

THE MAYFAIR

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MAGAZINE



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CASTLE IN THE SKY

Not just the largest suite in New York, but in the whole of the US, **Marianne Dick** takes a look inside The Mark Hotel's new penthouse

It's no secret that Mayfair and the Upper East Side of New York mirror each other in many ways: from the lustrous boutiques to the Michelin stars, and topically, the reputable art galleries such as Luxembourg & Dayan, which has recently branched out from the wide, leafy streets of East 77th to settle among the devoted English tailors of Savile Row. Mayfair residents may consider this to be their stateside home away from home, especially now that The Mark Hotel, located on the corner of Madison Avenue and 77th Street, and just steps away from Luxembourg & Dayan as well as Gagosian Gallery and Waterhouse & Dodd, has unveiled its penthouse suite. According to interior designer Jacques Grange, the suite is like a "castle in the sky" where guests are attended to like royalty – we were lucky enough to be given a glimpse inside this rooftop palace, which is the largest penthouse in America.

The vast suite spans an immense 12,000 sq ft over two levels, which are connected by an

elegant Eric Schmitt staircase, making the penthouse feel more like a pied-à-terre than part of a hotel – especially as you enter via one of the three private elevators. The interior concept for the five-bedroom suite was envisaged by Grange whose simple, understated arrangements give the rooms a fresh, calming ambiance and an elegant flow. The furniture was custom-designed by Grange for The Mark penthouse only, making this a truly one-of-a-kind experience in every way; dark wood floors contrast with statement pieces in creams and neutrals while monochrome marble, flashes of sea foam green and Lefroy Brooks fixtures give each of the six bathrooms a stylish individuality. When we open the doors to the private 2,400 sq ft terrace, I wonder if Grange was inspired by the fougèrite teal shade of the building's roof turret for his bathroom cabinets, a small touch to remind us how spectacular this suite – with its sweeping panoramic views of one of the world's most breathtaking cities – really is. ➔



THE MARK





→ One of the most striking parts of the penthouse is the monumental living room which boasts a 26-ft-high ceiling and a grand piano, and can be transformed into a full-sized ballroom if guests desire. In contrast to the ballroom's grandeur, there are cosier retreats such as the library lounge and the upstairs sky-lit conservatory with added wet bar, the ultimate spot for hosting a city soirée.

Jean-Georges Vongerichten of Spice Market fame is the brains behind The Mark's menu, and a stay in one of the suites comes with the privilege of opting for a personal-dining experience, where a chef will prepare a meal in the penthouse's fully equipped chef's kitchen, designed by Piero Lissoni for Boffi.

In addition to the world-class cuisine, there are many pleasing extras which position The Mark head and shoulders above the rest, including a Frédéric Fekkai hair salon, personal training by Dan Flores, 24-hour access to shop at Bergdorf Goodman, a John Lobb shoe shine kiosk and an in-house Assouline shop, to name but a few. The hotel is also infused with the bespoke 'scent of The Mark' by Frédéric Malle called Jurassic Flower – another delightful reminder of a heavenly Mayfair establishment.

After previewing the penthouse, it's hard to imagine anyone ever wanting to leave this paradisiacal bubble, and with The Mark's level of service one certainly wouldn't have to; however if the need happened to arise then Central Park is a mere block away and within short walking distance are The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney, The Guggenheim, The Frick Collection, among others. Also worth a peek – and a cocktail or two – is the fabulous The Mark Bar, which was also designed by Grange. The cowhide prints and dramatic lighting make for a glitzy alternative to the penthouse, however Grange's sleek aesthetic is recognisable all the same.

The Mark penthouse is the suite to fulfil the wildest of dreams, one simply cannot fail to be overcome by the scale, the amenities and the attention to detail that it offers. With such a prestigious and luxurious space, it could have



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been easy for the hotel to make it too lavish, however Grange's sophisticated touch maintains the effortlessly chic charm that this city is loved for. The presence of Assouline, Frédéric Malle and the surrounding galleries is bound to remind Mayfair residents pleasantly of home, however there's something about The Mark penthouse that is impossible to compare. Stepping out onto the private outdoor terrace and taking in the unblemished New York skyline, you suddenly realise this is what makes this place so inimitable – this truly is a castle in the sky, and you feel like the king – or queen – of New York City. 

The Mark Hotel, 25 East 77th Street New York, NY 10075 (themarkhotel.com)

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE MARK HOTEL