



Maria Shollenbarger SEPTEMBER 26 2021

A Boston belter

Those familiar with the ebullient San Francisco-based design impresario Ken Fulk can spot one of his interiors in seconds. Likewise the sleeker, more serene signature lines of a space signed [Alexandra Champalimaud](#). Lucky Boston, then, to be home since May to The Newbury, a historic building on the Back Bay's main drag functioning as a hotel since 1927 – first as a Ritz-Carlton, then a Taj, now owned by a partnership including boutique company Highgate, which closed it in 2019 for this total makeover. It has been reworked by the pair (along with architect Jeffrey Beers) into a super-luxe iteration of Boston style. Which means all the updates you'd expect (Champalimaud brought the bigger, better bathrooms, a lightened-up palette and diffuse understatement to the rooms). But also a fair bit of resurrecting of the old good things, from extensive original wainscoting to big fabulous chandeliers. Fulk's designs for [Contessa](#), the rooftop bar and restaurant, brings all the more-is-more joy you'd expect, from the multi-hued marble floors to the pink velvet banquettes. (If you want a *real* hit of Fulk fabulousness, get yourself invited to [The 'Quin House](#), Boston's new members' club, which he has designed in its dazzling entirety.) [thenewburyboston.com](https://www.thenewburyboston.com), from about \$635



Contessa, The Newbury's rooftop bar and restaurant © Douglas Friedman



"All the more-is-more joy you'd expect": a Ken Fulk interior for Contessa © Douglas Friedman