



◀ A graphic black and white folding screen, purchased by Francisco Costa (below) at a Christie's auction, stands in a corner of the living room. The screen is from the estate of the iconic 20th-century photographer Horst P. Horst. Significantly, its primitively patterned painted fabric was a gift to Horst from Coco Chanel. The screen's bold lines and rich fabric add depth and drama to the apartment, which is a den of greys in myriad textures and quiet patterns. "The auction find became the inspiration for the space," says interior designer Leslie Steven, "the touchstone for the design."



GALVIN KLEIN DESIGNER FRANCISCO COSTA'S NEW YORK HOME HAS THE WARMTH AND LUXURY OF A TRADITIONAL SPACE DESPITE ITS CLEAN LINES AND A PALETTE OF MODERN NEUTRALS. IT'S A HEADY DESIGN LESSON IN HAVING THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.
BY DEBORAH FULSANG
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS JAUSSAUD

MASTER CLASS

W

owy models breezed down Francisco Costa's runway for Calvin Klein's spring 2011 show; their clothes, minimal creations in white or black with the occasional shot of coral or blue, were sculptural but seemingly weightless, of-the-moment but timeless too.

Those women would look right at home in Costa's New York City apartment. The 11th-floor space, which the Brazilian-born designer shares with partner John DeStefano, a horse trainer and manager, is in a handsome 1940s brick building in the city's Murray Hill neighbourhood. Like those elegant dresses, the home personifies discipline and grace, and a style obsessive's eye for detail.

Costa has been twice honoured by the Council of Fashion Designers of America as womenswear designer of the year. His fashion curriculum vitae is long and deep: Bill Blass, Guco, Balmain. He was at Oscar de la Renta when plucked to join Calvin Klein, where he then assumed the role of creative director of womenswear in 2003. "He's such an artist," front-row guest Katie Holmes noted with admiration after the spring catwalk presentation. "[The collection] was so simple, and it's not easy to do things that are simple."

Architectural simplicity is Costa's signature, and it inspired Alexander Poma and Leslie Steven of Manhattan-based PomaSteven, the architecture and design firm responsible for the 2006 renovation of Costa's home. The casting was perfect: Poma was a project architect at Ralph Lauren before joining forces with his wife, Steven, whose own resume includes designing furniture and interiors for Donna Karan.

Mirrored walls, glossy marble floors, and lacquered litchen cabinets—Costa's home was previously more Wall Street glam, circa 1987, than *au courant* 2010. "We did a major renovation," the partners explain, "revising the layout, enlarging the litchen, removing extraneous walls, adding moulding and lighting, creating new closets, new plumbing, and electrical throughout."

"They wanted a combination of modern and traditional with clean lines and a sense of lightness," says Poma of their clients. Some would call the resulting look "transitional," Poma and Steven's term? "Modern classic."



THE APARTMENT IS A DEN OF GREYS IN MYRIAD TEXTURES AND QUIET PATTERNS. ITS TAILORED MOULDINGS ADD STATELINESS.

By increasing the depth of walls and pass-throughs, the design firm achieved a sense of grandeur in the space, despite the fact that the apartment is a modest 1,375 square feet. The dove grey walls are the ideal backdrop to Costa and DeStefano's considerable art collection, which includes many striking photographic, representational, and abstract contemporary works: Shown here is a piece by Brooklyn-based, Turkish-born Pinar Yolaçan, who is perhaps best known for her portraits of subjects clad in garments of raw meat.

For his spring collection, Costa was inspired by the blues and how the easy, good-in-your-skin attitude of the music can be expressed in clothing. He could just as easily have been referencing these handsome herringbone armchairs by New York's Brian Thomas. Refined, yet with plush curves, they invite nesting. The chairs flank a glossy art deco table and a print by Argentinian Guillermo Kuitca; it's a favourite piece of the homeowners, who gravitate to the work of emerging artists. The tailored scene is softened by two layers of area rugs and luxurious sheer cashmere roman shades; the cashmere rantes as Poma and Steven's favourite fabric in the apartment.

Art deco, mid-century modern, Arts and Crafts, present-day industrial: the apartment references many pivotal design eras. In fact, if one were to sink into the living room's sumptuous linen-velvet sofa and survey the surroundings, one could imagine that the room had been time-warped into any number of high-style moments from the past 60 or 70 years.



In reconfiguring the space of the apartment, Poma and Steven aligned the doorways of the library and bedroom, enclosed the foyer, and removed a wall between a former dining alcove and the living room to create better flow and a more open atmosphere. The addition of tailored panelling, mouldings, and ceiling beams generated a sense of stateliness that is further enhanced by the restrained palette. To add warmth, the architect and designer chose rich golden hues: a herringbone-pattern oak floor with a dry-look Danish oil finish, a sisal carpet, and vintage Italian wooden chairs.



- ▶ Like the colour that punctuates many a Calvin Klein collection on—the recent resort wear show featured an ad-yellow sheath in a sea of barely there tints—yellow metals are the accessories sparking this home's interior design. In the study, brass lamps and a brass-topped side table detail the art-filled room.
- ▶ A gallery wall en route to the study exemplifies PomaSteven's space-smart, clutter-free approach. Its door, detailed with vintage-brass Belgian hardware and an easy-to-open panel, makes updating the collection on view a cinch. "It was designed as a space for personal photos," says Steven. "It features John and Francisco's family as well as renowned individuals from both worlds, of horse racing—John's profession—and fashion."
- ▶ The apartment's clean-lined masculine aesthetic serves as a foil to the dramatic art and decorative objects within. It is in the study where this tension plays most obviously. Polished brass-trimmed bookshelves and a boldly patterned Arts and Crafts rug contrast with an antique American leather horn chair and coordinating bench. Upper East Side meets the Wild West: the pairing is both unexpected and beautiful.





◀ Beige, grey, black and white: these are standards on the Calvin Klein runway and they play beautifully in the bedroom too. As on the catwalks—where basic turns to breathtaking in Costa's little black dresses and coats in shimmering silks and taffetas—it is the mix of finishes and textures that enriches the decor experience. Smoke grey grasscloth wallpaper teams with lustrous charcoal-hued bed linens and a satiny leather-topped table to define the chic yet comfortable decor. On the bedside table sits a drawing by Diego Rivera; dose by is a vintage wooden barbell stool by American artist John DeRian.

▶ Leather chairs by Austrian designer Paul Frank flank the bedroom's writing table; above it swings an articulating French vintage wall sconce alongside two stacked canvases by Italian painter Enrico Castellani.





◀ Heavily veined white Carrara marble combines with historically inspired fittings and fixtures from New York's Urban Archaeology and a vintage cast-glass wall sconce to create the look of a classic European hotel bath.

ART DECO, MID-CENTURY
MODERN, ARTS AND CRAFTS,
PRESENT-DAY INDUSTRIAL:
THE HOME REFERENCES MANY
PIVOTAL DESIGN ERAS.

◀ Who knew a galley kitchen could be so glamorous? In keeping with the disciplined luxury showcased in the rest of the apartment, Poma and Staven elected glossy grey back-painted glass for the backsplash and grey honed granite for the countertop, which offers long runs of prep space. The smart design suits the homeowners well. "They frequently entertain," notes Staven. "Francisco is a fantastic cook." And in keeping with the kitchen's high style and highly functional floor plan, the firm placed both a utility closet and a bar behind pocket doors in the hallway leading into the space.



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DESIGNPHILE | GOODS

SIDE SHOW

These artful chairs make a strong style statement or play a supporting role with equal aplomb.

By Deborah Fulsang

Sophie, Angelo: Great occasional chairs have names. Whether Louis or slipper, wingback or tub, they inject personality—swish and swagger—into a room. But it's not all about looks. Pull one up to the table and you've made space for an extra dinner-party guest. Place two side by side to form a conversation corner. And many of these chairs are as suited to a Sunday afternoon with a good book as they are to the cocktail hour. So sit back and enjoy.



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6

1. One is wonderful, a pair, divine. Telle Angelo occasional chairs in poragray mesh-back fabric are chic seats suited to intimate conversations. In Robert Allen (occasional) collection, \$7,800 each; Banyanmore Furniture.

2. Like the iconic chair that preceded it—Arne Jacobsen's Swan and Egg—this stool by Martin Beckid taps organic forms to offer the ultimate in cocooning comfort. From \$1,995 (o.s.m.); HestonDesign.

3. The Wingback by Tom Dixon, a collaboration with furniture maker George Smith, follows a centuries-old model that relies on pure craftsmanship, upholstered in mesh-wire, \$9,800 each, through Urban Interiors.

4. The Sophie Lounge Chair by Ofy, with its elastic oval-back design and dynamic side stripes, traces up nested-toned traditional forms and fits with contemporary stylish spaces, too. \$4,170, through South Hill Home.

5. The shag-backed Astor slipper chair in Dixon yellow melts Old New York parlor elegance with modern-day L.A. ease. From \$3,395; Council Brentwood Collection through Eto.

6. HestonDesign's Termination Chair (diamond Innovation) '90s design, its backrest reclines a 68-90, its foot can recline, its positioned as an armrest, it encourages informal lounging. From \$3,500 (o.s.m., without arms), \$2,345 (o.s.m., with arms).



7

Globe Style

Fashion-plates

These days, the stylish set-covers designer was as much as designer war. With everyone from Kate Spade to Missoni stamping their names on china, there's never been a time to dish over dishes.

DEBORAH FULSANG reports on plate L6

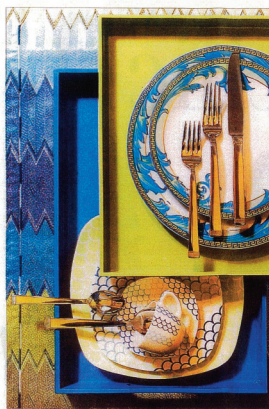


Label on the table The Webster of Toronto's Details by Rick put together a table setting for an evening supper (dinner party). Plates by Thomas Wedo are all Kate Spade hand-crafted Staffordshire covers, \$65 and \$50. Biscotti bowls, 100-1000-2277; www.katespade.com; London 20 crystal champagne flutes and glasses by Kate Spade for Lanes, 545-33 each at Williams Ashley of Toronto, 100-546-2900; www.williamsashley.com; coffee mugs, \$10; and Square Park, about \$25, South Park Bar, 100-802-2776; www.southparkbar.com; Espresso Espresso by Tom Mory for Spade, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; wine glasses, \$10; and wine setting like in background, \$20, both from Missoni; Margherita line, through The Glass of Provence to Toronto, 100-775-9744; 10th-10th Champagne, a set of plates from top; Margherita dinner plates, \$20 at NordSea (3330 for a five-piece place, Liberty Lane Park by Kate Spade accent plates, \$10-18; and Liberty Lane Dinner Plate, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; Margherita presentation plates, \$10 at NordSea.

PHOTO: JIM HEDDERLEY FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL; GARY SCHWARTZ FOR THE PRESS; T. FRIEDMAN FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL; TONY FRIEDMAN FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

PLUS MY LAMB TRALEE PEARCE ON THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW FIELD-TO-TABLE PHILOSOPHY, L6

L6 • STYLE | ENTERTAINING



Label on the table

Spring fling
The set, featuring light rose charger plate, \$25.50, and five-piece place setting at Williams Ashley of Toronto, 100-546-2900; www.williamsashley.com; coffee mugs, \$10; and Square Park, about \$25, South Park Bar, 100-802-2776; www.southparkbar.com; Espresso Espresso by Tom Mory for Spade, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; wine glasses, \$10; and wine setting like in background, \$20, both from Missoni; Margherita line, through The Glass of Provence to Toronto, 100-775-9744; 10th-10th Champagne, a set of plates from top; Margherita dinner plates, \$20 at NordSea (3330 for a five-piece place, Liberty Lane Park by Kate Spade accent plates, \$10-18; and Liberty Lane Dinner Plate, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; Margherita presentation plates, \$10 at NordSea.

Floral fantasy
Biscotti, the pink-edged of Cooke plate, \$25.50, and five-piece place setting at Williams Ashley of Toronto, 100-546-2900; www.williamsashley.com; coffee mugs, \$10; and Square Park, about \$25, South Park Bar, 100-802-2776; www.southparkbar.com; Espresso Espresso by Tom Mory for Spade, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; wine glasses, \$10; and wine setting like in background, \$20, both from Missoni; Margherita line, through The Glass of Provence to Toronto, 100-775-9744; 10th-10th Champagne, a set of plates from top; Margherita dinner plates, \$20 at NordSea (3330 for a five-piece place, Liberty Lane Park by Kate Spade accent plates, \$10-18; and Liberty Lane Dinner Plate, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; Margherita presentation plates, \$10 at NordSea.

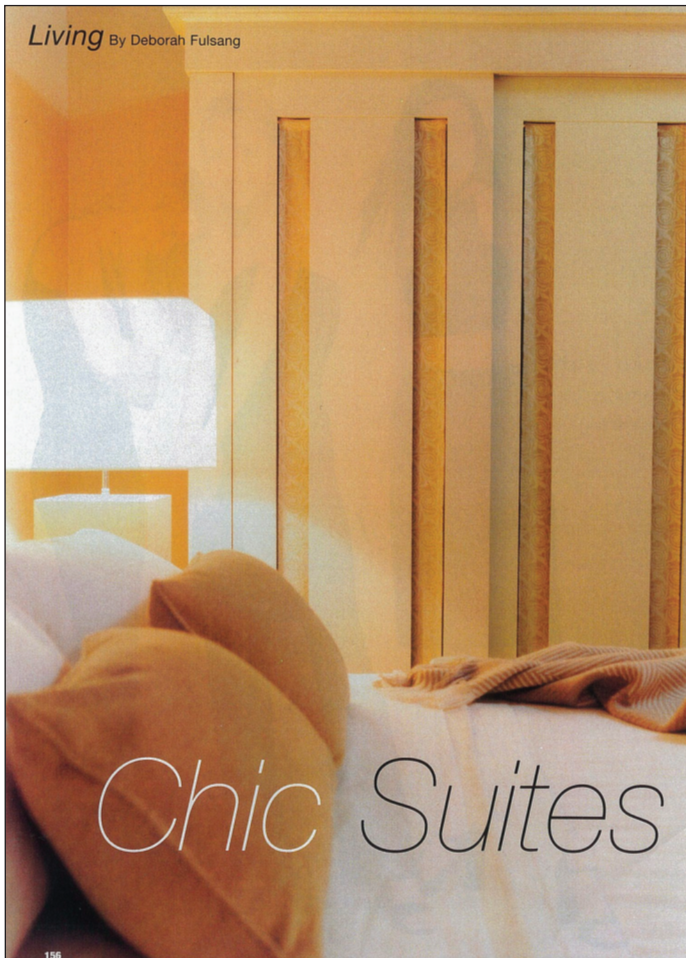
Deco delights
Biscotti, the pink-edged of Cooke plate, \$25.50, and five-piece place setting at Williams Ashley of Toronto, 100-546-2900; www.williamsashley.com; coffee mugs, \$10; and Square Park, about \$25, South Park Bar, 100-802-2776; www.southparkbar.com; Espresso Espresso by Tom Mory for Spade, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; wine glasses, \$10; and wine setting like in background, \$20, both from Missoni; Margherita line, through The Glass of Provence to Toronto, 100-775-9744; 10th-10th Champagne, a set of plates from top; Margherita dinner plates, \$20 at NordSea (3330 for a five-piece place, Liberty Lane Park by Kate Spade accent plates, \$10-18; and Liberty Lane Dinner Plate, \$10 for a five-piece set at Williams Ashley; Margherita presentation plates, \$10 at NordSea.

Table dressing
Miss M. On dining tables, it's not the cleaning contest. But dressing the table is a lot more fun and available for like-savvy types like the Toronto's Rick Hedderley, who spent many years as the visual display director of Best Western hotels across the country. Details by Rick (416-221-1441). Hedderley says the key to a good table setting is to mix and match pieces to create a cohesive look. Hedderley says the key to a good table setting is to mix and match pieces to create a cohesive look. Hedderley says the key to a good table setting is to mix and match pieces to create a cohesive look.

By DEBORAH FULSANG
Dining for Wedgwood dishes or Venetian bronzes is not necessarily as good as it used to be — so many that one either of the designer's wedding gifts. Hedderley gives the set each piece. Hedderley gives the set each piece. Hedderley gives the set each piece.

Wang for Wedgwood dishes or Venetian bronzes is not necessarily as good as it used to be — so many that one either of the designer's wedding gifts. Hedderley gives the set each piece. Hedderley gives the set each piece. Hedderley gives the set each piece.

The dining table, Hedderley says, has been the most important element in the room for a long time. Hedderley says the key to a good table setting is to mix and match pieces to create a cohesive look. Hedderley says the key to a good table setting is to mix and match pieces to create a cohesive look.



Chic Suites

Planning a trip to New York? Check in to the new breed of hip, boutique-style hotels geared to the design-sensitive

Three years ago I booked a stay at New York City's Mansfield Hotel. I had heard great things: that the hotel was under renovation, that it was gorgeous, intimate. Stepping around the drop sheets and through the plaster dust in the lobby and making my way to number 501 wasn't pretty, the room, less so: a soiled carpet, fading ripped wallpaper, handles sadly falling off a tired chest of drawers. I kept my shoes on and booked out.

My latest trip to the hotel's West 44th Street address, to unearth the newest in Manhattan's high-style boutique hotels, left an entirely different impression. As the fourth feather in Bernard Goldberg's hoteler cap—in date has painstakingly restored the city's Hotel Wales, The Franklin and The Shorham, all previously dilapidated hotels built between 1901 and 1931—the Mansfield is a chic new midtown destination for both business travellers and tourists and proof-positive of the adage, "good things come in small packages."

Ian Schrager jump-started the hip, happening hotel trend when he teamed with André Putman to orchestrate a sophisticated redux of Morgans in 1984, then again in 1988 and 1990, with Philippe Starck, who designed his sexy Royalton and Paramount hotels. The three number among a growing crop of New York City lodgings emerging for the design-sensitive.

Goldberg is big on substance. His people spent a month and a half just stripping the accumulated layers of paint off the handrail and cleaning up the original iron balustrades of the Mansfield's winding mahogany-backed staircase. The Gotham Hospitality Group, Goldberg's company, also painstakingly restored the terrazzo hallway floors' original colour scheme and then worked backward, fine-tuning the hotel's interior palette to echo its original 1904 state.

Together, these details—along with cheery-stained hardwood, white monogrammed linens, down-filled duvets and putty-toned coverlets on sleigh beds with metal mesh headboards—create a cosy lair amidst Manhattan's high-energy buzz.

Goldberg wanted a home-away-from-home feeling. "I like to entertain," he says of his personal life. "I consider myself a hospitable host and this is like having a lot of homes to invite people over for dinner."

In this civilized mode came the acquisition and conversion of an adjoining bar/restaurant into a library where concerts of classical music are staged. Recalling the hotel's Art Deco past, 1930s Burnese British Colonial chairs are scattered about the salon for lounging. Well-thought-out details adding polish to the experience include a complimentary, nightly dessert buffet. And if that doesn't win over the world-weary, there's the continental breakfast—all gratis—of home-baked brioche and fruit compote, fresh-squeezed juices and endless café-au-lait.

Vintage 1922 Elie Nadelman photographs and engravings, and original Bernard Boutet de Monvel drawings of celebrated New Yorkers evoke an early 20th-century atmosphere at the Mansfield. An intense, moody Tamara de Lempicka portrait, watching over the lobby of the 129-room establishment, adds a final design-conscious touch.

Goldberg carefully selects the art for all of his properties. His sixth and latest venture (his fifth, The Roger Williams, will open this summer), the 162-room Hotel Grand Central, scheduled for completion some time in 1998, will house an impressive collection. Inspired by its proximity to the restored Grand Central Station, the hotel will exhibit 14 1930s-era, railway-themed murals in the hotel's lobby, all depicting the grandeur of the railroad-building empire.



Chic Suites

Emanuel Stern, executive vice-president of Hartz Mountain Industries Inc., the New Jersey-based developer behind the city's new SoHo Grand Hotel, reveals an equally discerning eye. Local artists' work, such as sculptures on the penthouse terraces and the silver-haft murals in the lobby and on penthouse elevator doors, reminds guests of their creatively inclined, downtown digs. It was also important to the 34-year-old developer and his chosen architect, New York City-based Helyern Architects, that this new, 15-story hotel fit in with its neighborhood. A quick walk through the street-level entranceway and the second-floor reception area, with its dramatic iron and bottle-glass staircase suspended from two imposing cables, pays distinct and careful homage to the architecture of SoHo's cast-iron traditions.

The lobby's towering, two-story ceiling evokes the drama of the district's loft living and lends the place an edge of industrial chic. In many ways, the hotel cultivates this mood. First, there's the clientele: a mix of entertainment, fashion and publishing types. Then, the opulent furnishings: a huge leather and steel reception desk, the exaggerated scale of the adjoining lounge's floor lamps, potted palms and the decadent, 900-lb., chocolate-coloured velvet drapes that dress 16-foot windows. The seating too is abundant and oversized—perfect to fill the grand 7,000-square-foot lobby space. And even if you're not having the chicest of times in the surroundings, you'll look good, thanks to the flattering, amber-tinted lighting and mirrors.

The SoHo Grand, with its Canal House restaurant and The Grand Bar (so named for its Grand-meets-Canal-Street locale) numbers on an international list of hotels that have recently equipped themselves as night spots-slash-vibrant eateries. Predecessors include L.A.'s Chateau Marmont, the Clarence Hotel in Dublin, Paris' Hotel Montalembert, not to mention the Defano, Schragger's latest South Beach effort in Miami. The SoHo's executive chef, Michael Scheiman—who honed his skills at reputed New York establishments such as the Markham, Montrauch and Tribeca Grill—serves up stylish American cuisine on a par with his slick setting.

William Sofield, who is currently redesigning Gucci boutiques worldwide and whose previous projects include the rooms at the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, created the muted, modern experience at 310 West Broadway. In the guest rooms, he's chosen low-key beige and grey and original black-and-white photographs of old New York as the context for clever product design like desks inspired by drafting tables and nightstands resembling sculptors' pedestals.

When the SoHo Grand opened its doors this past August, it was the first major hotel to do so in the area since the 1800s—primarily because of tight zoning restrictions. But Stern will eventually have a new neighbour. Watch for The Mercer, planning to open some time later this year. Nestled as it is within SoHo and near Greenwich Village, TriBeCa, Chinatown and Wall Street, the small, less than 100-room hotel, will also stress "location, location, location." As the intended host-location for the now vibrant MerBar, which recently celebrated its four-year anniversary, the hotel should just hope for a portion of the high-profile crowd frequenting John McDonald's trendy night spot.

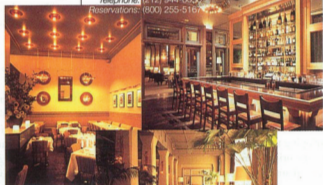
Back in the '80s, Schragger foresaw an emerging crowd eager for a sophisticated overnight experience. New York's increasing number of chic, intimate enclaves satisfies a thirst for style and proves, once and for all, that bigger is not necessarily better.



Morgans
267 Madison Ave.
Rates: US\$195-\$475
Penthouse suite rates available upon request.
Number of rooms: 154
Celebrity appearances: Jackie Foster, George Clooney, Brooke Shields
Telephone: (212) 686-0300

The St. Regis
2 E. 50th St.
Rates: US\$455-\$665
US\$875-\$1,000 (penthouse suite)
Number of rooms: 313
Celebrity appearances: U.S. President Bill Clinton, Elton John, Whoopi Goldberg
Telephone: (212) 753-4500
Reservations: (800) 759-7550

The Mansfield (above)
13 W. 44th St.
Rates: US\$195-\$245
US\$270-\$1,250 (penthouse suite)
Number of rooms: 129
Celebrity appearances: fashion execs from Tommy Hilfner, Versace, Armani, Ralph Lauren
Telephone: (800) 255-9116



Soho Grand Hotel (below)
310 W. Broadway
Rates: US\$190-\$249
US\$449 and \$1,149 (penthouse suite)
Number of rooms: 367
Celebrity appearances: Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow, i.e. lang, U2 band members, Mark Vanderloo, Linda Evangelista, Christy Lurlington
Telephone: (212) 965-3000
Reservations: (800) 965-3000

The Lowell
28 E. 63 St.
Rates: US\$295-US\$955
US\$1,255 (penthouse suite)
Number of rooms: 65
Celebrity appearances: they prefer not to name names
Telephone: (212) 838-1400
Reservations: (800) 221-4444

The Franklin
154 E. 67 St.
Rates: US\$159-\$179
Number of rooms: 53
Celebrity appearances: Munnien Stapleton, Nora Dunn
Tel: (212) 369-1000
Reservations: (800) 602-8787

Hotel Wales
1295 Madison Ave. at 80th St.
Rates: US\$185-\$265
US\$295 (penthouse suite)
Celebrity appearances: a fashion-magazine favourite
Telephone: (212) 876-6000
Reservations: (800) 243-1166



Paramount
235 W. 46th St.
Rates: US\$175-\$475
Number of rooms: 610
Celebrity appearances: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kate Moss, Kurt Russell
Telephone: (212) 764-5500
Reservations: (800) 225-7474

Royalton (below)
44 W. 44th St.
Rates: US\$265-\$425
Penthouse suite rates available upon request.
Number of rooms: 206
Celebrity appearances: Timothy Dalton, Damon Wayans, Bjork, Jewel
Telephone: (212) 689-4400

154 E. 67 St.
Rates: US\$159-\$179
Number of rooms: 53
Celebrity appearances: Munnien Stapleton, Nora Dunn
Tel: (212) 369-1000
Reservations: (800) 602-8787