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GUESTBOOK



080. GORDON RAMSAY

Gordon Ramsay is no stranger to hotel kitchens, having run restaurants in Claridges, The Connaught, and the Marriott Grosvenor Square in London, as well as others in Tokyo, New York, LA and Dubai. But his company had never ventured into hotel operations until the launch of York & Albany, a ten-bedroom boutique hotel in Camden.



068. RABIH HAGE

Designer and gallery curator Rabi Hage has transformed a rundown B&B near King's Cross into the Rough Luxe hotel – a fascinating blend of partially sanded surfaces, bare floorboards, chipped paint and rough edges mingled with opulent contemporary wallpaper, modern art and designer furnishings. Sleeper met up with Hage on site for a guided tour.



037. MATT MORLEY

A regular Sleeper contributor, Matt Morley was Founding Editor of V-V magazine – an Anglo-Russian lifestyle publication aimed at wealthy Russian speakers around the world. For this issue's Moscow Location Report, he revisited the Russian capital to look at how the luxury hotel scene is developing, in what is now officially the most expensive city on earth.



010. BENJAMIN NORIEGA-ORTIZ

Having completed residential projects for the likes of Lenny Kravitz and Sean 'P.Diddy' Combs, Noriega-Ortiz has recently turned his attention to hotels, overseeing the redesign of Philippe Starck's Mondrian in Los Angeles, as well as the design of a new Mondrian in Scottsdale, Arizona, for Morgans Hotel Group. Another Mondrian in SoHo New York is due to open later this year.

CHECK-IN

After starting his career with John F. Saladine Inc., Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz set up his own firm in 1992, completing projects for the likes of Lenny Kravitz and Sean Combs (aka P. Diddy). Recently, his focus has turned to hotels, with Mondrian hotels in LA, Scottsdale and New York for Morgans Hotel Group.



Name:

Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz

Position:

Interior Designer

Company:

BNO Design

Notable projects:

Mondrian, Los Angeles
Mondrian, Scottsdale
Mondrian, SoHo New York
CasaDecor Showhouse
Beachside Hotel Lobby
ABYU Lighting Collection
Met Home Phillips Collection

Where are we?

On a beach in the Caribbean.

Who are you sharing your room with?

Steven, my partner.

Is there anything you would like waiting for you in your room on arrival?

Yes, my luggage already unpacked and put away in the closet, thanks!

And the owner / manager?

Morgans Hotel Group, I loved working with them on creating Mondrian Scottsdale and re-imagining Philippe Starck's design of Mondrian Los Angeles.

Describe your room...

I can practically touch the ocean from my room; the floor is in raw cement with a light blue hue, the bed is hanging from the 12' high ceiling which gives it the feeling of a hammock, with a huge mosquito netting enclosing it. There is a ceiling fan, no air conditioning. I can hear the waves breaking against the shore and the palm trees moving. The bathtub is in the veranda facing the ocean. The shower is under a tree in front of the room. And there are plenty of hammocks among the palm garden for all my friends to hang out.

Who designed it?

I designed it but it was originally laid out by Louis Khan (the renowned Philadelphia-based architect)

What's the view like?

You approach the room through a lush rainforest but the view from the room is the ocean, as far as your eyes can see.

Who are you dining with this evening?

1. Madonna
2. Philippe Starck
3. Le Corbusier
4. Patricia Field
5. Steven Wine

Who's manning the stoves?

Sam Talbot (Executive Chef at The Surf Lodge, Montauk, NY)

And what's on the menu?

Starter: A dry gin martini

Main: Whatever the chef wants

Dessert: Flan

Would you like something to drink with that?

I leave those decisions to the experts.

What CDs would like in your room?

1. Morgans Hotel Group CD, with original artwork by Shepard Fairey
2. Anything by Trio Los Panchos
3. Anything by Madonna
4. 'Barrio Fino' by Daddy Yankee
5. 'FutureSex' by Justin Timberlake

What's on the movie channel?

1. 'Blade Runner'
2. 'The Cook, The Thief, The Wife and Her Lover'
3. Jean Cocteau's 'Le Belle et La Bete'
4. Anything with Fred Astaire
5. '2001 - A Space Odyssey'

And a book at bedtime?

Sam Hamill's 'The Sound of Water: Haiku by Basho, Buson, Issa, and Other Poets'.

What's in the mini-bar for a night cap?

Crackers with peanut butter.

Would you like a newspaper or magazine in the morning?

The New York Times.

What toiletries would you like to freshen up with in the morning?

Coffee, hot! That's all I need.

Swimming pool, spa or gym? Spa.

Early morning alarm call or late check out?

Very late check out.

Bath, jacuzzi or power shower?

Bath large enough for two or three.