

TRAVEL + LEISURE

JUNE 2006

Collins in
the Blue Bar
at the
Berkeley, in
London.



David Collins

PRINCIPAL,
DAVID COLLINS
STUDIO,
LONDON

The Dublin-born architect and author of *New Hotel* (Conran Octopus) has given classic British haunts of-the-moment hauteur. David Collins's eye for mixing sumptuous textures and saturated colors has turned drinking and dining at Nobu Berkeley, the Blue Bar at the Berkeley, and Claridge's into dramatic design seminars. This year, he brings his signature style to the United States with London Hotels in New York and Los Angeles. **SWEET DREAMS** "The best night's sleep I've had in all the world was at the Windsor Arms in Toronto. It's a crucial thing, a comfortable bed." **THE BOY IN BRAZIL** "I've been to Trancoso—the Ibiza of Brazil—and also to Txai, a resort in Itacaré with bungalows built on stilts. I love the Fasano in São Paulo because it's very calm and sophisticated in one of the busiest and most dramatic cities in the world." **TABLE SETTINGS** "I'm a café person. I really enjoy the social aspect, so I always go to places like Café de Flore in Paris and Café Cova in Milan. As restaurants go, I like Da Giacomo in Milan and the Wolseley in London—which is a bit cheeky to say, since I was involved in the design!" **PHOTO FINISH** "Wherever I am I tend to look at and take pictures of the local leatherwork and metalwork. I'm compulsive about photographing things that may not be exactly what I am looking for, but end up influencing me." **INSPIRATIONAL ITINERARY** "I am quite taken with the colors and the crafts of India. I'd like to stay in one of those houseboats I've seen in Rajasthan, as well as some of those amazing palace hotels, of course." **TRAVEL MANTRA** "Be flexible. I always try to buy an open-ended ticket that can be changed, so if the weather is terrible, I don't have to stick around." **SUMMER GETAWAY** "I find that Rome is always an excellent option. It's a good city to think in." »