

SPECIAL TRAVEL ISSUE

Town & Country

ESTABLISHED IN 1846

DREAMY GETAWAYS

NEW YORK:
BEST NEW
HOTELS

ISTANBUL:
AN INSIDER'S
GUIDE

KAUAI:
HAWAII'S
WILD
HEART

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A ROAD
TRIP TO
REMEMBER

PLUS:
DOS & DON'TS
OF FAMILY
TRAVEL

APRIL 2010 \$4.50

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Hilary Rhoda in
Ralph Lauren Collection

SIX IN THE CITY

NEW YORK, THE CITY THAT
FAMOUSLY NEVER SLEEPS,
FINALLY HAS HALF A DOZEN
REMARKABLE NEW PLACES
TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
BY AMY LARocca



Uptown gets a serious dose of downtown artsiness with the remake of the Mark Hotel, done by color-obsessed interior designer Jacques Grange. The lobby, shown here, is a Pop Art tableau of stripes, circles and mix-and-match fabrics.



6 The Mark Hotel

A WHO'S WHO OF SERVICE AND DESIGN

BEST SUITED FOR: The kind of sophisticated traveler who knows her Porthault from her Pratesi but chooses, as does the Mark, Quagliotti instead.

The Mark used to be a traditional, quiet Upper East Side hotel where European bankers would park during a monthlong stay or movie stars would check in, hoping to fly under the radar. After two and a half years of renovations under the exacting eye of decorator Jacques Grange, it remains all these things, but now it has an unmistakable shot of glamour. The lobby is all black-and-white marble, and every last detail in the 150 rooms is a work of art commissioned expressly for the Mark and overseen by Pierre Passebon, the hotel's "curator." The results include furniture by Anne and Vincent Corbière, lamps by Ron Arad and free-form sofas by Vladimir Kagan and Paul Mathieu. Hardcover books illustrated by Jean-Philippe Delhomme provide a rundown of who's who and are found in every guest room, in case your knowledge of important designers is rusty.

The name-dropping doesn't stop with the design: the daily shoeshine is administered by a "shoeshine-ologist" from the bootmaker John Lobb, and if it seems that the staff look exceptional, that's because Turnbull & Asser designed their suits. And then there are the ordinary luxuries, too: flat-screen TVs embedded in the bathroom mirrors, and heated towel racks. Should any of the high-tech in-room gadgets give you a hard time, the hotel has a geek squad of IT consultants on call twenty-four hours.

STANDOUT: The Mark's well-honed services, provided by a dream team every bit as meticulous as the one that handled the design. The gym is operated and supervised by John Sitaras, a trainer who studied at Lenox Hill Hospital and has appeared on *Charlie Rose*. There's a Frédéric Fekkai salon staffed by some of the chain's most popular stylists (Martha Stewart's hairdresser, for one, who de-camped for the Mark, bringing his most famous client with him), and all the food is handled by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, whose newest restaurant, the Mark, is just off the lobby. *Doubles from \$495. Madison Avenue at 77th Street; 212-744-4300; themarkhotel.com.* ✕