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Hotel Design

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The Thompson Blueprint

Always hip design that endures sets
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The latest and hottest in bar décor
Comfort reigns in bathroom design
Lighting installations that shine
Photos from the NEWH gala

Bar Décor

Three New York hot spots that are quenching both a guest's thirst and design eye.



SIPPING IN STYLE

The bronze bar at Upstairs at the Kimberly (above) is sheltered by a walnut trellis and English ivy and evokes a feel of the 1940s.

Kastel at Trump Soho (right center) is inspired by industrial artist lofts.

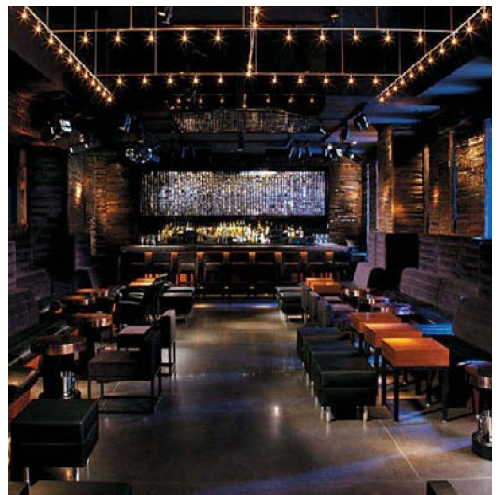
The Red Room at Hotel Gansevoort (below right) channels a European bistro.

Catering to revelers and romantics alike, the new industrial-cum-opulent Kastel lounge in Trump Soho is putting its mark on the neighborhood with its red-hot design work. Envisioned by Gregory Stanford and Penelope Fischer-White from the Rockwell Group, the bar draws inspiration from the '70s and '80s art scene (think Warhol and Basquiat).

"We chose materials from the urban streetscape and then combined it with the fashion and style of the people of Soho," says Fischer-White. "There is a contrast between the large architectural scale of the building and a softer layer that's really approachable and very intimate."

Kastel, which opened in May, couples raw, rustic elements like reclaimed wooden walls and a concrete floor with more sultry pieces like copper-clad tables, black velvet banquets and a canopy of sparkling lights. Kastel's design echoes Soho's distinctive society of artists and fashionistas—individuals with a keen eye for aesthetics.

The color palette is surprisingly monochromatic, highlighting black and other muted tones with amber-colored rosewood tables and geometric leather stools with gleaming steel legs. With Kastel, however, the trick is all in the details, which add a definitive decadence and sensuality, offsetting the somber hues. Behind the bar, guests will find a surface



Controlling Costs, Comfort and Design with Big Ass Fans



Operating margins are vital to success in the hospitality industry, yet patron comfort cannot be sacrificed to increase these markers. Many facilities are open long hours, but the conditioned air pumped into a space required to maintain a desired comfort level does not fluctuate with the occupancy level, resulting in a tremendous amount of wasted energy. Adding large diameter, low speed fans from Big Ass Fans® allows a user to circulate air year-round, decreasing the stress on an HVAC system while increasing the comfort level of occupants. Energy savings of 10-15% in the summer and 20-30% in the winter are common, which is why many in the hospitality industry are taking advantage of this unique technology.

Big Ass Fans' commercial line includes the 8-10 ft diameter Isis® and the 12-20 ft diameter Element®. The proprietary direct drive technology eliminates audible gearbox noise, producing less than 40 dBA at maximum operating speed. Because the fans use such small motors relative to their size, they cost just pennies-per-hour to run while simultaneously trimming energy bills year-round in high-ceilinged spaces such as lobbies, atriums and bars or restaurants. Isis is UL listed for use in wet locations and delivers comforting breezes to patrons in outdoor settings.

Hospitality venue operators understand the importance of image. From a design standpoint, Big Ass Fans can be customized to complement the décor of any space, either making a bold statement or quietly blending in with the surroundings. The "WOW" effect is not measured in dollars or kWh, but rather by the recognition of customers recalling "the place with those Big Ass Fans." Creating a lasting impression on customers is crucial to the long-term success of a business, regardless of industry, and Big Ass Fans achieve this goal in a sustainable fashion.

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—| nightlife design

of shimmering squares crafted with glass and mirror, hung on undulating cables. "It's a little kinetic," says Stanford. "The operator, [Nicola Siervo], wanted a downtown kind of vibe—that really cool sophistication that is not ostentatious. Kastel is loft and gallery-inspired but the art is really the people that are in the space."

Inspired by the chic style of the '40s and '50s, emulating iconic New York hotels like the Algonquin and the Carlyle, Farnaz Mansuri of De-Spec created the Upstairs at the Kimberly Hotel as a reinterpretation of heritage and "legacy," coupled with an unexpected dash of punk. "We wanted an aesthetic that had the classic spirit of New York, older hotels which have slowly become landmarks," says Mansuri. "We wanted to achieve that kind of longevity, but with 'a twist of resistance.'"

Offering a retractable glass ceiling for the more-than-balmy months and a fireplace for the less-than-steamy nights, the space continuously offers sweeping views of the East River and the

bustling streets below. Upstairs highlights its rooftop and alfresco essence with a secret garden-esque influence. Green walls of English ivy are coupled with suspended carnival lights and glowing street lamps for an added touch of whimsy.

Countering these more playful elements is the highly modern furniture sourced mainly from Moooi through B+B Italia. Mansuri utilized neo-wingback chairs and charred wooden tables for seating, while the come-hither bar is crafted from die-cut bronze intricately carved into a lattice pattern. The metal panels on the wall are an additional edgy element with embossed bronze mixed with steel in a gun metal finish and the cabinetries are of dark walnut, oil finished to a high shine.

Collaborating on the interior work with Mansuri was Sylvia Tosun of Pentasia Designs while Brian Orter was taken on to design the highly theatrical lighting. Orter created an effect which looks as though guests are standing beneath a tree; leaf shadows fall faintly across the floor.

STARRY SKYLINE: The neo-Gothic Upstairs at the Kimberly offers a panoramic view of the Manhattan skyline.

