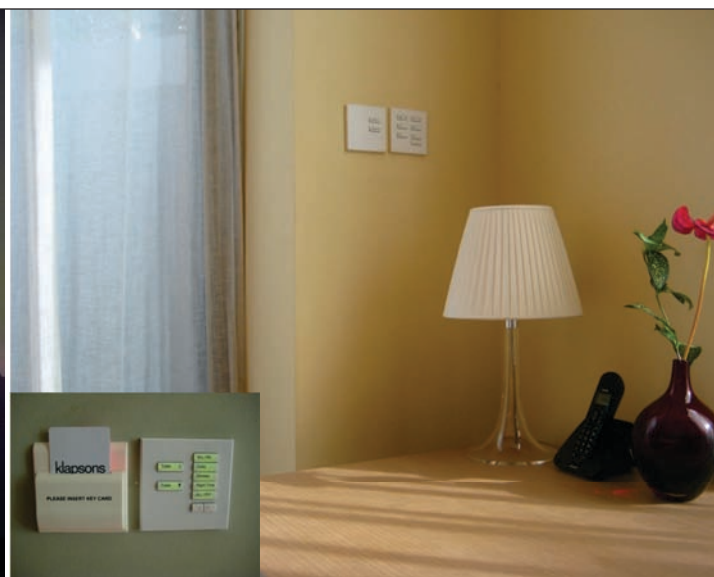
harmonise and bring life to the entire lobby. Made up of three tiers of free form organic shapes, it invokes illuminating lights that flush the entire lobby in hues from the colour spectrum. Surrounding it is the hotel lobby that is equipped with a modern LED lighting system where the background tones can vary to match different moods at different hours of the day.

The same design flair is also found along the corridors leading to the guestrooms, in which profiles of light indicate the doors. To obtain the largest possible number of rooms, the space of each room has limited width but extends considerably in depth. Whether it's a choice of the standard rooms or the klapsons suite experience, the guests would expect a thoughtfully configured room with a unique setting.

Redefining the notion of the bath, shell-shaped and cylindrical-styled showers, even an open-cube rain shower flanked with full length mirrors and colour changing LED lights have been incorporated for an unparalleled experience.







“At klapsons, we focus on innovation and delivering the best experience. Lighting plays an integral role in this and Lutron had the resources and capabilities to achieve what we intended.” – Adrian Lee, Director, klapsons

### How Lights Work

For many years, lighting did not play any important role in many hotels. However, at klapsons, lighting is integral to the hotel design which stems from three philosophies — functionality, innovation and timelessness.

All indirect lights are LED-powered, giving off a sense of freshness during the day and a romantic ambience in the evening with alternation of colours and light intensity. To achieve this effect without increasing operational and maintenance costs, the hotel has specified Lutron's LCP128™ Lighting Control System as the main lighting controller. All changes of light settings at different times provide the option for klapsons' staff to manually select the appropriate preset lighting scenes to suit their needs.

### Total Light Control Experience

When guests at the hotel insert their key cards to enter the rooms, lights inside the guestroom will be automatically turned on to a day-time welcome mode — both the day and night curtains will open automatically and silently; soft lights will be switched on in the darker parts of the room. Upon entering the rooms at night, a night-time welcome mode will be turned automatically on. The night curtains will be drawn, the day curtains closed and a warm light activated.

Sharing Lutron's philosophy that "lighting control should include control of natural light", klapsons also installed Lutron's Sivoia QED™ quiet-electronic-drive shades to allow precision control of natural light into all rooms. The hotel has thoughtfully installed the light control keypad next to the bed in every guestroom for easy accessibility and convenience. At the touch of a button, guests can control both natural and artificial light sources using Lutron seeTouch™ keypad with backlit and engraved buttons. These buttons display every light scene selection at a glance including "Shower", "All ON" and "Night Time", and separate buttons to control electronic shades without affecting the current light level. Guests can easily and conveniently control the exact lighting environment they desire, even in the dark.

“I know that if anything goes wrong, Lutron is just a phone call away. Their post-sales support and reliability ensures no downtime at klapsons.” – Adrian Lee, Director, klapsons



### Lucas

Lutron also plays an important role in the hotel's contemporary restaurant, Lucas. With floor-to-ceiling glass windows, the restaurant has to deal with the influx of bright tropical daylight which can become an issue during busy lunch hours. As such, a special lighting design is set for this area and Lutron LCP128 system helps the restaurant create the right lighting environment for the right time. Different atmospheres are set for breakfast, lunch and dinner hours through different combinations of lighting, mood and table set-up.

As a restaurant, Lucas also needs a stable light level that does not flicker to maintain a good ambience. Lutron's patented RTISS™ (Real-Time Illumination Stability System) technology filters the electric current before it goes through the lighting control device, ensuring high stability and quality lighting effects.

### Quality and Reliability Count

According to Mr Lee, the final decision to deploy Lutron's lighting control system at klapsons was mainly due to Lutron's reliability and expertise. Having deployed Lutron's lighting control system in his other projects, Lee had confidence in Lutron's brand and products. Moreover, Lutron is a brand that continues to enhance and innovate, aligning with klapsons' philosophies — functionality, innovation and timelessness.

Another reason behind klapsons' choice is Lutron's standing as the only manufacturer of control systems for both electric light and natural light. The seamless integration of the control of all light sources offers a virtually silent environment. In addition, the energy-saving features on Lutron's lighting control system was both eco- and cost-friendly.

### The Light Speaks

Although it took more than one month to programme the correct light setting in all guest rooms, lobby and the restaurant at klapsons, the results speak for itself. Staff of klapsons also found the Lutron light control system intuitive and easy to operate. “Most importantly,” said Lee, “Many of our guests expressed that they have never seen a system that integrates the control of electric light and curtains, which is very impressive. It also gives a sense of quality to our guests when they enter the room. The thoughtfulness of design is reflected in the details.”



## Project Credits:

### Client:

klapsons, The Boutique Hotel

### Architect:

RSP Architects Planners & Engineers

### Interior Designer:

Sawaya & Moroni SPA

### Lighting Designer:

William Sawaya, Sawaya & Moroni SPA

### Lighting Control Systems:

LCP128™ Lighting Control System

HomeWorks® Lighting Control System

Sivoia QED™ Electronic-drive Window Shades

International SeeTouch™ keypad

### Awards:

World Travel Awards Nominations:

2010 Asia's Leading Design Hotel

2010 Asia's Leading New Hotel

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