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OCTOBER 2017

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Greatest hits + new releases from 21 Guest Editors

Dieter Rams | Hedi Slimane | Jeff Koons

Louise Bourgeois | Rei Kawakubo | Zaha Hadid

Karl Lagerfeld | Philippe Starck | David Lynch

Robert Wilson | Christian Marclay | Kraftwerk

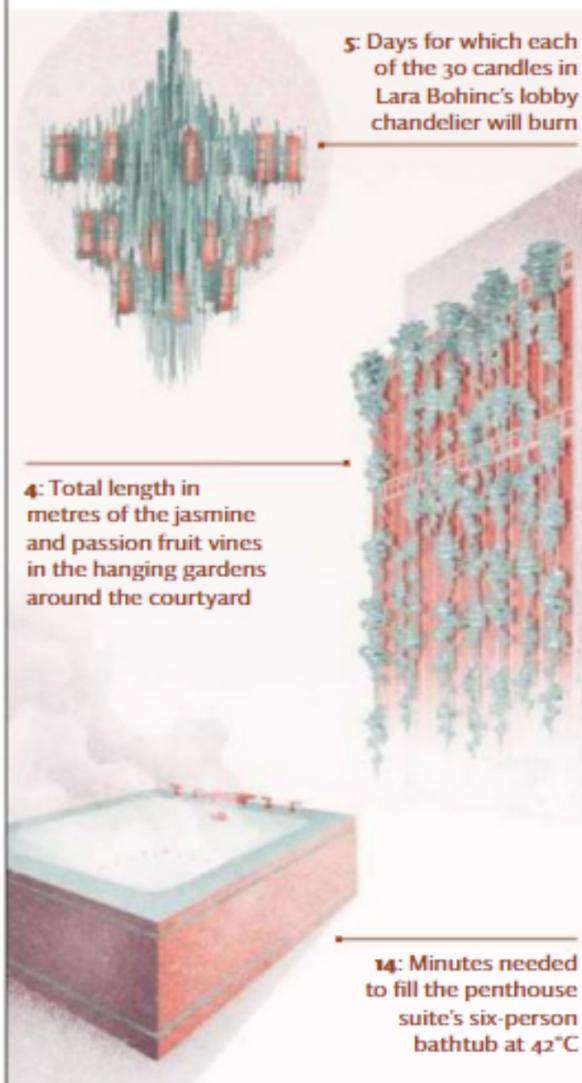
Lang Lang | Ole Scheeren | Taryn Simon

Elmgreen & Dragset | Laurie Simmons | Frank Gehry

Jean Nouvel | Liz Diller | William Wegman

ARTFUL LODGER

High-end hedonism in Fitzrovia, watery vistas in Chicago and a modernist spin in Hyde Park – our pick of the best hotel openings and reimaginings

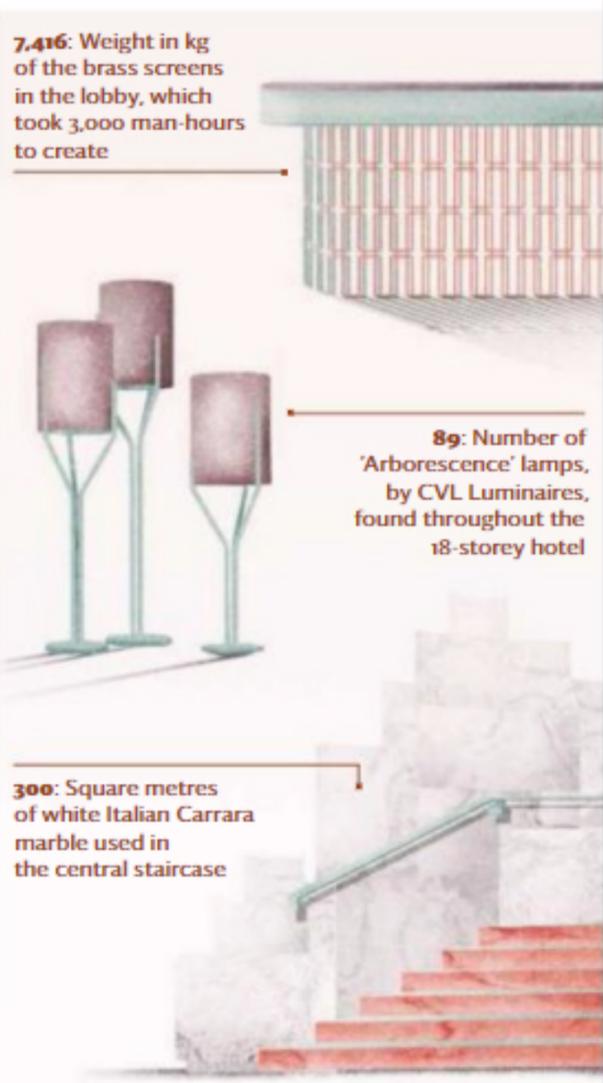


American beauty

RITZ-CARLTON, CHICAGO

The renovation of Chicago's Ritz-Carlton marks something of a homecoming for the landmark. Debuting as a Four Seasons-managed property in 1975, atop the then newly minted Water Tower Place, the hotel only became an official part of the Ritz-Carlton group last year, for complicated ownership reasons. San Francisco design studio BAMO's refurbishment is a soigné take on modern luxe, with lead designer Billy Quimby selecting soothing pastel hues for the remodelled bedrooms. Inspired by the building's exterior architecture, he has installed rows of grey marble columns and American walnut fins in the 12th-floor lobby, where a sparkling Lasvit installation of hand-blown glass mimics Lake Michigan (the latter provides a bracing spectacle from the corner gym). The overall effect bears all the hallmarks of a Ritz-Carlton, but BAMO's principle achievement has been to channel a quiet intimacy in which Chicago's spectacular aesthetic of water, skyscrapers and Michigan Avenue dominates at every turn. **Daven Wu**

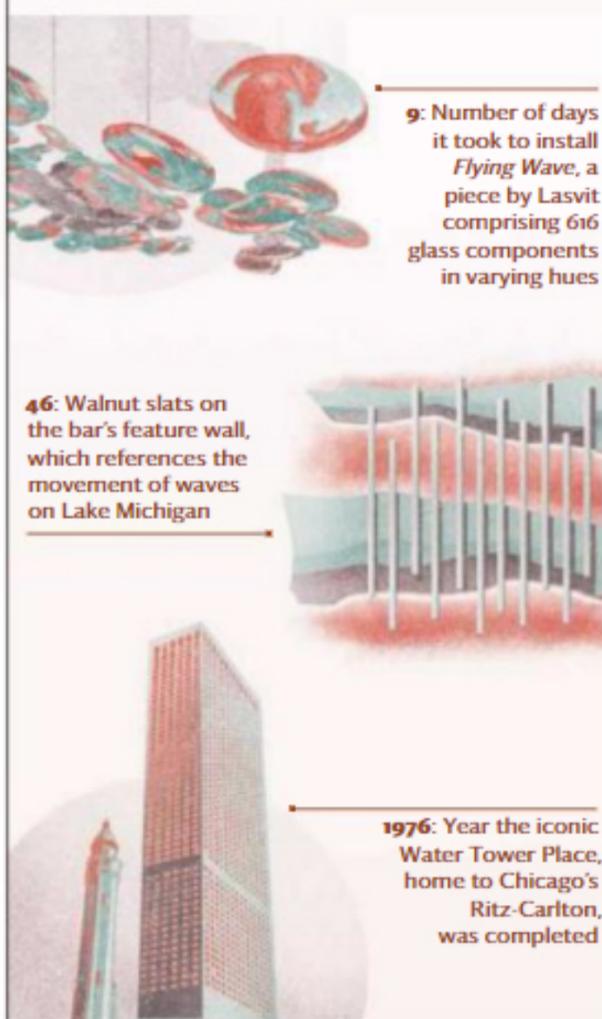
160 East Pearson Street, tel: 1.312 266 1000, ritzcarlton.com. Rates: from \$279



Pleasure palace

THE MANDRAKE, LONDON

In this age of ironic-minimal, hipster home-away-from-home hotels, Rami Fustok's Mandrake takes hostelry in the opposite direction. Dark, moody and draped in sumptuous fabrics, with art-filled walls and eclectic (even eccentric) design pieces, it practically swings from the chandeliers. The Mandrake is designed as a sensual overload, cocooning guests in fragrance and sound (the former by Azzi Glasser, the latter by Pierre-Arnaud Alunni) and feeding them treats by Frédéric Peneau, who brings his 'democratic French gourmet' experience, Serge et le Phoque, to town. Wrapped around a verdant atrium, with a greenhouse for medicinal plants on the first floor, the hotel takes its botanical inspiration seriously, even serving plant-based cocktails in the bar. Bold and opulent in a wear-your-jewels-in-the-bathtub way, the 30 bedrooms, three suites and lavish penthouse make for quite the hallucinatory homage to hedonism. **Warren Singh-Bartlett**
20-21 Newman Street, W1, tel: 44.20 3314 7770, themandrake.com. Rates: from £300



Park life

LANCASTER, LONDON

Designed by Richard Seifert, the building that now houses the 18-storey Lancaster hotel turns 50 this year and, to celebrate, its Thai owners have lavished £80m on a top-to-toe refurbishment. London's Studio Proof has capitalised on the hotel's coveted location on the edge of Hyde Park, leaving the stunning views to take centre stage throughout the property. But it has also found inspiration in the building's architectural heritage, offering a take on the midcentury look, with sage green details and white Carrara marble featuring alongside Spinneybeck leather in each of the 411 rooms. The most dramatic changes, though, are in the public spaces. The sweeping new entrance lobby is anchored by a white marble staircase and trimmed with gold lacquer, brass and bronze, while its walls are swathed in pale grey horsehair. The in-house Nipa Thai is the setting for richly spiced curries and views of Hyde Park's Italian Gardens, while the Island Grill scores points for its mod Brit menu. **DW**
Lancaster Terrace, W2, tel: 44.20 7551 6000, lancasterlondon.com. Rates: from £209