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## Travel & Indulgence

# Home comfort in the heart of the city

- ROOM AT THE INN: Susan Kurosawa
- From: [The Australian](#)
- November 28, 2009 12:00AM
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Rest at Quest World Square, Sydney. *Source:* The Australian

**LOCATION is everything when it comes to city accommodation. We are at the southern neck of the Sydney CBD, a hop from our city pad, which has been appropriated temporarily by one of my sons.**

(No need to look amazed; mothers the world over allow such things.) So we are almost at home, even if, miracle of miracles, invisible hands make the bed and fluff up the towels.

We are revelling in bags of space at a one-bedroom apartment at Quest World Square (not in the building of that name, as such, but diagonally opposite it). This is our favourite part of the city. Din Tai Fung, the Taiwanese dumpling house at which we are regulars, is across the road in the city block-sized World Square building. On its lower-ground floor is the well-named Miracle Asian supermarket while the Japan City shop on the upper ground level is a trove of paper gifts.

There are sushi-train joints, the excellent Thai Express restaurant and homewares stores, fashion boutiques and beauty outlets, all seemingly thriving at this buzzy Chinatown end of the city.

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The Quest serviced apartment formula has been a real success story, especially for corporate travellers, but savvy holidaymakers are also realising the value-for-money angle of apartments with defined living areas, kitchens and laundries. The first Quest was opened by the group's chairman and chief executive, Paul Constantinou, in 1988 in Victoria and the group is now the largest of its kind in Australasia, with more than 125 serviced-apartment properties.

Constantinou identified the need for home away from home extended-stay accommodation for frequent travellers long before this trend took off. There are Quests at beach locations, next to airports, bang in city centres and in regional Australian and New Zealand towns.

Its accommodation directory is a healthy 164 pages, with two in the Sydney CBD and eight across the city's suburbs. I am embarrassed to admit I had no idea of the brand's scale and scope until my stay at Quest World Square; reading hotel directories in bed is nerdy, even for a travel editor, but at least I now know there are Quests with names as showy as Quest Grande Esplanade (in Sydney's Manly) and as inviting as Quest Mount Maunganui (in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty).

Back at Quest World Square, there's a gas cooktop, oven, fridge and microwave in the small but well-equipped open kitchen. The laundry is fitted with a washing machine, clothes dryer, iron and board. There's a flat-screen television (with selected Foxtel channels) and DVD player, work desk with plenty of power points, contemporary furnishings and whisper-quiet airconditioning. Add the pool, gym and meeting rooms and all that's missing from a conventional hotel set-up is an on-site restaurant.

Flexibility seems to be the keynote, with sofa beds at \$45 a night for extra guests, secure basement parking at \$35 a night (not cheap, but that's Sydney for you) and a choice of 72 rooms (studios and one or two-bedroom units; all have balconies). It's not going to win any design awards but the property deserves its 4 1/2-star rating. And if you want more of a funk factor, just head to the art deco-style Quest Potts Point, formerly The Storrier.

\* \* \*

### Checklist

**Quest World Square**, 2 Cunningham St, Sydney. (02) 9291 1900; questworldsquare.com.au.

**Tariff:** One-bedroom apartments from \$189 if booked online; daily rate is lower if booked for longer stays. In-room internet package from \$20.

**Getting there:** Twelve kilometres from Sydney airport; easy walk from Central station (with a light bag).

**Checking in:** Corporate guests and families.

**Wheelchair access:** Yes; two specially equipped rooms.

**Bedtime reading:** The Quest Accommodation Directory and, glamorously, *The Woman in the Lobby*, a novel by Lee Tulloch set in Europe's grand hotels.

**Stepping out:** Chinatown is in the neighbourhood; walk down to the oasis-like Chinese Gardens at Darling Harbour.

**Brickbats:** The one-way street system is a pain if driving; print out a map to work out the tricky access into Cunningham Street from Pitt Street.

**Bouquets:** Good value and well-located alternative to a mainstream hotel. A pantry service of pre-ordered groceries and drinks is offered to guests, ideal if checking in at night.

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