



▲ BRASSERIE 44 New York

Philippe Starck turned the Royalton Hotel into a modern design icon following its 1988 renovation, but not even Starck lasts forever. The Royalton's \$17.5 million renovation last year by Roman and Williams introduces a more timeless interior and a new restaurant, Brasserie 44, in collaboration with restaurateur John McDonald. In contrast to the dark masculinity of the lobby, Brasserie 44 is all light and air, with ship-like rigging that scales the walls above teak banquets. Check back in 20 years to see if it floats. royaltonhotel.com, philippe-starck.com



▲ FIAMMA BURGER Bellingham, WA

In spite of its current haute incarnations, the classic burger is, at heart, simple and unfussy. Vancouver firm Bricault Design's conception of the burger joint is accordingly self-deprecating, with walls of patterned wood laminate and tables of fir beams recovered from the construction site. The highest endorsement, however, comes from our Northwest correspondent, who says, "The interior may be a bit techie-deckie, but they make a damn fine burger." fiammaburger.com, bricault.ca



▲ S BAR Los Angeles

Mega-group SBE Entertainment has once again commissioned designer Philippe Starck to turn traditional decor on its head. He started by lighting S Bar with upside-down lamps. The interior ranges from playful to refined and finally to surreal with trompe l'oeil walls depicting aged photographs and oddly-shaped vases filled with brightly colored liquids. A scene for design nerds, bohemians and preps alike. sbe.com, philippe-starck.com