



First Look: The Maker in Hudson, New York



Photo by Francine Zaslou

Art- and design-lovers have a new reason to visit the historic city of Hudson (just a two-and-a-half-hour drive, or two-hour train ride, from New York City and a three-hour drive from Boston), which arrived last summer in the form of a jewel of a boutique hotel created by the co-founders of the beauty brand Fresh, Lev Glazman and Alina Roytberg, along with hospitality expert Damien Janowicz. Housed within three painstakingly restored buildings (a 19th-century Carriage House, a Georgian mansion and a Greek Revival building) and featuring just 11 individually curated guest rooms and suites, **The Maker** is a celebration of the bohemian and the artisanal—a haven for creators and artists. From the four signature studios—named for The Architect, The Gardener, The Writer and The Artist—to the custom-designed furniture, lighting and decorative accents throughout that were created for the property in collaboration with local craftsmen (and are also available for purchase), every aspect of The Maker was conceived in celebration of the creative community. The hotel also features an impressive display of artwork with unique galleries in each of the rooms and common spaces; the pieces were primarily sourced from the owners' own collection, but others were handpicked for the opening (including custom creations like a hand-painted burlap

mural by Michael Allen that was inspired by the landscapes of the Hudson Valley).

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The living room. Photos by Elizabeth Harvey

The hotel's common spaces evoke the sultry, shadowed salons of La Belle Époque and 1920s Paris, with bright glints of Art Deco and Industrial flair, and a typical evening here should be spent curled up in a velvet or leather armchair by the fire with a glass of wine or tea in hand, reading a text selected from the large library curated in partnership with The Strand Book Store. The bustling café is an all-day haunt filled with delectable beverages and pastries (like the twice-baked pistachio croissant), as well as heartier lunch items. It's an ideal spot for a leisurely bite or a working lunch (digital nomads and remote professionals will feel right at home). For a longer, sit-down meal, the plant-filled conservatory restaurant is a beautiful place to spend the afternoon—savoring various European dishes and soaking in the sunshine that pours down through the glass ceiling (plus: in both the café and the restaurant, any lulls in conversation can always be filled by commentary on the whimsical light fixtures, textiles and restored mosaic floor tiles).

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The carriage house lounge. Photos by Elizabeth Harvey

For a romantic evening or special private event, don't miss the Rose Room—a cozy corner featuring deep pink floral wallpaper, which was designed by co-owner Alina Roytberg—followed by a nightcap in the carriage house lounge, where truly delightful details include a massive restored Belgian 1878 Neoclassical fireplace, soaring wood-paneled ceilings and an inviting circular bar topped by teal and green fringed lampshades; the menu is equally impressive, with such craft creations as “The Song of the Smoke” (mezcal, yellow chartreuse, pineapple, lime, agave, cardamom) and “Kiss of the Spider Woman” (peaflower gin, combier, lillet blanc, lemon). On the way back to your room—or out the door the next morning—don't forget to stop in the Perfume Library for a refreshing spritz, selected from the collection of nearly 200 perfumes personally chosen by Lev Glazman (you can also take home the hotel's limited-edition, signature scent, The Maker Hudson Eau de Parfum, and the proceeds will be donated in full to Friends of Hudson Youth, a non-profit that supports local youth and families in need).

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The gymnasium. Photos by Elizabeth Harvey

In the summertime, the small but chic courtyard pool offers a chance to cool off and relax in one of the tangerine-orange lounge chairs, while active types will enjoy The Maker's well-equipped yet playful gymnasium, which opened in December 2020. Inspired by the acrobatics and feats of strength of the circus, the gymnasium features vintage-inspired pommel horses, boxing bags and hanging rings, alongside Peloton bikes and the latest long-distance treadmills. A team of personal trainers are on hand to offer individual sessions focused on high intensity interval weight training, endurance exercises and strength training, as well as pilates and the coming-soon program "Circus Physique." Additional amenities include a hammam steam room, private showers, massage rooms and a juice bar—and, of course, every design detail is no less attended to here: you can sweat in style surrounded by vintage mirrors, restored doors and floor tiles from the original buildings, illustrations of circus performances by Victoria Maxfield and custom wallpaper by Alina Roytberg.

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The Artist Studio. Photos by Elizabeth Harvey

It is these details that earn The Maker a “must-visit” designation for art and design lovers. It is clear that every item was carefully considered and selected before making its way across the threshold (and in fact, over 70 percent of the décor in the hotel is vintage or upcycled, with most of the materials and accents have been salvaged from the original buildings). To stay here is to feel like you are living in your own personal gallery, and every guest should allot time to simply wander around and look. From the Louis XVI-inspired steel desk custom-forged in France by master blacksmith Olivier Le Clerc and the 1870s restored Eastlake gas-lit cast iron chandelier to the rare Joan Crawford portrait, antique Moroccan rugs and stained-glass windows, there are endless layers for the eye to devour. Every *objet* has a story, which in turn imbues the whole place with a sense of grandeur and allure—and in giving new life to a historic place, The Maker is weaving itself into local lore. It is an exquisitely crafted celebration of beauty and community, and a true example of *l’art de vivre*.

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- Elizabeth Harvey on July 20, 2021

