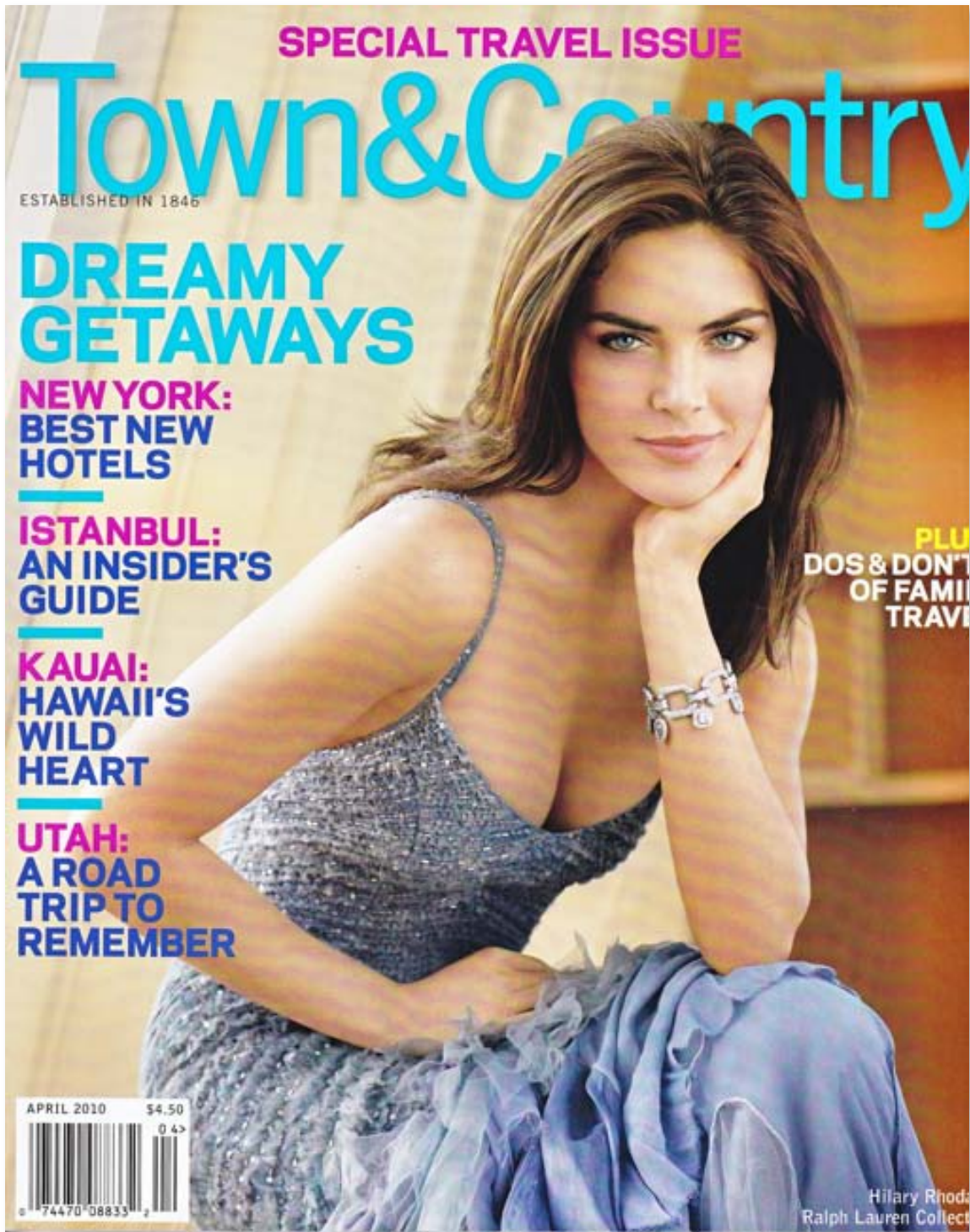


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SPECIAL TRAVEL ISSUE

Town & Country

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DREAMY GETAWAYS

NEW YORK:
BEST NEW HOTELS

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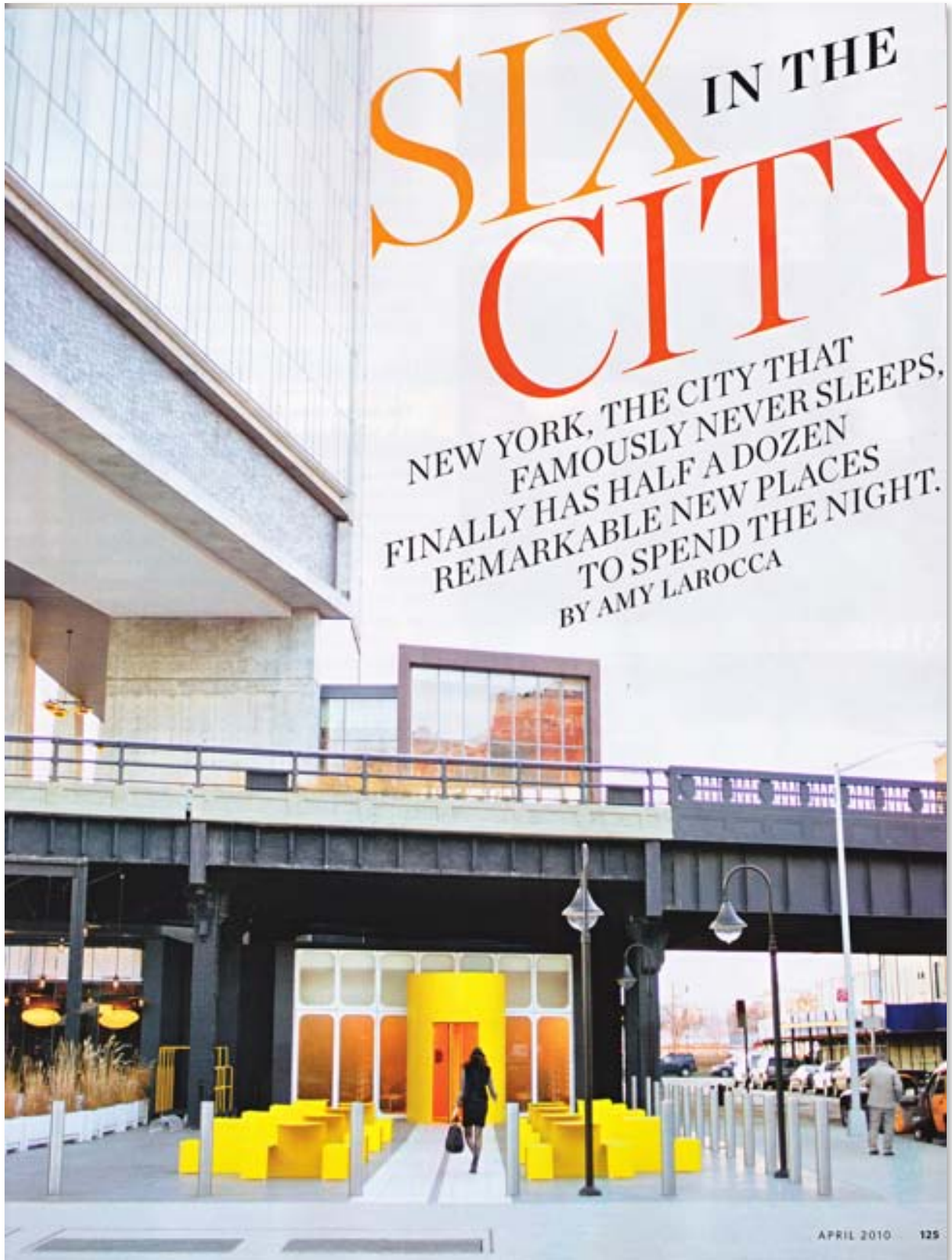
KAUAI:
HAWAII'S WILD HEART

UTAH:
A ROAD TRIP TO REMEMBER

PLUS:
DOS & DON'TS
OF FAMILY TRAVEL

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Hilary Rhoads
Ralph Lauren Collection



SIX IN THE CITY

NEW YORK, THE CITY THAT
FAMOUSLY NEVER SLEEPS,
FINALLY HAS HALF A DOZEN
REMARKABLE NEW PLACES
TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
BY AMY LARocca

5 The Surrey

UPTOWN, UNDERSTATED

BEST SUITED FOR: Uptown girls and patrons of the arts.

Tucked away on a quiet street off Central Park, the Surrey looks like an apartment building, which isn't surprising given its history as a residential hotel—the kind of place that offered shelter after a divorce or a face-lift or while a guest's home was undergoing a lengthy renovation. It was reliable but fusty.

My, how times have changed here. Long-term stays are still available, but the property was extensively updated last year, and nothing—but nothing!—was overlooked, from the personalized stationery waiting in the guest rooms to the Duxiana beds with Sferra linens and the complicated pillow menu. And then there's the spa, a suite of rooms painted dove gray and full of surprises, like a spillover tub and cultish Darphin products.

Some of the 190 guest rooms have private terraces with partial views of Central Park, but all have access to a roof garden, which affords a perfect vantage on the expanse between the Frick and the Met. The decor is muted—gray and cream and silver—but with unexpected jolts, like an art collection that includes photography by Jenny Holzer, a video installation by William Kentridge and, in the hotel's Presidential Suite, pieces by art-world heavy hitters Richard Serra and Cecily Brown.

If you can't bear to leave, room service is by Daniel Boulud, whose quiet, elegant ground-floor French restaurant, Café Boulud (the original), proves that he is more than a gourmet; he's also a genius at room-service classics, like club sandwiches.

STANDOUT: Drinks, drinks, drinks! Bar Pleiades, which you enter from the hotel's lobby, is spectacular. The cocktail menu was masterminded by Cameron Bogue, a man so committed to fresh ingredients that he spent years gathering what was needed to build his own in-house distillery; he also makes custom mixers whenever he feels the market has let him down. The cocktails are seasonal and original. Call room service and order a Beijing Mule, created with house-made ginger beer; it will come on a cart with a shaker. Or drink it in the bar, which is low lit and sexy. *Doubles from \$800. 20 East 76th Street; 212-288-3700; thesurrey.com.*

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Cameron Bogue mixes drinks of his own creation at Bar Pleiades, off the lobby of the Surrey hotel. Opposite: Guest rooms at the Surrey feel like a stylish Upper East Side apartment—one that looks as if it's been art directed by a late-1950s set designer. Christian Louboutin suede heels (2005).