



April 2016 | £4.20

# HOUSE & GARDEN



**PERSONAL SPACES**  
INDIVIDUAL TAKES ON MODERN LIVING

**GLORIOUS SPRING**  
HOW TO DECORATE WITH FLORALS  
+ BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL FABRICS

*Plus* **NEW GARDEN SERIES: IDEAS FOR PLANTING BORDERS**



**LONDON**

South Kensington makes a good London base - residential and village-like on the one hand, smart and centrally located on the other, with some of the city's best museums, parks, shops and restaurants right on the doorstep. The Kensington hotel on Queen's Gate, occupying four Victorian town houses, has recently emerged from a top-to-toe refurbishment, including the launch of a new-look restaurant appropriately called Town House. The 136 bedrooms have furnishings from the likes of Jamb and Porta Romana. From £246 a night for a standard double room. 020-7589 6300; doylecollection.com/kensington



**NEW YORK**

The lobby of the Trump SoHo in New York is dark and luxurious, while the 391 rooms are flooded with light from floor-to-ceiling windows. Rising 46 floors, the hotel has jaw-dropping views over the Hudson River and city skyline. These are best appreciated from the bath, which is strategically placed by the window in many of the rooms. Located in Manhattan's SoHo district, the hotel is a great base from which to explore the galleries, restaurants and shops. Or stay in and relax in the spa, before sampling the contemporary Japanese cuisine at the Koi SoHo restaurant. Carrier offers four nights for the price of three from £1,525 per person, room only, based on two sharing a One Bedroom Superior Suite, including return flights from London. 0161-492 1356; carrier.co.uk

**PARIS**

Live like a local and book an apartment in Paris instead of a hotel room. Paris Perfect has a huge range to choose from, including the elegantly furnished two-bedroom Saint Emilion apartment, which is just across the street from the Eiffel Tower. Paris Perfect also acts as a concierge service, managing dinner reservations, arranging cookery classes and sharing tips on how to avoid the queues at some of the city's principal sights. From £90 a night for an apartment. ultravilla.com/paris-perfect



**ROME**

Soak up the history and grandeur of Rome at Palazzo Manfredi, a seventeenth-century building that has views of the Colosseum, the Imperial Fora and the Domus Aurea villa. With only 15 rooms - this is more of a restaurant with rooms than a hotel - the service is friendly and personal. The Michelin-starred restaurant, Aroma, situated up on the rooftop terrace, serves exquisite food, such as pumpkin and almond ravioli, scallops with mint and fennel fondue, and mascarpone mousse with gingerbread ice cream. It also boasts spectacular views. Double rooms cost from £290, B&B. 00-39-06 7759 1380; palazzomanfredi.com

**CITY BREAKS**

LAURA HOULDSWORTH SUGGESTS CHIC BASES FROM WHICH TO EXPLORE THE BRIGHTEST CITIES



**BARCELONA**

A three-minute walk from the Ramblas, The Serras hotel has a strong, contemporary design, combining quirky features, such as headboards made from hydraulic floor tiles (left), with a sense of history - the building housed Picasso's first studio. Rooms start at £180, B&B, based on two sharing. For sophisticated dining, the concierge can book a table at members-only One Ocean Club (oneoceanclub.es/wp) in Port Vell Marina. Or for great tapas, try Lateral (lateral.com/en) on Carrer del Consell de Cent and check out Boca Chica (bocagrande.cat/en/boca-chica) on Passatge de la Concepció for some of the best cocktails in town. 00-34-93 169 18 68; hoteltheserrasbarcelona.com