



The Edition



Baccarat Hotel



Four Seasons Downtown



Marmara Hotel

Editorial No. 2

City of Contrasts: Inspiration from New York City

My aunt emigrated to the United States very early in her life. When I was little, my grandma always used to tell me about the huge Christmas tree in Manhattan, and it became my dream to visit the city one day. About twenty years ago, I went there for the first time to visit my cousin. The reality exceeded my wildest dreams: the city seemed to fit me like a pair of gloves, and off I went.

Since then New York has grown on me, and is a constant source of inspiration. I've now been there fourteen times and bring back new stories every trip. Fortunately, my husband Peter shares my wanderlust and nearly always comes along.

After 9/11, you could see how badly the city was wounded. It went quiet and took quite a while to recover, but I have to say, these days it makes even more of an impact than before. New York is back, and even more vibrant. All of a sudden, as though nothing ever happened, it seems to have acquired many new luxury hotels created with an elegant, relaxed stylishness, and some even displaying a sense of humour. My favourites: the **Edition**, the **Baccarat**, the second **Four Seasons**, and the **Marmara**.

But New York wouldn't be New York without contrasts, and other hotels stand out from the crowd by breaking the rules and daring to be different. I've picked out two recent examples:



The Beekman



The downtown **Beekman**, built in the same year as its neighbour the Brooklyn Bridge, has undergone a major renovation. And yet the new version doesn't seem wholly unfamiliar: if

anything, it feels even more like home that it did before. With its imposing atrium, the new interiors are a perfect fit for the old building and bridge the past with the present through period details wittily updated for the 21st century. As one of the city's original skyscrapers, the hotel is an officially designated landmark with exquisite guestrooms and suites, a stylish bar, an event space and two restaurants.

It's hard not to notice the unusual details, and even harder not to plaster my snapshots all over social media as yesterday's hotel brochures give way to today's Instagram moments. And The Beekman has details in spades. After we checked in, Peter strolled over to look through a circular hole in the wall – and behind it was a picture of a flower-filled meadow, a rural idyll in the big city. The designer had casually thrown a collection of old carpets over the counter, and the minibar in our room was wearing a dress. The whole place was one discovery after another, and I thoroughly recommend a visit.



1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge

My second hot new favourite: **1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge.**

The pedestrian walkway across Brooklyn Bridge was a highlight of our visit. The cars rattled along underneath us as we soaked up this unusual view, which lets you step back from the canyons of iconic buildings and see the city in a new light. Located on the far side of the East River, this is New York's second 1 Hotel. Its design offers a stylistic nod to the brand's flagship establishment in Miami Beach, which also greatly impressed us when we visited it last year shortly after it opened.

Brooklyn is much more verdant than Manhattan, lending credence to the hotel's claim of "sustainable luxury". It feels like an oasis after the bustle of downtown. It's the details that make it such an experience; the tree beside me in the lobby contained a real wasp's nest - fortunately just an empty shell long since abandoned by its inhabitants.



This is actually a very green city if you look closely. There have always been little flowerbeds planted around the trees on the pavement, and over recent years I've accumulated a whole photo collection of these delightful miniature gardens. In the more low-rise Greenwich Village, you sometimes forget you're in Manhattan – especially if the trees are wrapped in brightly coloured crochet scarves.

At the risk of waxing too lyrical, yes, this is a place where I could happily grow old. In fact, even the old people look young, sitting in the shade of the trees in the park and playing with their smartphones. More power to them.

Peter and I are usually too busy inspecting new hotels to make time for museums and other attractions. But on our last trip, we made a long-overdue visit to **Ground Zero**, the 9/11 memorial, the Oculus transportation hub, and the new World Trade Center. It was a positive and uplifting experience: here are some pictures.



With best wishes, Corinna Kretschmar-Joehnk