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A Place to Stay

HOTELS TODAY ARE BECOMING MORE THAN SOMEWHERE to sleep and store belongings. They have personalities and, sometimes, attitudes. Through their design, amenities, and food and beverage, hotels are adapting to the needs of the modern traveler and tapping into local culture to create a sense of place.

On a recent trip to NYC, I stayed at the Moxy NYC Times Square (page 37). Marriott's lifestyle brand, Moxy is relatively new in the U.S. (with the first U.S. location opening in March 2016 in Tempe, Arizona; the Times Square location opened in September 2017). The millennial-minded hotel is, in a word, efficient. The rooms (designed by Yabu Pushelberg) have everything—but not more. What's there, though, not only makes sense but is also upscale. A foldaway desk, bench and chair hang from one of the many wooden wall pegs, which we used when we had some friends over for a drink. The bed is made with 300 thread-count, 100 percent Egyptian cotton linens. The walk-in rain shower (with “no diving” styled into the tiling) is a subtle luxury—one that proved to be essential for humid August days.

The room, really, was whatever I needed it to be. Five minutes from Penn Station and a few blocks from Times Square, Moxy NYC Times Square is a prime location to explore and subsequently escape the hustle and bustle of Midtown Manhattan. My Moxy stay was its own enjoyable experience when I needed a respite from the city, from the nontraditional check-in to Magic Hour, the rooftop “urban amusement park.”

There are plenty of new hotels in the pipeline for all five boroughs, all with their own flair. Flip to page 28 to read more. We also look at other boutique properties outside NYC (page 24) that are worth a stay.

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