



Travel + Leisure – September 2010



**HOTELS**  
 AROUND THE WORLD, HOTELS ARE putting art and design at the forefront. In Uruguay, the seaside **Playa Vik José Ignacio** (Calle Los Cisnes, 508-94, 605-212; [vikretreats.com](http://vikretreats.com); doubles from \$900), by Montevideo born architect Carlos Ott (best known for Paris's Opéra Bastille), is filled with works by James Turrell, Anselm Kiefer, and contemporary homegrown talent. ● Milan-based Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola has transformed a Wyndham property on Vieques, Puerto Rico, into the colorful **W Retreat & Spa** (Km 3.2, State Rd. 200; 787-741-4100; [whotels.com](http://whotels.com); doubles from \$599), with locally inspired art, multihued woven loungers, patterned walls, and steel bathtubs. ● In London, the **Connaught** (Carlos Place, 44-20/7499-7070; [the-connaught.co.uk](http://the-connaught.co.uk); doubles from \$390) has a new wing with prints by Josef Albers and an Asian-inflected moon garden. —RAUL BARRENECHE



From top: The living room designed by Patricia Urquiola at the W Retreat & Spa, on Vieques, in Puerto Rico; prints by Josef Albers on view at a room in the Connaught, in London.

ARTFUL LODGINGS

newsflash CULTURE SPECIAL



THEATER

The emotionally volatile Spanish women of Pedro Almodóvar's *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* arrive on Broadway in a new musical by David Yazbek and Jeffrey Lane. Sherie Rene Scott stars; Bartlett Sher directs (opens Nov. 4; [Belasco Theatre; lct.org](http://BelascoTheatre.com)).

—BILL ROSENFELD

READING LIST



From Argentina to Morocco, the black-and-white images in *Chasing Beauty* (\$50; [PowerHouse Books](http://PowerHouseBooks.com)) by photographer and T+L contributor Richard Pheasant, find elegance in

even the smallest of pieces: a horse's front legs; the curve of a seashell. ● In *The Masque of Africa* (Knopf, \$26.95), V. S. Naipaul traverses the continent looking at history, spirituality, and

politics, beginning in Uganda, where he lived 40 years ago. ● Just how popular is the Chinese game of mah-jongg? It's a question *Mah Jongg: Crak, Bam, Dot* (Zwille Books; \$40) playfully

answers with essays, archival images, and illustrations from Bruce McCull, Isaac Mizrahi, and Maira Kalman. ("Project Mah Jongg," a related exhibition, is at New York City's

Museum of Jewish Heritage through January 2.) ● New Yorker staff writer Ian Frazier ventures into the cold and beyond the modern world, in his brilliantly observed *Travels in Siberia* (Farrar,

Straus & Giroux; \$28). ● *Art for All: British Posters for Transport* (Yale University Press; \$50) provides a graphic celebration of the world-famous Tube. —AMY FARLEY

