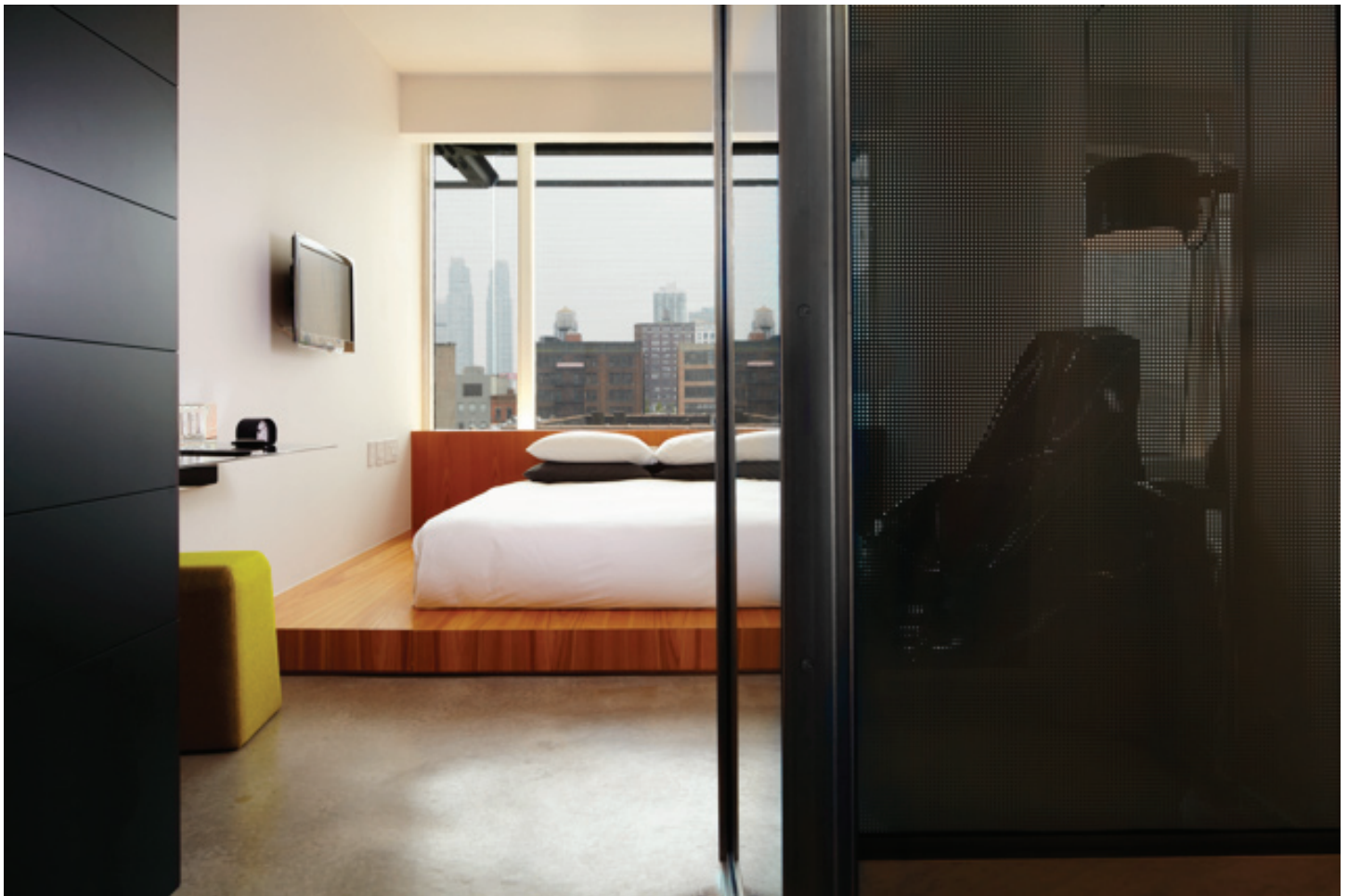


PILLOW TALK

HôtelAmericano, New York City

Thursday, August 25



Mexican-owned, French-designed, Japanese-styled, NYC-outfitted: Like our great national stew, Chelsea's latest design hotel is an exercise in delicious eclecticism. HôtelAmericano, indeed. Opening in early September amid art galleries on a gritty stretch of West 27th Street, Grupo Habita's first property north of the border fits in brilliantly with the patchwork of New York City.

Outside, an industrial chain-link facade shields the rooms from prying eyes on the High Line. Inside, the 56 midcentury minimalist rooms are reminiscent of an urban ryokan, thanks to wooden platform beds and gallery-style white walls. Denim robes from Loden Dager, Latin-French room service in bento boxes, and mezcal and harmonicas in the minibar add just the right amount of quirkiness. In lesser hands, all this mishmash might appear muddled, but as conceived by interior designer Arnaud Montigny (of Colette fame), the easy *je ne sais quoi* of cool feels just like home.