

Wallpaper*

JUNE 2015

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On the ball

Julio Le Parc's rainbow coalition with Hermès, Norman Foster's stellar cellar and John Soane's model marvels

Moving pictures

The San Francisco start-up betting big on digital art

Free ride

Why the driverless car is closer than you think

Paste masters

Artist-designed wallpaper from Ai Weiwei, Toyo Ito and John Baldessari

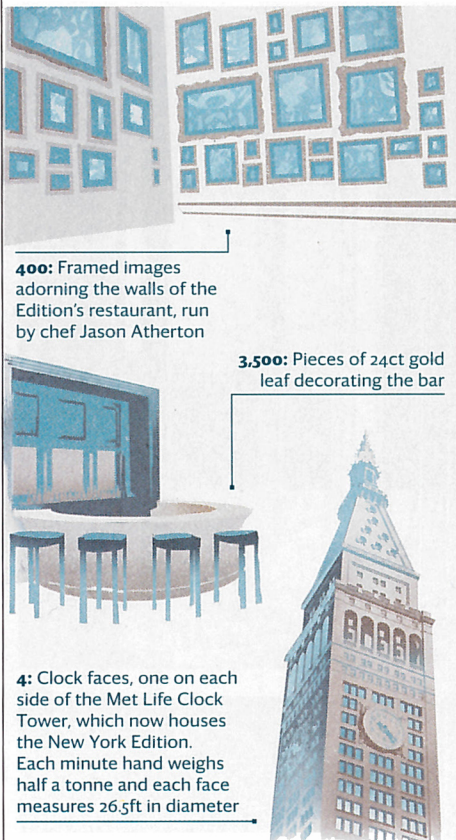
TRANSPORT & TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL



Future-proof fabrics
The shape of sound systems to come
All-new un-smartphone

ARTFUL LODGER

Overnighting in an iconic New York tower, an art-inspired London fantasy and a quirky homage to Hong Kong - this month's best new urban hotels



400: Framed images adorning the walls of the Edition's restaurant, run by chef Jason Atherton

3,500: Pieces of 24ct gold leaf decorating the bar

4: Clock faces, one on each side of the Met Life Clock Tower, which now houses the New York Edition. Each minute hand weighs half a tonne and each face measures 26.5ft in diameter



Clocking on

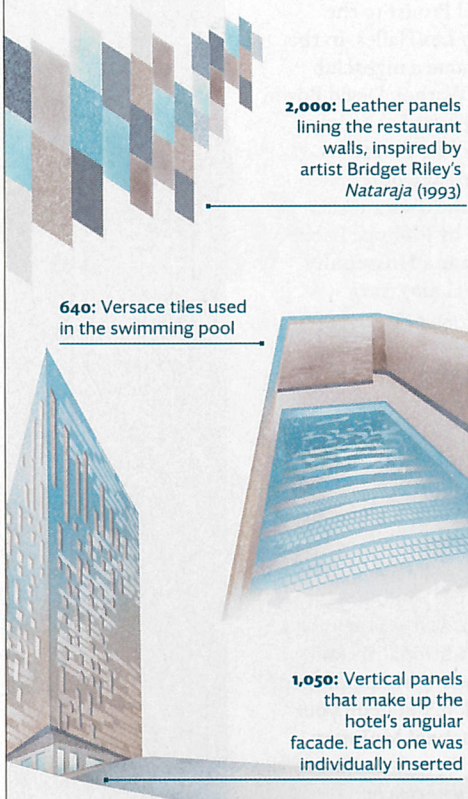
EDITION, NEW YORK

Location has played a significant role in Edition Hotels' winning formula thus far, and the group has outdone itself with its New York iteration, which opens in Manhattan's NoMad district this month. Housed inside the iconic Met Life Clock Tower, a landmark skyscraper built by Napoleon LeBrun & Sons in 1909, the 41-storey structure was once the tallest in the city, until the Woolworth building popped up. In its new life, the tower will house 273 rooms, including three 1,350-sq ft penthouses. Hospitality legend Ian Schrager and architect David Rockwell have overseen the hotel's design, paying homage to the building's masculine thrust. Each space is a blend of rich textures in neutral tones and dark wood. It wouldn't be an Edition without the eye-popping facilities, from the 39th-floor gym to the Jason Atherton-helmed restaurant. The Edition New York is somewhere all New Yorkers can call home. **Pei-Ru Keh** *Edition New York, 5 Madison Avenue, tel: 44 1.212 413 4200, editionhotels.com/newyork. Rates: from \$725*

Eastern promise

M BY MONTCALM, LONDON

Boldly rising from Shoreditch's ever-changing landscape is the futuristic M by Montcalm hotel. Designed by Manchester-based 5plus Architects, which carried forward a concept initially conceived by architect Michael Squire, the structure is fronted by a facade, significantly inspired by painter Bridget Riley's *Nataraja* (1993). Exterior twinkle aside, the hotel cuts a dramatic figure with its angular silhouette and sloping transom, or beam, above the entrance. Inside the 18-storey building, things are decidedly plush. A rich aesthetic prevails within the 269 rooms and suites, which have been kitted out with progressive technology, such as tablets that allow guests to control lighting, sound and temperature. Luxurious touches extend to a Versace-tiled swimming pool in the M Spa, and amenities by Elemis and Hermès. The hotel is topped and tailed by two dining spaces: the first spanning the ground and mezzanine floors, and the other on the 17th floor, offering diners panoramic views of east London and beyond. **Ella Marshall** *151-157 City Road, EC1, tel 44.20 7479 2233, mbymontcalm.co.uk. Rates: from £150*



2,000: Leather panels lining the restaurant walls, inspired by artist Bridget Riley's *Nataraja* (1993)

640: Versace tiles used in the swimming pool

1,050: Vertical panels that make up the hotel's angular facade. Each one was individually inserted



766: Total length in metres of the wire used to weave the in-room storage baskets, inspired by local fishing heritage

300: Hong Kong-inspired patterns featured on custom-made ceramics by local company Latitude 22N

3: Contemporary 'dim sum' trolleys used as counters in the lobby, restaurant and hotel shop

Local hero

TRIBUTE HOTEL, HONG KONG

British architect Alex Jones has pulled out all the stops with his debut hotel, located in Hong Kong's fast-gentrifying Yau Ma Tei neighbourhood on the Kowloon peninsula. Tribute by name and intent, the hotel champions the city's culture and history. It references local influences through quirky details such as a check-in desk inspired by traditional dim sum trolleys. The 24 rooms - named simply Big and Small - have been fitted out by interior designer Candace Campos. Understated, earthy hues set the tone for bold works by local artist Trevor Yeung, custom-made ceramics by hip studio Latitude 22N and laser-cut metal headboards inspired by the city's traditional shop gates. There is no restaurant, but in-room service delivers some of the best local fare, including eatery Sham Tsai Kee's famous wonton noodles. Grab the hotel's pocket-sized map, which charts 24 of the area's essential sites within a 15-minute walk of the property. **Catherine Shaw** *No. 4 Tung Fong Street, Yau Ma Tei, tel: 852.2858 0788, tributehotels.com. Rates: from HK\$1,300 (\$168)*