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hospitality



THE SURREY, NEW YORK

Discreet service in an intimate, upscale setting has been the hallmark of the Surrey since 1926, when it opened as a residential hotel. Over the years, this Upper East Side jewel has served as home to such notables as Bette Davis, JFK, and Claudette Colbert, and today it offers its clientele rare charm and formal elegance.

A recent remodeling by Lauren Rottet was inspired by a pedigreed New York City townhouse passed down through the generations. Most guest-room furniture is custom but has an heirloom feel, as if it were collected over many decades. The entry—kitted out in an old-world mélange of limestone, marble, crown moldings, and leaded glass—is also enhanced with contemporary touches like provocative artworks and a mosaic with a Surrealist, skewed pattern modeled on an Aubusson rug. A hidden rooftop garden is manicured in a French style, casually though intentionally allowed to run a bit wild.

Guests can wind down in the elegant yet warm Art Deco-style bar, with walls cocooned in quilted beige suede and banquettes upholstered in leather. Handpainted numbers on the barstools create a cheeky sense of organization, while the carpet is embellished with a poem, as if speaking in verse to patrons. It's the perfectly subtle, rich atmosphere for a modern-day rendezvous.

From top: Near the main lobby, a Chuck Close tapestry of Kate Moss presides over a hallway clad in statuary white, gray Bardiglio, and black Zimbabwean marble; steel-frame mirrors about a wall of French limestone. Numbers sketched by Rottet were painted by Jimmie Martin on the custom stainless-steel barstools' leather backs. ➔



Rottet Studio



\$60 million+ budget
189 guest rooms and 32 suites





Clockwise from left:
 In the penthouse suite, a custom mohair sofa sits on a rug with a lacy border; the photograph is by architect Amy Sims. A bedside lamp in the airy presidential suite is a custom design in glass and polished nickel, with a linen shade. Painted aluminum and steel frame the entry canopy. In one of the presidential suite's two bathrooms, marble surfaces include a floor mosaic of a Surrey logo. The lobby's faux rug is rendered in marble tesserae.

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- 1 ELEVATOR LOBBY
- 2 STANDARD GUEST ROOM
- 3 SUITE

