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WHAT'S NEWS

## An Indestructible Panerai Watch and LED Lamps: the Best Designed Items of February

A book on paleolithic cooking, a chic hotel in Boston and everything else we're obsessed with this month



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BOSTON UNCOMMON

In a city of storied sites, a new hotel in the old Ritz-Carlton holds its own.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/an-indestructible-panerai-watch-and-led-lamps-the-best-designed-items-of-february-11612964051>

Set on a prime Back Bay corner overlooking the Public Garden, the 286-room Newbury Hotel opening next month occupies a 1927 neoclassical landmark originally built as one of the country's first Ritz-Carltons.

Now owned by hospitality company Highgate, the property has emerged from a historically sensitive redo by a trio of designers. Jeffrey Beers handled the public areas, including a new entrance positioned among the boutiques of Newbury Street and a book-lined lobby curated by the Boston Public Library. Alexandra Champalimaud created the rooms and suites, many with working fireplaces and garden views, conceiving serene, residential-style spaces using soft hues, lightly stained oak and rich textures. She sees the subtlety of her scheme as among its greatest assets. "We know how to modernize these great hotels using small changes that are very contemporary but not radical," she says. "People want details like those of a crisply tailored shirt."

Ken Fulk lends a sense of fun and fancy to the forthcoming rooftop restaurant from Major Food Group, of Dirty French and Carbone fame. "I have a history and romantic notion around this space," Fulk explains. "I moved to Boston after college. It was still the Ritz then, and it was still the most glamorous thing in town." Fulk's design channels the atmosphere of an Italian lake resort villa. "Coming out of the current moment, all of us want a reason to go out," he says, "to see and be seen, celebrate our cities and linger at a table." *thenewburyboston.com* —Andrew Sessa