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River Birches Lodge

NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Turangi, a trout fisherman's town on the banks of New Zealand's Tongariro River, is typically associated with 70's-era lodges, where deer heads adorn pine walls. The remote River Birches aims for a dramatically different aesthetic. Created by Jason and Rebeca Bleibtreu, a globe-trotting couple based in Bangkok, the cedar inn is an East-meets-West collage of Thai silk curtains, Maori weavings, native rimu wood, and Burmese furniture. The three guest rooms are a stone's throw from the river's best angling pools; request the Admiral's Room, which comes with a private outdoor cedar hot tub sheltered by monster ponga ferns. At night, wrap yourself in a wool throw and listen to the sounds of the Tongariro River.

19 Koura St., Turangi, North Island, New Zealand; 64-7386-0445; www.riverbirches.co.nz; doubles from \$, including breakfast

The Admiral's Room
at River Birches,
above. Above left:
The drawing room.