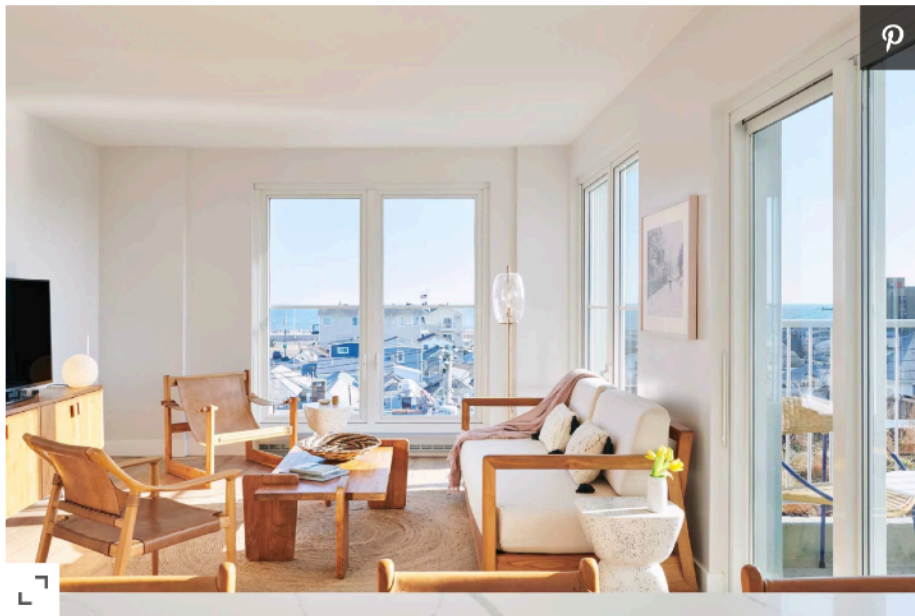


It List 2021: Our Editors' Picks of the Best New Hotels in the World

Believe it or not, the past 12 months were big for [hotel openings](#). Flinging open their doors for the first time, these new and revamped properties welcomed guests inside with a (masked) hello and a taste of travel's future.

Our guide to the essential openings of the past year took us to 29 countries in pursuit of the unforgettable. Over the course of 2020, T+L writers and editors trekked to a remote Namibian tented camp in a vast nature reserve, surfed the waves at a boho-chic resort in Baja Sur, Mexico, and sipped Sazeracs on the porch of an 1891 former residence in [New Orleans](#). While there are plenty of extravagant stays and familiar brands on the list, we committed to featuring properties that are the best at what they do while displaying a sense of innovation. Brand new builds, century-old architectural masterpieces, and family-run boutiques are all in the mix.

The Rockaway Hotel — New York City



CREDIT: KYLE KNODELL

Rising out of a funky, low-slung beach bungalow community, architect Morris Adjmi designed the Rockaway Hotel as a first for New York City: an upscale, design-forward beach hotel. New York- and Oslo-based firm Curious Yellow took the lead on its interiors, including 53 bright rooms (as well as eight longer-stay suites), warmed by teak paneling and curved cane furniture; bathrooms are stocked with products by NYC purveyor Goldie's. And the public spaces mix vintage Giovanni Travasa chairs with installation pieces curated by the hotel's Chief Social Impact Officer, Michi Jigarjian, including works by artists like Tom Sachs (a Rockaway local). Outdoor space is abundant, from a pool deck to a rooftop terrace that offers dual views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Manhattan skyline. Dining options include the Rooftop, where chef Barry Tonks presides over a seafood-inflected menu, and the forthcoming Margie's and Greenhouse Café. A spa, as well as a locker facility for surfboards, is in the works.

therockawayhotel.com; doubles from \$230. —Tom Austin