

OPEN> HEALTH CENTER



St Bartholomew's Hospital
West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

Tel: +44-0300-123-1801
Architect: Steven Holl Architects

Well-known for their academic buildings—MIT's Simmons Hall and Glasgow School of Art among them—Steven Holl Architects have finally put their signature on London with a Maggie's Centre in support to the oncology department at St Bartholomew's Hospital. Located within an historical site, the bespoke building reveals the basic concept of "a thing within a thing within a thing": a glass outer skin (two sheets of matte glass with colored fragments in-between), bamboo stairs, and a concrete structure that is shaped like an open hand. Day and night, inside and outside, the perceptual experience of the triple-shell keeps changing. The matte glazed facade will appear to be made of alabaster during the day, while becoming transparent at night and enhancing the colored figures as well as the shadows of the concrete structure and human figures. A public roof garden offering more space for relaxation and visual experience will surprise the center's visitors.

Caterina Frisone

OPEN> HOTEL



Calvin Klein 205W39NYC
654 Madison Avenue, New York

Tel: 212-292-9000
Designers: Raf Simons and Sterling Ruby

Within a year of Raf Simons's reign as Calvin Klein's art director, the brand is already making bold changes—bold yellow changes in the case of its newly designed Midtown flagship store, where all three stories are painted in the sunny hue (Benjamin Moore's Delightful, to be exact). Artist Sterling Ruby worked with Simons to transform the formerly austere store, housed in a John Pawson-designed building, into a riotous space replete with ceiling-high scaffolding, giant stuffed columns with oversize yarn pom-poms, geometric displays, and an abundance of vintage Americana. Ruby and Simons have known each other for nearly 20 years, previously working on clothing collections and Calvin Klein's New York office. The store is loosely organized as a home, including a living room and a bedroom with a mattress, covered in an all-white flag quilt, on the floor (quilts feature prominently in the current iteration). Overall, the store signals a new era for former minimalism mascot Calvin Klein, and adds another prominent example to the larger maximalist trends currently sweeping the design scene. **Olivia Martin**

OPEN> RESTAURANT



Vespertine
3599 Hayden Avenue
Culver City, California

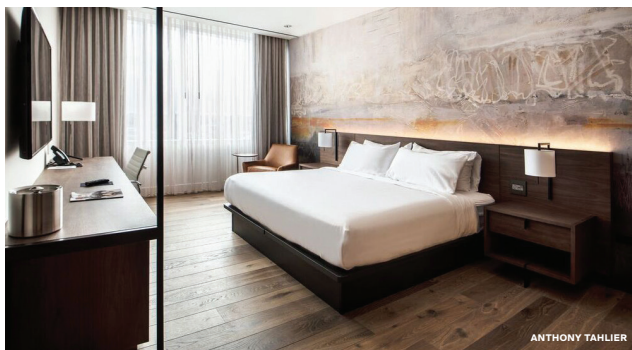
Tel: 323-320-4023
Architect: Eric Owen Moss Architects

Eric Owen Moss Architects (EOM) recently completed work on Vespertine, a new 5,500-square-foot structure housing a boutique restaurant helmed by chef Jordan Kahn that was developed hand-in-hand with EOM principal Eric Owen Moss and other artists as a convergent experience joining food, architecture, and music. The gridded tower is made up of an undulating stack of powder-coated steel plates infilled with panes of glass that rises 50 feet tall and houses two interior levels and a mezzanine. A clumpy horsetail- and concrete bench-filled garden sits beside the tower, filling out a footprint identical to that of the monolith.

When diners arrive, drinks are served in the horsetail garden, where a wedge-shaped concrete-block storage room also houses a bar. The glass-clad ground floor of the building is left unadorned, occupied only by a sculptural table suspended from the ceiling that wraps around the 38-by-38-foot space. An elevator housed in the building's core takes guests to the second-floor kitchen—an all-black arrangement of parallel worktables and induction burners where black-clad cooks use Olfa knives to dice vegetables that will be turned into various pastes, gels, and foams. After conferring with the chef, diners make it to the roof terrace above, where custom bean bag chairs and tables built from ready-made wood-working benches fill out the space.

Sometime during the 21-course meal, diners flow down into the building's mezzanine level, where banquettes and movable acrylic tables outfit a proper dining room. Ceiling spotlights and etched tabletops work in tandem to refract light through and around the food. At the end of the meal, diners descend back onto the ground floor, where the sculptural table offers a parting gift containing scents inspired by the night's meal. **Antonio Pacheco**

OPEN> HOTEL



The Hotel at Midtown
2444 North Elston Avenue
Chicago

Tel: 773-687-7600
Architect: DMAC Architecture

Guests have no trouble finding the gym at the Hotel at Midtown. The 55-room boutique hotel sits atop the recently expanded Midtown Athletic Club in the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago. The 575,000-square-foot complex was redesigned by Chicago-based DMAC Architecture and includes three floors of fitness space and two floors of hotel. Branded as a fitness resort, the hotel offers guests honorary membership status and access to two pools, a spa, a boxing gym, a cycle studio, golf simulators, yoga studios, a weight room, and 15 indoor tennis courts. The Hotel also includes a new restaurant and rooftop bar. **Matthew Messner**