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## Old Buildings For New Boutiques

### By Chic Retreats

One of the characteristics that unites many boutique hotels is the buildings they occupy.

Whilst the majority of new chain hotels are often built from scratch, or simply updated from previous hotels, many boutiques choose to operate from historic or unusual premises. Often, the type of building the hotel is in informs the design, facilities and services. It's the building and its location that often provides the draw for guests.

#### Private houses

Many boutiques have been created from private houses. In cities, it's often the town house that undergoes renovation, with owners keeping key design features such as moulded ceilings and stained glass windows. Older houses have rooms with fantastic proportions, making them ideal hotel rooms and their central location is very attractive to holiday makers and business travellers alike. Rural homes, chalets or lake-side villas also give the guest a true feeling of home-from-home, whilst providing a luxurious retreat.

#### Listed buildings

Listed buildings in the UK and their equivalents around the world are popular choices with boutique hotel owners. This is because they have a wealth of original features and are often in perfect locations. Listed buildings also come with their own planning and refurbishment rules and regulations which mean that owners have to work within strict guidelines when it comes to design. This in turn leads to innovative problem solving, enhancing the appeal of the hotel.

#### Industrial buildings

These buildings often provide the greatest scope for design and therefore ooze individuality and charm. The great spaces mean that rooms can be large and contemporary, whilst the design reflects the previous use of the building. These buildings are often right in the middle of areas undergoing redevelopment and are perfect for creating a boutique hotel.

### Religious buildings

Disused chapels, monasteries and convents are all buildings that can be brought to new life as boutique hotels. The simplicity of these buildings means that they are sympathetic to many design styles and their cool interiors, impressive stonemasonry and woodwork are the perfect canvass for a new design. Often in rural settings, these buildings provide an excellent opportunity for boutique hotel owners.

The change in the economical make-up of many countries means that older, beautiful buildings are increasingly being released by businesses, which are reducing workforces or moving to newer, cheaper premises. This leaves a wealth of stunning architecture that can be put to good use as small, independent hotels.

Chic Retreats is a collection of small, individual hotels around the world that offer the traveller a true taste of luxury and service. Visit our website now by clicking

<http://www.chicretreats.com>

### **Metal Prefab Buildings Offer A Number Of Benefits Over Building With Wood**

#### **By Martin Bostich**

When considering a building project, one might hear the term 'prefab' or metal prefab buildings as a possible option. But what exactly does 'prefab' mean? 'Prefab' is simply a shorter way of saying prefabrication, which is the making of the parts that are ready to be used in another location for assembly. The use of prefab buildings and metal prefab buildings became quite widespread during the 20th century and proved to be able to provide factory made parts that save time and many believe improve quality.

The use of metal prefab buildings is a fairly new concept, but the utilization of prefab materials in building isn't as new of an idea. In fact, the world's earliest known organized roadway called the Sweet Track was prefabricated during the 3800's BC in England.

When looking at metal prefab buildings, there are many that are available in steel and steel has many advantages when using it instead of wood for building. When you use steel in your metal prefab buildings, you can count on the fact that the metal won't crack, warp or even splinter. Metal prefab buildings also won't rot in any condition and is unsusceptible to the kind of pests that cause problems when using wood materials.

Metal prefab buildings are designed and manufactured under the strictest of standards. As a result, manufacturers and consumers benefit because of the reduced building material and trim waste in addition to loss due to inadequate pieces of wood. Because metal prefab buildings offer these benefits ahead of time, builders can enjoy less site cleanup, time spent in removing waste and any costs during this process.

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While wood burns very easily, metal prefab buildings do not, so residents have less of a fire risk and can sometimes enjoy insurance discounts for this reason. Metal prefab buildings have also achieved the highest earthquake shock criteria for safety.

Another advantage of using metal prefab buildings is that they are much stronger than any other common building material. When it comes to the design of metal prefab buildings, the strength allows for more flexibility and they can allow for larger interior spaces. Contrary to myths and urban legends, metal prefab buildings never interfere with radio or television reception.

If you purchase a high quality metal prefab building, they will normally be designed for your specific area and your local building codes to provide you with the best possible structure for your application.

The author is a building contractor who supplies articles for

<http://www.quality-steel-buildings.com>

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