

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

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## DISCOVERIES



### HOTELS

## STREET SMART

The new HôtelAmericano in Manhattan nods more clearly to its immediate surroundings than it does to America at large. Located on a quiet West Chelsea block, the Enrique Norten-designed structure features a façade sheathed in metal mesh that is actually



a patchwork of repurposed conveyor belts. “We were looking for materials that would relate to the area’s industrial past,” explains Norten, principal of TEN Arquitectos. Lit up at night, the hotel asserts itself coolly from the streetscape—a sight best seen from the recently extended High Line park.

“What drew us to this location was art,” says hotelier Carlos Couturier, cofounder of the boutique chain Grupo Habita, referring to the local gallery scene (see below). So as not to compete, the rooms are free of artwork, dominated instead by mod furnishings such as enclosed platform beds. After a night of openings, guests can refuel at either of the Americano’s two restaurants or in their own quarters, where bento boxes arrive at the touch of an iPad. Suffice it to say, the neighborhood has come a long way.

518 W. 27th St.; [hotel-americano.com](http://hotel-americano.com), 212-216-0000 —A.L.