

DESTINATION
NEW YORK



ILLUSTRATION: DAVID TAZZYMAN

Welcome to *my New York*

Five New Yorkers open up their address books to share their favorite spots in and out of the city **Interviews by Anja Mutić**



Explore New York on Citi Bikes

Eric Jennings

VICE PRESIDENT AND FASHION DIRECTOR, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
(saksfifthavenue.com)

For local American cuisine, I love Cookshop (156 10th Avenue), where I head for casual business breakfasts and Sunday brunch with friends. The menu changes seasonally, but the stone-cooked pizza appetizer from its wood-burning oven is always fabulous, as is the BLT Bloody Mary for brunch.

I take friends, colleagues, and out-of-towners to Bathtub Gin (132 Ninth Avenue) for late-night drinks. It's disguised as Stone Street, a small coffee bar, but walk inside, press against the back wall, and it opens into a Prohibition-era-inspired speakeasy.

Insider's tip: I'm a big fan of Citi Bikes (citibikenyc.com) – such an easy and convenient way to travel short distances!

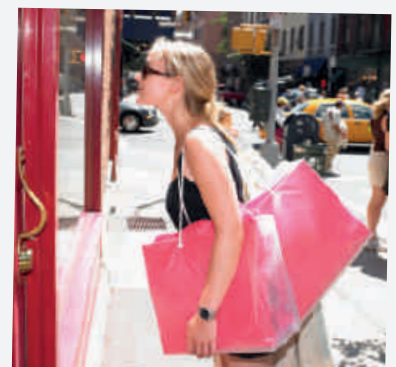
Jeanette Bronée

FOUNDER AND SELF-NOURISHMENT EXPERT, PATH FOR LIFE (pathforlife.com)

For food that's always well prepared and cared for, I head to Hearth (403 East 12th Street), where service is great, without fuss. Focused on farm-to-table, chef Marco Canora offers several fish options (I get the cod or halibut) and many vegetable sides.

My favorite store is the tiny Welcome Shoppe (36 East 11th Street), which carries scarves for self-hugs, blankets, carefully selected clothes, and jewelry by local designers; the owner, Robin Weiss, is a true curator of style. The beautiful Koenig & Clinton gallery (459 West 19th Street) showcases art that always opens up a whole new world for me.

Out-of-town tip: I head to Blue Hill at Stone Barns (Pocantico Hills; bluehillfarm.com) for brunch; chef Dan Barber serves food farmed on the spot.



Shopping in the city



Antidote Choco's Red Thalhammer

Red Thalhammer

FOUNDER OF ANTIDOTE CHOCO
(antidotechoco.com)

I love to go back to my roots at the Austrian Cafe Katja (79 Orchard Street) on the Lower East Side, which has a gasthaus (tavern) ambience, and offers tasty well-sized dishes, such as the classic Wiener schnitzel. When I have half an hour to spare between meetings, I pop in to see what's on at the Fashion Institute of Technology (227 West 27th Street); the ground-floor exhibition space has free shows that offer a glimpse into culture and history through the fashion lens.

I have a soft spot for Madison Square Park (Madison Avenue and 23rd Street), which is small, but one of the most cared-for parks in Manhattan, located right in the midst of the booming Flatiron District. In the summer, there are art installations, and a kiosk for snacks and drinks.

Out-of-town tip: On a sunny day, I like a trip out to the Dia:Beacon Art Foundation, featuring art classics such as Dan Flavin, Joseph Beuys, and Louise Bourgeois. It's easy to access by rail along the Hudson River, and stops directly in Beacon; it's then a short walk through nature to get there.

Olivier Lordonnois

GENERAL MANAGER OF THE MARK (themarkhotel.com)

Dining at Carbone (181 Thompson Street) is an experience like no other, with cozy ambience reminiscent of old New York, where polished waiters pair delectable dishes with an impeccable wine list. For after-work champagne and chocolate mousse, I love Le Bilboquet (20 East 60th Street), a staple of the New York lifestyle. The Loeb Boathouse (East 72nd Street) in Central Park is a great outdoor spot to relax, with views of the lake and rowboats.

Out-of-town tip: My perfect weekend getaway is The Baker House

(bakerhouse1650.com) in East Hampton, with charming hints of understated luxury, such as English gardens in the grounds, and wood-burning fireplaces in the guestrooms.



The Loeb Boathouse views

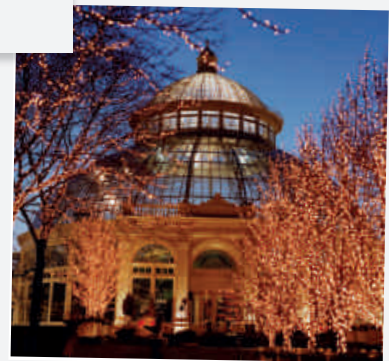
Mario Nievera

FOUNDER OF NIEVERA WILLIAMS DESIGN
(nieverawilliams.com)

My go-to restaurant is near my Greenwich Village apartment: Knickerbocker Bar & Grill (33 University Place), a classic steakhouse with interiors that harken back to the 1970s. I love the food, service, and occasional spotting of neighborhood celebrities.

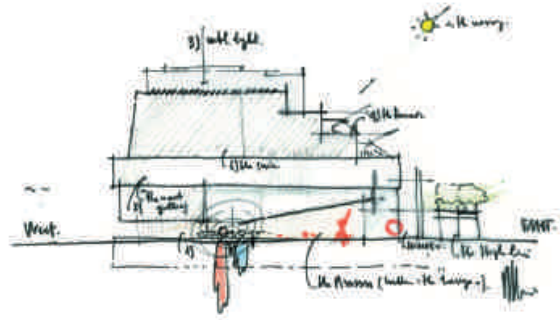
The New York Botanical Garden (2900 Southern Boulevard) in the Bronx is the greatest institution for all things horticultural.

Insider's tip: Anyone can workout while in town by signing up online, and paying a per-class fee at one of the studios. I love Barry's Bootcamp (barrysbootcamp.com) for a challenging treadmill session, and SoulCycle (soul-cycle.com) for focused spin classes.



The New York Botanical Garden

It's disguised as Stone Street, a small coffee bar, but walk inside, press against the back wall, and it opens into a Prohibition-era-inspired speakeasy



The new Whitney – the rebirth of a grand dame

New York's much-loved flagship of American art has moved to the city's cool downtown. **Julie Schwiertert Collazo** takes a look at the Whitney's new home

Fifteen years ago, no one who was up to anything other than trouble headed to Manhattan's Meatpacking District. Many of the butcher shops after which the neighborhood was named had already gone out of business, but a few remained and the ferric smell of blood filled the air, keeping most people away.

No one dreamed that the low-slung industrial buildings, where beef hung waiting to be shipped to steakhouses and grocery stores, would be turned into boutiques, galleries, and markets, or that they would soon be surrounded by soaring skyscrapers, through which one of the world's most innovative urban gardens – the High Line – unfurled like a green ribbon thrown northward.

They also didn't imagine that one of the city's popular cultural institutions, the Whitney Museum of American Art, would eventually make its new home here. On my Saturday visit, just a few weeks after its May 1 opening, it was evident that the Renzo Piano-designed, eight-story building fits right in with the lively spirit of the now-vibrant neighborhood, and that its arrival was a welcome addition.

The line to get in was the length of a city block. The faces of many were tipped up to the sun, which filtered gently



Whitney Museum of American Art's founder, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney



Part of the America is Hard to See exhibition, *Running People at 2,616,216*, by Jonathan Borofsky, is installed on the West Ambulatory of the Whitney's fifth floor

through the dense stand of trees on the southernmost end of the High Line. Above, on the elevated park, newlyweds were having their photos taken.

Back to its beginnings

What many visitors don't know is that the Whitney's arrival in the Meatpacking District brings it full circle. The museum, established in 1914 as the Whitney Studio by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, had its first permanent home just a few blocks away. Whitney, who believed in the importance of supporting living American artists, had acquired more than 500 pieces of work, and by 1929, she needed a bigger home for the collection. She offered it to The Met, along with an endowment, but was rebuffed. Instead, she decided to open her own museum on West 8th Street in 1931. The Whitney's Meatpacking location is its fourth home, having outgrown other spaces in Midtown and, more recently, the Upper East Side.

And what a home it is. Though architecture critics have argued about the aesthetic appeal of the jagged roof and the somewhat discordant elements of the building's exterior (including al fresco "decks" from which much of the city skyline, can be viewed), from the inside, all of the architect's decisions suddenly make sense.

WHITNEY MUSEUM

One of the headline exhibits inaugurating the new building is *America is Hard to See*. Running through to the end of September, it consists of 600 works drawn from the Whitney collection.



NIC LEHOUX

Kayaking and biking are among many other activities that can be enjoyed at the park.

The Whitney's collection, now more than 21,000 pieces strong, needed a space this large. It fits perfectly into a neighborhood that bears little resemblance to its younger, harder self, a neighborhood that feels energetic and magnetic, one of the city's most exciting spots today.

Whitney Museum of American Art, 99 Gansevoort Street, New York, NY 10014. whitney.org



One space is an 18,000 sq ft room with no columns, the largest gallery of its type in the city, and the perfect setting for the kind of ambitious – even daring – shows the Whitney has on its slate

Much of the indoor space – 50,000 sq ft in all – is expansive, offering flexibility and freedom to curators not available at many peer institutions. One special exhibition space is an 18,000 sq ft room with no columns, the largest gallery of its type in the city, and the perfect setting for the kind of ambitious – even daring – shows the Whitney has on its slate.

A lively neighborhood

Leaving the museum, there's plenty to do in just a few nearby blocks. Artists sell their work from tables set up on Gansevoort Street, and a roving jewelry truck welcomes shoppers into the boutique on wheels. Museum-goers who have worked up an appetite or just want a drink have plenty of choices, including popular

Bubby's, an American fare spot, which features a soda fountain, and the recently opened Gansevoort Market, whose vendors are as diverse as the city's cultural groups. Among them are Palenque, serving Colombian specialties; Donostia, dishing up Basque-style tapas; and Bangkok Bar, peddling Thai favorites. And then there's Hudson River Park, a revitalization success story.