

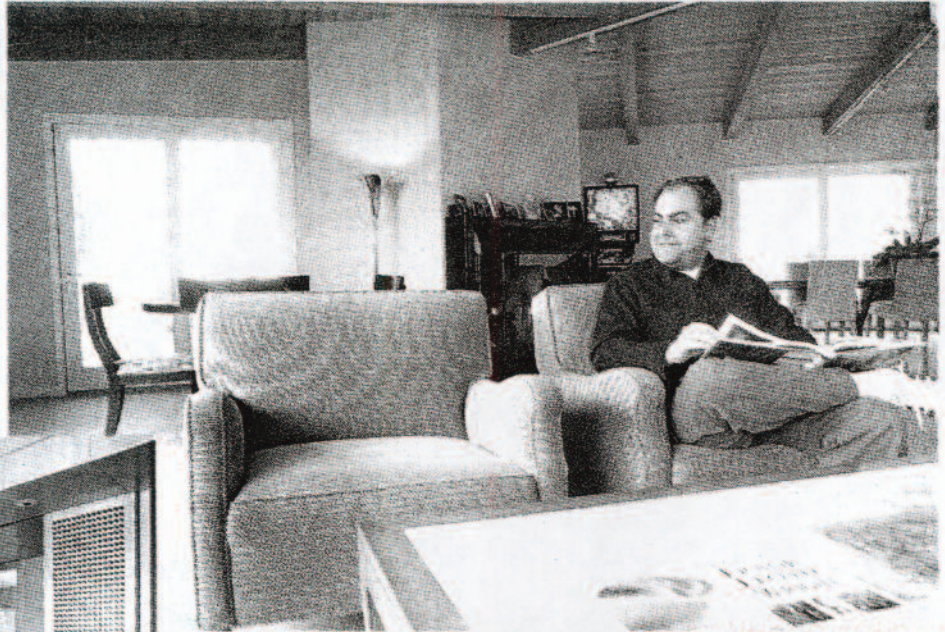
All That's Missing Is Room Service

By KAREN ROBINOVITZ

WHEN Jeff Beacher was building a house in Las Vegas, he didn't have to look far for inspiration. Everything from the water slide curving through the boulders lining his \$350,000 pool to the leopard-print carpet in the living room was lifted straight from the Hard Rock Hotel across town. (It helped that Mr. Beacher, a stand-up comedian whose show "Beacher's Madhouse" plays at the Hard Rock, hired that hotel's designer, Brian Fink, to oversee the interior work.)

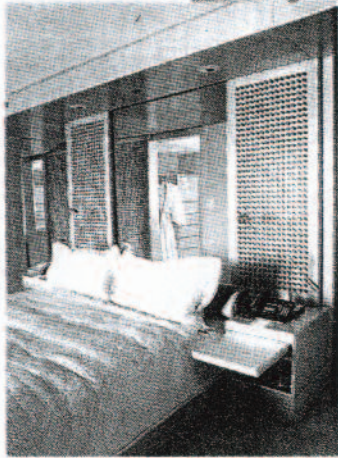
When Alison Brod was remodeling her weekend home in Bridgehampton, N.Y., a few years ago, the cool, elegant look was almost an exact copy of interiors at the Montalembert Hotel on the Left Bank of Paris, down to the Christian Liagre furniture and the Frette sheets.

And when Marlene Baum was building her summer home on Fire Island three years ago, her instructions to her architect, Brent Leonard of Form Architecture and Interiors in Manhattan, were clear: make it just like Miami Beach's Delano Hotel, from the flowing, nearly two-story curtains that adorn its lobby to the dazzling all-white color scheme in the bedrooms. She even offered to help. Relaxing on one of the twin-bed-size chaise longues that the hotel provides on its beach, Ms. Baum called Mr.



Gerard Burkhart for The New York Times

IMITATION IS . . . The look of Andy Schuon's Los Angeles home was inspired by hotels like Raffles L'Ermitage in Beverly Hills, left.



Joe Toreno/Black Star, for The New York Times

Leonard from her cellphone and said, "Not only do I want these exact lounge chairs, but I found out who the supplier is and I'm ordering them."

Some people return from a vacation with a deep tan, a hard-fought bargain picked up at a flea market, or perhaps fond memories of a brief romance. Others, it seems, come back with detailed photographs of a hotel room. For years, hotel chains like the Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton and W have done a brisk business selling their sheets, towels, bath-

robes and even mattresses to guests who wanted to savor the hotel experience at home. Now, however, according to interviews with more than a dozen architects and designers, some travelers are going even further: trying to replicate at home the look of the room they have just checked out of.

"Clients are really looking for a place that doesn't make them feel at home," said Michael Johnston, a Los Angeles architect who said he was increasingly making "awkward long-distance phone calls" to various hotels to find out who made their

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Gerard Burkhart for The New York Times

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Don't stay home tending to your knitting. Group tours, camps and even cruises are catering to people who purl.

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furnishings. "They want that feeling they had at the Royalton when they are lounging at their home in Malibu."

That's exactly what Andy Schuon, 39, a former president of programming at Infinity Broadcasting who is now planning his own media ventures, had in mind when he and his wife, Amanda, a partner in a public relations firm, recently bought a place on the West Coast. "Every time I'm at a hotel, I think, it would be so great to live in an environment this soothing all year round," he said. So soon after buying a rambling, mid-century-style home in Beverly Hills — Mr. Schuon has homes in New York and California — he commissioned a designer to build a fountain in the center of the circular driveway, ordered huge double-glass doors for the entrance and hired Nicholas Walker, who has designed furniture for the MGM Grand and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, to do up the place.

"My designer and I had long conversations and many meetings about hotels I liked — the Four Seasons in New York and L'Ermitage in L.A. He had been to both and got it," Mr. Schuon said. They went over sketches and floor plans for weeks to duplicate the simple wood nightstands and lighting schemes (fluorescent tube lighting under the step to the bathtub, for example) that Mr. Schuon loved from the Four Seasons, along with the muted earth-tone colors of Raffles L'Ermitage.

The end result is five star all the way. Mr. Schuon has a hotel-style bathroom, complete with steam shower, spa tub, a phone, an adjacent minigym and robes with a palm tree logo he designed for his house. "Everyone who comes here says they feel like they're at the most posh hotel," Mr. Schuon said proudly.

"Resort homes are meant to make people feel enveloped in the essence of a hotel, like they are unwinding," said Mr. Leonard, Ms. Baum's architect. Two of Mr. Leonard's clients were so obsessed with what they described as the Zen quality of Raffles L'Ermitage that they paid for him to fly to Los Angeles and stay in the hotel to really

understand the look and duplicate it at their second home in Palm Springs.

Kelly Wearstler of KWID, the Los Angeles design firm behind the Avalon Hotel and Maison 140 Hotel in Beverly Hills and the Viceroy Hotels in Palm Springs and Santa Monica, said that she had gradually become used to private clients bringing photographs and brochures from hotels they had stayed in. Likewise, Jeff Klein, owner of City Club Hotel in Manhattan, said that he was no longer surprised by follow-up calls from guests once they were back home. "People always want to know where the stools came from or what color the paint is," he said.

The reason Ms. Brod modeled her Bridgehampton weekend house after a hotel? She said it was because she slept better in a hotel room than she did at home, and she wanted to recreate the "clean," peaceful aura of one of her favorite hotels — the Montalembert in Paris. "When we first visited on our honeymoon 10 years ago, we fell in love with the smooth lines of Christian Liagre's designs, who furnished the hotel," said Ms. Brod, whose

New York public relations firm bears her name. "There was no other place like it in Paris." When she and her husband gutted their beach house three years ago, they hired Laura Dupouy, an interior designer, to transfer the Montalembert's chic, clean aesthetic to Long Island.

Ms. Dupouy knew the hotel well, and relying largely on memory — the Liagre aesthetic was lost when the hotel was refurbished in 2002 — she worked to recreate its look for her clients. Extra-long oatmeal-colored Liagre sofas ("They were actually better than the ones in the hotel," Ms. Brod said) were ordered, providing a sleek contrast to the copper accents on the 30-foot panels of floor-to-ceiling glass that divide the kitchen from the living room.

That someone would look to a hotel to provide a sense of calm at home doesn't surprise Arthur Dunnam, an interior designer with Jed Johnson Associates. "People stay in hotels and, in some sense, get away from the stress they're encumbered by in their normal home environment," Mr. Dunnam said. By incorporating the details



Yugi Ono

JOURNEYS



Photographs by Gordon M. Grant for The New York Times

HOTEL INSPIRED Alison Brod's weekend house in Bridgehampton, N.Y., takes its chic aesthetic from Christian Liagre's designs for the Hotel Montalembert, far left, in Paris.



from their travels into their homes, he said, they evoke a sense of the carefree in their personal environments.

Mr. Dunnam has completed two projects that were based on Twin Farms, a resort in Barnard, Vt., designed by the late Mr. Johnson. "It's such a whimsical residential design," Mr. Dunnam said. "Not a typical staid New England faux-Colonial inn, this whole place has a playful, gutsy, robust approach to décor that blends unexpected elements."

One of Mr. Dunnam's clients, Katherine Bristol, a tax partner at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, reproduced the Twins Farms ambiance in her home in Amagansett, N.Y. "I wasn't aware you could build something so beautiful in today's world until I went to Twin Farms," she said. "I wanted to build a house like it."

In 1996, she did just that, right down to the cast nickel hardware, custom Pewabic tile work, and stone and metal vanities, all of which can be found at Twin Farms.

Tina Fenton, a bond saleswoman, and her companion, Tom Kirvaitis, a hedge fund manager, used to spend weekends at the Sunset Marquis Hotel and Villas, a celebrity-magnet hotel in West Hollywood. "It was extraordinarily relaxing," Mr. Kirvaitis said. "We've stayed in some of the finest hotels and just about every Four Seasons there is, from Paris to Tokyo. We don't remember a lot of those rooms. The Sunset Marquis was always the most memorable."

When he and Ms. Fenton moved from Sausalito, Calif., to Los Angeles, the first thing they did was hire the Marquis designer, Oliva Villaluz, as well as the hotel's cabinet makers and landscape artist. By the

end of this year, they will have their dream home, filled with the same Murano glass lighting, paper Japanese lanterns, black and white photography, cobblestone patios, 30's moderne vanities and burnt orange, cinnamon, olive and chocolate color scheme found in the hotel's villas.

"When you stay at a hotel that has been designed with so much energy and thought, it's something you want to replicate," Mr. Kirvaitis said. And, coincidentally, they are not only moving into a place that looks like the Sunset Marquis, but it is only four blocks away.

"We talked about going to Hawaii next Christmas and figured, why should we? We have the perfect escape feeling at home," Ms. Fenton said. In fact, only one thing is missing, she joked: "We're trying to negotiate room service."