

Love At First Sight: The Most Impressive Hotel Lobbies In New York City



Irene S. Levine Contributor @
Travel



Gates to the Lotte New York Palace LOTTE NEW YORK PALACE

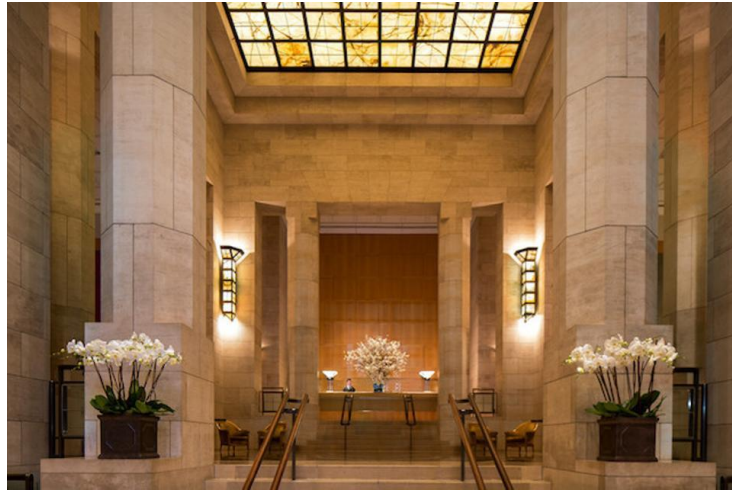
Whether you call New York City home or are a visitor to the city, you'll want to step into each of these dazzling, not-to-be-missed, five-star hotel lobbies.

Hotel lobbies are designed to make a great first impression, one that welcomes guests and visitors alike. While photos may offer a glimpse at their beauty, these exceptional lobbies demand to be experienced in person for their stunning art, architecture and decor.

Even better: Book a room to see them in the morning and at night.

The Four Seasons Hotel New York

57 East 57th Street



Lobby of the Four Seasons Hotel New York FOUR SEASONS/PETER MALINOWSKI

The [Four Seasons Hotel New York](#) stands out as the only hotel in the Western Hemisphere designed by I.M. Pei. Among the architect's other notable achievements: the distinctive glass entrance to the Louvre in Paris, the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in D.C. and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha.

With walls made of the same honey-colored French limestone Mr. Pei used at The Louvre, the 33-foot soaring lobby ceiling of the 52-story hotel resonates with the height of the building's surrounding skyscrapers. One flight up from the street is the lobby's rotunda, which is circled by eight pillars that accent a suspended, backlit onyx ceiling.

Take a peek: Flanking the lobby are the art deco-inspired [Ty Bar](#) (open from noon to midnight) on the left, which serves cocktails and small bites, and the forest-like setting of [The Garden](#) restaurant on the right.

Mandarin Oriental, New York

80 Columbus Circle



Sky Lobby of the Mandarin Oriental, New York MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL GROUP

Rather than entering at ground level, visitors to the [Mandarin Oriental, New York](#) are whisked up to the 35th floor Sky Lobby on express elevators. There, competing for attention, are the magnificent views of Central Park and the Manhattan skyline from 280 feet above, and the eye-catching Chihuly glass sculpture that seems to be emerging from a moss garden set in the elliptically-shaped marble and granite floor.

Lalique-inspired ceiling detail, granite reception desks, and silver-plated stair railings are complemented by a mix of artwork on the walls by New York artists and Chinese textiles.

Take a peek: Walk through the lobby to get to [Asiate](#), a restaurant offering modern American cuisine with a creative twist and jaw-dropping views of the park, or to get to [The Aviary NYC](#), an inventive cocktail lounge.

Baccarat Hotel New York

28 West 53rd Street



Petit Salon of the Baccarat Hotel New York BACCARAT HOTEL/ERIC LAIGNEL

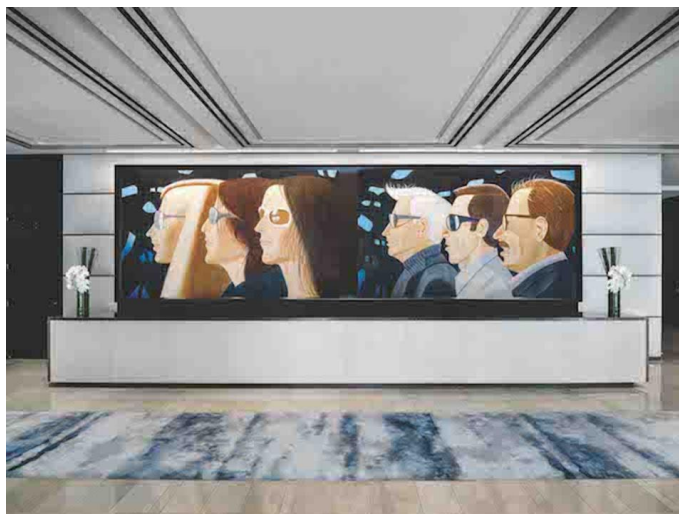
Conceived in a "*hôtel particulier*" style by Paris-based interior designer [Gilles & Boissier](#), the prismatic glass façade of the [Baccarat Hotel New York](#) recalls the radiance of Baccarat crystal. Just inside the entrance is a dual-sided fireplace (paying homage to Baccarat's furnaces) and a wall formed of nearly 2000 of the brand's Harcourt glasses lay horizontally and illuminated with LED lights.

The hotel lobby flaunts convention: Guests are welcomed in The Petit Salon, a private guest sitting area enclosed with glass walls, which sits on the second floor just beyond a discreet reception desk. Emerald green velvet settees encourage relaxation amidst intricate wood-paneled walls; art installations with re-contextualized crystal elements; silver-leafed *boiserie*; shimmering shards of mica; and two of the hotel's seventeen magnificent, custom-produced chandeliers.

Take a peek: Also on the second floor lobby level are the visually stunning [Grand Salon](#), featuring for all-day dining inspired by two Michelin-starred Chef Gabriel Kreuther, and [The Bar](#), popular gathering spaces for hotel guests and New Yorkers alike.

The Langham, New York

400 Fifth Avenue



Katz mural behind the reception desk at The Langham, New York LANGHAM/MICHAEL WEBER PHOTOGRAPHY

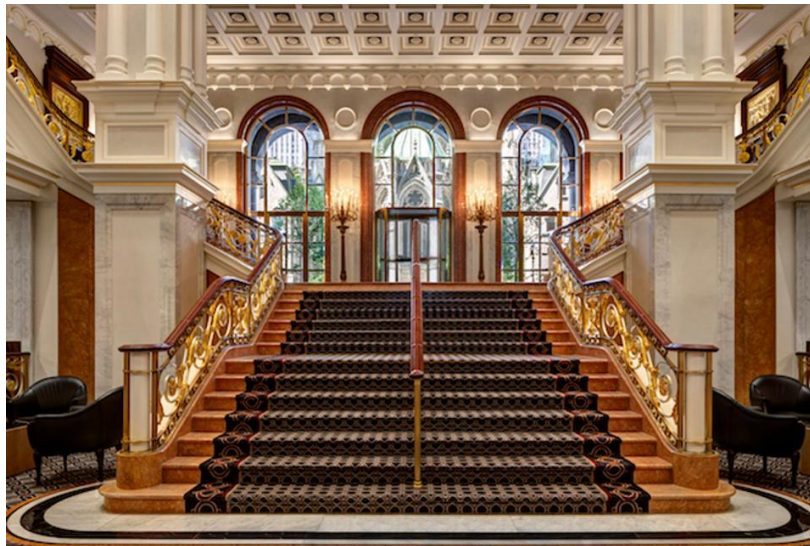
Stepping into the sophisticated lobby of the [Langham, New York](#) is sure to awaken the senses: From the hotel's subtle signature scent (ginger flower) permeating the air—to the two colorful, 10-foot-wide oil murals by legendary New York artist, Alex Katz, hanging behind the sleek reception desk. This contemporary lobby that invites relaxation and people-watching will especially appeal to art lovers: The Langham is home to 11 original artworks by Katz in total (all on display in public areas), one of the largest collections outside a museum.

The larger than life oil murals capture the profiles of men and women, seemingly mirroring pedestrians on busy Fifth Avenue as seen through the lobby's soaring floor-to-ceiling windows. Next to the concierge desk is a silkscreen of Katz's wife, whom he has painted more than 250 times. The artist's work has been recognized as an important precursor to the Pop Art Movement. Some 250 Katz lithographs and silkscreens are also scattered throughout the guestrooms and hotel corridors.

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Lotte New York Palace

455 Madison Avenue



Grand Staircase of the Lotte Palace New York LOTTE PALACE NEW YORK/BRUCE BUCK

The spacious, bi-level marble lobby of the [Lotte New York Palace](#) not only evokes grandeur but also harmoniously blends the two elements of this storied 909-room property: the landmark Villard Mansion (on Madison Avenue) and its contemporary 55-story hotel tower.

The Madison Avenue courtyard entrance to the hotel, which once welcomed carriages, leads to the hotel's grand staircase and lower lobby below. Off the stately foyer are two event spaces, the oval Villard Ballroom and Reid Salon. One especially impressive feature is its restored red Verona marble fireplace, originally designed for the mansion by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. With classic columns, rich woods and warm carpeting, the reception area and private entranceway to The Towers are located in the lower lobby.

Take a peek: Visitors can enjoy cocktails and light snacks under the gilt ceilings of [The Gold Room](#); located within the Villard Mansion; stop in at [Troubles Trust](#), the bar tucked under the grand staircase; enjoy a personalized drinking experience by reservation at [Rarities](#), or enjoy seasonal baked goods and other indulgences at [Pomme Palais](#) on the ground floor.