

DESTINATION RESTORATION

From the reopening of the historical Hotel Saint George to some brave renovations at Hotel Derek, Texas hospitality has never seemed sweeter.



GRAND REOPENING From top: The lobby of Marfa's Hotel Saint George, which features modern art and the Marfa Book Company; a room at the newly revived hotel.

HOUSTON

Suite Dreams

Houston's **Hotel Derek** has never met a bright color or zippy pattern it didn't like. And with the revamp of six vibrant concept suites, headed by interior designer Gail McCleese of Gensler, the Galleria-area boutique hotel has taken things up another notch. In the Behave suite, for example, the glam upgrade includes a metallic glass-top cocktail table and a Tibetan fur-adorned chair, both by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, paired with a daring psychedelic wallcovering by Kalisher that gives the space a throwback '70s vibe. The bold moves continue in the other five suites, where the design team again turned to Kalisher for the custom wallpaper and artwork, and to Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams for the furnishings, including the Mockingbird suite's whimsical birdcage lounge chair, which features a stainless steel cage filled with plush white cushions. To top things off, each suite boasts floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the bustling cityscape. *Suites from \$500 per night, 2525 W. Loop S., Houston, 713.961.3000, hotelderek.com* —Rhonda Reinhart



MAKING THE UPGRADE Hotel Derek's new Mockingbird suite, which pays homage to Texas' state bird

MARFA

Saints Alive!

With the cutting-edge modern art displayed at the Chinati Foundation, Ballroom Marfa and other galleries, plus multiple festivals, a theater and countless other activities, Marfa is undoubtedly a world-class cultural destination. But all that action creates a challenge for visitors who need a place to stay. The search for lodging has changed now that the Carlos Jimenez- and HKS Hospitality Group-designed **Hotel Saint George** has reopened its doors. Built in the 1880s but shuttered for nearly 90 years, the four-story minimalist box is already a center of activity. Exposed beams, original concrete floors and steel lobby doors are a sleek backdrop for the Marfa Book Company, which is located in the lobby, where works by artists Dustin Pevey and Michael Phelan are on display. Mary Alice Palmer and Adele Cuartelon of Dallas-based HKS Hospitality Group have outfitted the 49 rooms and six suites with Australian sheepskin rugs and stark white bedding. Further sustenance comes via LaVenture, the in-house restaurant that serves rustic American-style cuisine with French and Italian influences. *Rooms from \$195 per night, suites from \$350 per night, 105 S. Highland Ave., Marfa, 432.729.3700, marfasaintgeorge.com* —Helen Thompson

HOTEL DEREK PHOTO BY JAKE SORSTER; HOTEL SAINT GEORGE PHOTO BY CASEY QUINN