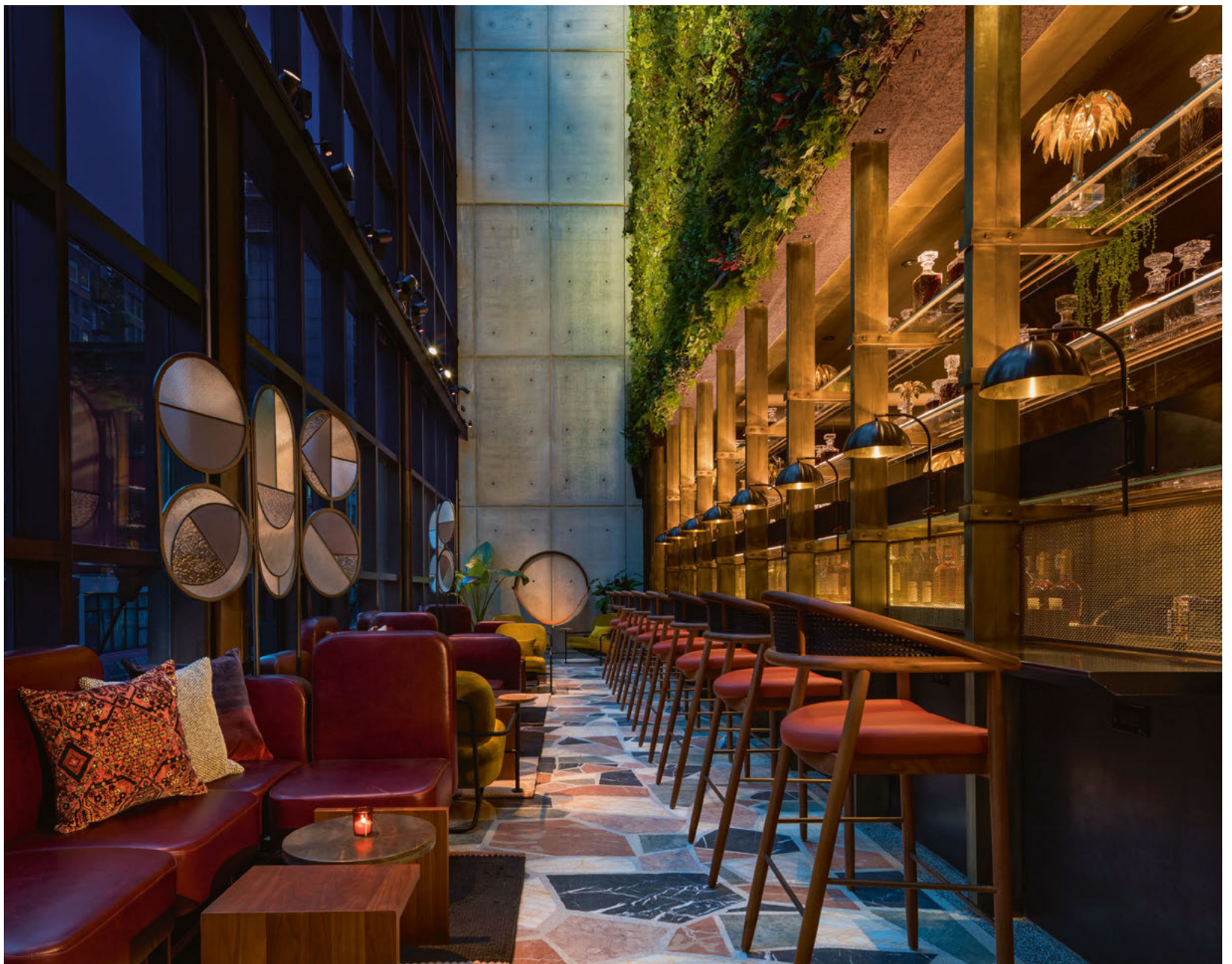


# SLEEPER

GLOBAL HOTEL DESIGN

MARCH | APRIL 2019



## Moxy Chelsea

Moxy Hotels takes root in New York's blossoming flower district

## AHEAD Global

The Awards for Hospitality Experience and Design crowns its ultimate winners

## Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's capital emerges from the shadows with a slate of luxury openings





# Mark Bruce

EPR ARCHITECTS

EPR's Head of Hotels jets to the picturesque shores of Cape Cod as he takes a fantasy break from transforming London's landmark buildings into luxury hotels.

## Where are you?

I'm on the tip of Cape Cod, taking a meandering tour of its peaceful, picturesque bays. The villages and harbour towns are so beautifully preserved, it's like stepping into a world forgotten.

## How did you get there?

By sea plane, flying over Massachusetts Bay.

## Who is there to greet you on arrival?

I'm fortunate to be met by one of my formative hotel clients, Robert Barclay Cook. Robert exudes hospitality and is a natural-born hotelier. He has a gift for curating the finer details in hotel design and making his guests feel at home. Before working with Robert, I designed hotels largely from an architectural viewpoint; his natural instinct for the theatre of hospitality inspired a fuller appreciation of hotel design from the guest's experience.

## Who are you sharing your room with?

My partner, who is the real traveller and explorer and tends to instigate our adventures.

## Is there anything you would like waiting for you in your room?

Tickets to a moonlit Carole King and James Taylor open-air concert.

## Describe the hotel, your room and the view...

I'm staying in an historic beach house hotel. Our rooms are in the pitch of the roof, nestled in the treetops and captured between two majestic stone chimney breasts. The end of the room is an open

gable with a wide balcony offering an immersive view of the horizon. Below, the sun-filled lobby and lounges have sandy floors and sweeping ceiling fans. A broad timber veranda opens on to a white-sand beach where a roaring bonfire burns every night. A William Fife-designed, 30m sailing yacht is moored on a jetty – our chosen mode of transport around the cape.

## Who designed it?

It's an undiscovered project, secretly undertaken by Frank Lloyd Wright during the height of his work on the Prairie houses. It shares their aesthetic and sits low within the landscape. The inside spaces blend seamlessly with outside and the views are framed beautifully.

## What's the restaurant and bar like?

The bar is nestled on an open cantilevered balcony, teetering over the edge of the woodland. I can hear the rustling of the trees and the lapping of the surf in the distance. The offer is comprised of simple yet expertly executed classic cocktails; I've ordered a Margarita. The mixologist spent time at Dandelyan in London, The NoMad in New York and Drink in Boston. The restaurant is an intimate, cosy space formed in natural materials and furnished in a simple yet refined manner.

## Who are you dining with this evening?

Meal times are always best when shared with those you love. Over dinner it's a joy to be surrounded by family and close friends, that's when I'm at my happiest. Later at the bar I enjoy enlightening

conversations with engineer and explorer Buzz Aldrin and American screenwriter Aaron Sorkin, and delight in an acoustic set by Debbie Harry.

## Who's manning the stoves?

Eric Ripert, Chef de Cuisine of Le Bernardin in New York. His inventive and beautifully conceived seafood dishes touch all the senses. I'm excited to see what he's going to do with the bounty of seafood found in and around Cape Cod.

## And what's on the menu?

A freshly caught tuna ceviche to start, followed by a wonderfully balanced spiced monkfish tikka and a large bowl of frutti di mare. To satisfy my sweet tooth there's a simple yet refreshing lemon tart and to finish, a generous plate of local cheeses to slowly pick over whilst washing it down with a glass or two of vintage port.

## What's in the mini-bar for a night cap?

A 15-year-old Dark Havana Club Rum on ice.

## What toiletries would you like to freshen up with?

Something fresh, locally sourced and natural.

## Would you like a newspaper in the morning?

No thank you – I'll be enjoying a long lie-in followed by a pre-breakfast swim.

## And for breakfast?

A petit déjeuner on the beach would be ideal. An extra strong smooth Americano, iced orange juice and freshly-baked French bread and croissants.

Name: Mark Bruce | Position: Director, Head of Hotels, EPR Architects | [www.epr.co.uk](http://www.epr.co.uk)

Notable hotel projects: The Ned; Kimpton Fitzroy; Great Scotland Yard Hotel; Old War Office; Bow Street Magistrates Court; Marylebone Lane Hotel; all London