

Design of the Times

Simply Inn-credible

Go high style in Italy, Switzerland, Mexico, Germany... (for \$250 or less!)
 at these new über-deluxe, design-driven hotels. **By Laurie Kahle**



▲ The George

>>> HAMBURG, GERMANY
The Buzz: The George's "New British" style references classic English social clubs with a modern design code conceived by Sibylle von Heyden of SynergyHamburg. The 125-room hotel features a dark, cozy library; a smoking lounge; a popular bar; a Mediterranean restaurant; a rooftop spa; and two decadent penthouses.
The Ultimate Room: Take in beautiful views of the river Alster from the 625-square-foot George Suite, which includes two balconies. *Rates from \$217; 800.377.4685, designhotels.com/the_george.*



▲ Nhow

>>> MILAN, ITALY
The Buzz: Designers Daniele Beretta and Matteo Thun restored and repurposed an old General Electric factory in Milan's art district of Zona Tortona with flexible, fluid, loft-like spaces. The 249-room hotel also serves as an exhibition space for various art galleries.

The Ultimate Room: The Nhow Suite is a loft space that tops 3,000 square feet on two levels with a barrel vault that spans more than 78 feet. On the upper level, a glass-floored bath radiates theatrical light into the downstairs space. *Rates from \$213; 011.39.02.489.8861, nhow-hotels.com.*



▲ The Omnia

>>> ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND
The Buzz: Arriving guests pass through a tunnel and rise in an elevator to the Omnia's lobby located 5,250 feet above sea level. The design presents a modern interpretation of an alpine chalet with stunning mountain views.
The Ultimate Room: The legendary Matterhorn is the backdrop for a two-room suite with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the village of Zermatt and surrounding alpine peaks. *Rates from \$250; 800.377.4685, designhotels.com/omnia.*

▲ The Fitzwilliam Hotel

>>> BELFAST, IRELAND
The Buzz: Ideally located on Great Victoria Street next to the Grand Opera House, The Fitzwilliam immerses guests in a relaxed, contemporary environment in the center of the city.
The Ultimate Room: Round-the-clock butler and limousine service are part of the package when you stay in Northern Ireland's largest penthouse suite. *Rates from \$181; 800.323.7500, preferredhotels.com/fitzwilliam.*

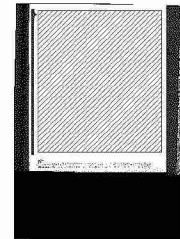


▲ Roomers

>>> FRANKFURT, GERMANY
The Buzz: A five-story, downtown office building supplied a blank canvas for Romanian designer Oana Rosen and architecture firm Grübel to create this sleek and imposing 117-room hotel. The building is crowned with an illuminated glass dome, under which you can de-stress and find balance in the hotel's Biorhythm fitness and wellness center.
The Ultimate Room: Indulgence and minimalism are not at odds in the junior suites appointed with black parquet floors, custom furnishings, integrated Nintendo Wii stations and skyline views. *Rates from \$232; 800.377.4685, designhotels.com/roomers.*

▲ Rosas & Xocolate

>>> MÉRIDA, MEXICO
The Buzz: Architect Salvador Reyes Rios restored and redesigned two colonial mansions to create the romantic Rosas & Xocolate. Rooms feature views of the interior courtyard with palm trees, wooden trellis walkways, the swimming pool, ponds and patios.
The Ultimate Room: The Master Suite fuses contemporary and classical design influences with custom furniture, fabrics and handmade floor tiles. You can bathe under the stars in a tub for two that has been positioned under a glass ceiling. *Rates from \$255; 800.377.4685, designhotels.com/rosas_and_xocolate.*



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