

## THE MAKER HOTEL

### Quintessential new American heritage

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An old Imperial typewriter is waiting on the desk in The Writer Studio, a writer's retreat space with its own library, where Hemingway himself would have had no excuse other than lack of willpower not to overthrow writer's block. Unless the excuse was the chiming of a carriage clock on the mantelpiece to announce cocktail hour in the bar.

Tucked away inside a restored 19th century carriage house, where the railway carriage clock seems to have stopped at another moment in time, a time of olde worlde glamour of fringed lampshades clustered above the bar, the stage is set for an Old Fashioned (whisky and a tot of sherry, muddled with bitters and sugar) or a discreet Hanky Panky (vermouth and gin, a cocktail devised in 1903 by the American Bar of the Savoy Hotel), confidentialities whispered on the cosy button-back velvet settle, shushed by the leather clad walls.

Stepping inside the imposing red brick townhouse, the cool, dimly lit interior of The Maker is stepping into quintessential American heritage. Dark wood panelling lines the passageways, lamplight from an antique brass lamp on a gleaming polished walnut console table. Every piece of furniture in this handsome mansion house in Hudson exudes the culture of Harvard's alumni in upstate New York, the timeless reassurance of heirlooms.

Huge candelabra chandeliers creak above a museum wall of heavily framed paintings — it could be a stately home where the portraits have been handed down for generations. But this is all artifice.

Alina Roytberg and Lev Glazman, co-founders of Fresh toiletries, took on the renovation of three buildings of historic importance in downtown Hudson: a Georgian mansion, an 1800s carriage house and a Greek revival building, and teamed up with Damien Janowicz — who had experience in running hotels — to open a new hotel.

Lev Glazman led the interior design and creative concept for the art. "On my travels, I always felt there was an opportunity to expand the hospitality experience," he says. "One that inspires and allows you to dream."



The Artist Studio

Working with Lagonia Construction, which was instrumental in rebuilding the space and restoring the buildings, the team preserved the buildings' architectural elements, retaining the original dark wood flooring, heavy panelling, dark wood door frames, and mosaic tiles in the foyer. The bedrooms are designed around the period features and impressive hand-painted ceilings, with each room designed on a theme to tell a story.

A vintage painting easel holds a gilded framed still life in The Artist Studio. The carved wooden fireplace was made with restored antique furniture pieces and the walls are covered in eclectic artwork from Lev Glazman's private art collections, some pieces by the Costa Rican artist and sculptor Francisco Zúñiga Chavarría, from Guadalupe, who is known for his full bodied sculptures and figurative paintings of women as mothers with young children, depicting the everyday experience of the revered figure of Mother Mary as it is embodied by peasant women in rural farming communities.

On a drawing table stands a plaster sculpture of a dancing nude by Frederick Weinberg, who is known for stylistic dancing forms as slender as a pencil outline filled with movement, and his iconic prancing horse sculptures in brass, bronze or iron. It was Frederick Weinberg who designed the original versions of the wrought iron metalwork barstools in the 1950s-1960s, industrial style barstools that are so ubiquitous now in the 2020s.



The Architect Studio is a linear space of square edges. With bookshelves and drawers lining one wall like an apartment, it imagines the world of an architect's living space in the 1940s and their vision of modern design. The suite is furnished with original mid-century furniture, including a one-of-a-kind square edged angular sofa from the 1950s designed by Edward Wormley for Dunbar — a hero of hounds tooth check, although this sofa is covered in grey bouclé wool. It's a disciplined decor bordering on severity. The bedroom walls are clad in herringbone fabric. The living room area has a custom carved black granite fireplace, while the grand marble bathroom has underfloor heating and a vast rectangular olive green granite soaking tub.

The Terrace Lofts are like a Parisian studio, with light from dormer windows and French windows leading outside onto terraces with a large day bed piled with cushions, for dozing or reading. The loft rooms are furnished with antiques, walnut burr chests and vintage ceramic lamps from the 1960s, and antique Berber wedding rugs.

The Apartment features Scandinavian Gustavian designs in muted velvets, 1950s light fixtures, antique Moroccan rugs and abstract art and figurative paintings.

Lev Glazman wanted to create The Maker to celebrate the 'world of makers'. "We knew we could have The Maker concept in Hudson because the area is so rich with artisans, history and design. It is in the perfect location," he says. Hudson has thriving vintage shops, artisan bakeries and craft studios. The Hudson Valley is home to creatives and generations of craftsmanship and makers.

Hudson the city is named after the English explorer, Henry Hudson, who sailed up the river in 1609. Founded on its fishing traditions, the area around the Hudson River was originally inhabited by native Mahican people (Muhhekanneuw: people of the great river). Hudson has had a turbulent history since it was settled in the 1700s by seafaring Quakers of Nantucket, seeking refuge from Britain for their whaling ships.



The Lounge

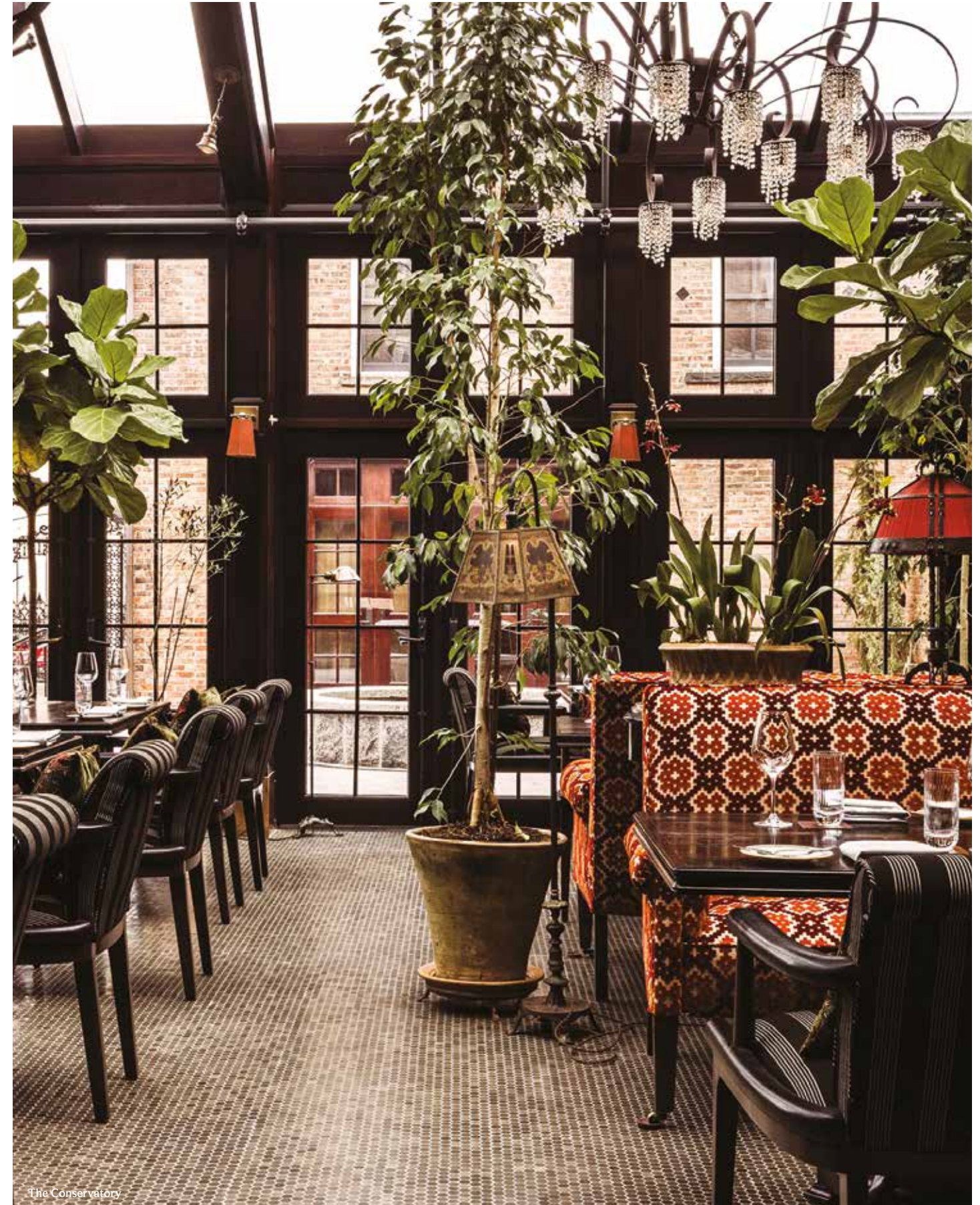


The Corner Studio

Herman Melville, the American author best known for his story of Moby Dick, the whale who vanquished a whaling ship, dipped into archives of shipping reports by captains of cargo ships before writing his own fiction based on events. The team of designers who crafted The Maker trawled the heritage of antiques and mid-century furniture to create original furnishings based on classic design. The team that launched the hotel set their course to the Hudson River community for the stream of craftsmanship.

The Maker draws on the craftsmanship of Hudson Valley artisans, joiners, cabinet makers, furniture makers. A sixth-generation master furniture restorer, Gary Keegan, rebuilt original fireplace mantles, antiques and custom furniture and the barley twist wood carving spindles of the fireplace in the Artist Studio. The fireplace in the restaurant is Belgian 1878 Neoclassical with an ornately carved fireplace mantle, and the floor-to-ceiling mirror is restored from the 18th century.

Comfortable high back winged armchairs, vast comfortable bed frames, curved in walnut and upholstered in the muted grey green of seafoam on an overcast day in fall... surely heritage furniture holding the memories of grandparents. Yet some of these memories are as unreliable as the narrator in Herman Melville's fiction. Some of the 'antique' light fixtures were designed by Lev Glazman in collaboration with lighting designer Steven McKay.



The Conservatory

A great deal of thought and expert craftsmanship has gone into cleverly creating a timeless collection of items of furniture which sit seamlessly among the carefully curated vintage pieces at The Maker. King size beds that resemble antique French Louis XIV chateau sleigh beds were designed by Lev Glazman in collaboration with the architect Kipp Edick and are among the capsule collection of furniture which the hotel's design team created as custom made pieces to be purchased in The Maker's furniture shop.

The bed in The Gardener studio is a custom Maker design with an iron metal frame upholstered with rich rust red velvet end panels. Botanical paintings of poppy red flowers bring a splash of colour echoed in the rugs and tapestry carpet upholstery covering the footstool and vibrant potted plants bring a lush living element. Wrought iron details bring an architectural material often found outside in railings around gardens into the room. The cast iron and bronze grilles screening off the bathroom were restored from the Beaux-Arts 1908 Singer building in New York. The bedroom has an 1800s mahogany wardrobe, and an 1870s restored Eastlake gas-lit cast iron chandelier is another original antique piece.



The Gardener Studio



The Artist Studio Bathroom

An Art Deco Tiffany glass transom window arched above a doorway in The Artist studio leads to the bathroom, where the walls are covered in a fretwork pattern. A claw-foot bath stands by the window with piping hot water pouring through freestanding copper pipework bath taps. A brass tray across the bathtub has a full bottle of Fresh Seaberry bubble bath for a deep luxurious soak. The shower room of The Gardener with its soft green lustre tiles is supplied with Fresh Sugar Lemon Shower Gel.

As well as Fresh toiletries, Lev Glazman collaborated with local fragrance maker Christopher Draghi, co-founder of Source Adage, to create The Maker Hudson Eau de Toilette, a spicy woody fragrance of cardamom, pepper, saffron and rhubarb, that captures the heart of creative artisanal craftsmanship of Hudson. (Profits from the perfume are donated back into the community).

To connect the three buildings and integrate the spaces, a new conservatory was built with glass-ceiling windows, enveloped in layers of greenery. Tapestry upholstery brings colour and pattern into the light filled space. The conservatory leads outside to a central lush courtyard and a tempting azurite-blue swimming pool. Alina Roytberg led the design behind the branding, as well as design of colour palettes and custom patterns, which bring the restaurant interiors to life in the conservatory building.



The Writer Studio

The Writer Studio, inspired by the life of an author, features the building's original oak fireplace and has a library, bookshelves restored from the 1800s filled with collections of books from the iconic Strand Book Store, New York, and curiosities from around the world like the gramophone trumpet and a portrait of iconic singer Edith Piaf.

The Corner Studio resembles a 1940s film set and is presided over by a portrait of Joan Crawford, the forthright Hollywood actress who spoke her mind and understood the art of dressing well to maintain her image. The elegant silver-grey velvet sofa brings a soft shimmer to the cool dove grey palette and black and white photography. With a legendary work ethic that generated box office success, Joan Crawford commanded high fees and spent it on luxury lifestyle. "I have always known what I wanted, and that was beauty... in every form," she would often be heard saying.

The Maker would have met with her approval.

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