

House Beautiful

A SPECIAL ISSUE

GLAMOUR

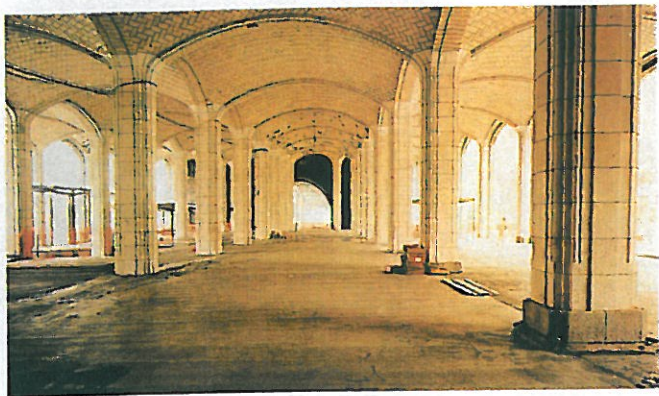
PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT
ROOMS THAT FLAUNT IT
SHOPS THAT SELL IT



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RESTORATION DRAMA

Fraught with delays, the redevelopment of New York's Bridge Market—a vaulted, Guastavino-tiled, cathedrallike space (left) under the Queensboro Bridge—has been 22 years in the making. But now, with the help of British style-setter Sir Terence Conran, it's all systems go. Slated to open in November, Bridgemarket will comprise a high-end Terence Conran Shop furniture store and a restaurant that will be separated by glass walls from a Food Emporium supermarket. "It's going to be wonderful to see the public there at last," says architect Hugh Hardy, who has been involved since the start. *Tessa Souter*

ONE-STOP SHOP

For eighteen years Manhattan designer Vicente Wolf had wanted to open a showroom, but what with decorating homes for his clients, traveling around the world shopping for those projects, and doing furniture for High Point manufacturers, well, he's been busy. Then his landlord called to say the space adjacent to his design studio was vacant. Wolf decided it was now or never. In the new light-flooded showroom, which is open to the trade and the public, he has brought together a remarkable range of objects. Examples (below): 1940s French floor



lamp (\$6,000), 18th-century Swedish mirrors (\$3,000 each), his own oak side chair (\$1,400) and wall sconce (\$320). "People go to a shop that sells Swedish things, another that sells modern things, a third that sells French," explains Wolf. "I want to show how it can all go together." VW Home, 333 W. 39th St.; 212-465-0590. *Jane Margolies*

LUXE REDUX

Casa del Mar was once Santa Monica's grandest beach club. Built in 1926, the imposing Italianate structure attracted a posh crowd of diners, dancers, swimmers, and sunbathers. Now, after doing time as World War II military housing and, most recently, a Pritikin Longevity Center, Casa del Mar has been transformed into a 129-room hotel. Designers Darrell Schmitt and Cheryl Rowley collaborated to create interiors that Schmitt calls "raffishly elegant." "Virtually everything had been obliterated in the building," Schmitt says. "So we weren't reproducing what was there, but designing something reminiscent of the era." The designers gave guest rooms (above) sunny colors, traditional fruitwood furniture, and marbled baths. The U-shaped building embraces a roof deck with a new swimming pool and Mediterranean landscaping. The former ballroom is a sweeping space that includes the lobby and a lounge that—like the hotel's restaurant, Oceanfront—overlooks the Pacific through floor-to-ceiling windows. Call 800-898-6999. *Jeff Book*



IN THE AIR Lately leather is in stitches. Exposed thread edges Ralph Lauren's new four-poster bed, outlines Banana Republic's napkin rings, and runs across Hinson's coffee table.

NEXT STOP: 2000

Comité Colbert, the French luxury-goods consortium, makes a provocative bid for the 21st century with an interactive exhibit to be held October 11 to 20 in Vanderbilt Hall in New York's newly restored Grand Central Terminal. Rooms designed around member companies' products enclose architect L.A. Morgan's towering courtyard (right). Rémy Martin proposes an updated Louis XIII salon with a gold-, silver-, and copper-leaf bar. Chanel imagines the pearl-and-rock crystal home spa Coco herself might have ordered up for the year 2000. Call 212-757-4419. *Christopher Petkanas*

