

BELLE DU JOUR

Bathing Beauty

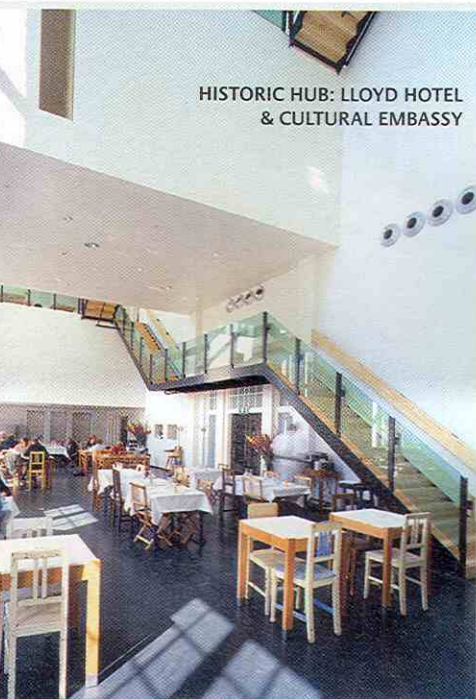
What could be more luxurious than a long, hot bath? Bathwater infused with **Kisu** bath oil, an exotic blend of ylang-ylang, Boise rose, sandalwood and Eastern musk, that's what. Japanese for "kiss," Kisu celebrates the bath ritual with a range of perfumes, candles, bath soaks and, more recently, the delightful bath oil — all created by the founders of London's Tann Rokka furniture store, a favourite of Kate Moss and Matthew Williamson. Wait, there's more. The limited-edition Kisu bath oil comes in a stunning Swarovski crystal-studded black bottle designed by Natasha, Jude Law's artist/illustrator sister. — *BS*
Kisu: kisu.co.uk; available at Liberty in London



Treasure Trove

If you were entertaining the notion that shopping for antiques is glamorous and chichi, think again. The antiques market in Newark, about a two-hour drive from London, is like no other. Pack a flashlight and don sensible rubber boots, a rain jacket and backpack because you're going on a treasure hunt. Sitting on muddy farmlands, the **Newark Antique Fair** is the largest in the U.K. with more than 4,000 vendors peddling everything, from four-pound beaded clutches to silver Georgian tea sets to rare, sought-after fine furniture and paintings. To get the best deals, bargain hunters arrive at the crack of dawn, often rummaging through items even before they have been unpacked. The eccentric collector might find a tray made of an elephant's foot or a gilt baby rattle, all the while nibbling on some of the typical English fare of baked potatoes with beans or egg-and-bacon sandwiches. — *Marika Brose*

DMG Antique Fairs (April 7–9, June 9–11, August 4–6, October 13–15 & December 1–3): Newark, England; 44.01.636.702.326; dmgantiquefairs.com



HISTORIC HUB: LLOYD HOTEL
& CULTURAL EMBASSY

AMSTERDAM

Haute Hangout

Ten years ago, Amsterdam's city planners began transforming four abandoned islands east of Central Station into a residential paradise for lovers of modern architecture. Today, the docklands are being hailed as the hub of the city's cutting-edge cultural scene. Remodelled to conceal its past as a wartime prison and hotel for migrants, the **Lloyd** now provides new and unusual creative space, thanks to some of the top names in Dutch design. With 120 eclectic guest rooms, ranging from two- to five-star, and ultrachic communal areas including a cultural embassy and Amsterdam's only twenty-four-hour restaurant, the **Lloyd** is quickly becoming the see-and-be-seen, late-night hangout for artists, musicians and seasoned travellers from around the world. — *Shawna Wagman*

Lloyd Hotel & Cultural Embassy: Oostelijke Handelskade 34, Amsterdam; 31.020.561.3636; lloydhotel.com

Virtual Vibe

Like a futuristic Prince Charming, Italian footwear designer Roberto Botticelli knows how to impress even the most demanding Cinderella. Now he's putting the shoe on the other foot. At his recently opened, ultra-innovative shop, trendsetting shoe lovers are invited to step behind a high-tech console to create and customize their own sporty footwear. That's right, **Botticelli Limited** contains nothing but five sleek and shiny workstations — no shoes in sight! Shoppers can design their shoe using vivid 3-D digital technology. As they select the style, sole, material and colour of their virtual creation, it appears in real time on a wall-mounted plasma screen. Within moments — poof! — the real shoe emerges. How else would this fairy tale end? — *SW*

Botticelli Limited: Leidsestraat 61, Amsterdam; 31.020.528.9601; botticellilimited.com

PARIS

Resident Cool

There's a hot, new continental idea in exclusive small hotels — "the residence." And fabled French designer Azzedine Alaïa has just opened up his very own, in a seventeenth-century building in the oldest and funkier section of Paris, the Marais. Alaïa's **5 rue de Moussy**, named after its street address, features three modern, state-of-the-art apartments, each with a private entrance to make guests feel they're in their very own Parisian hideaway. Decorated with contemporary-style furniture in the trademark Alaïa vision, these *très* chic homes-away-from-home offer one or two bedrooms with kitchen and salon, plus Bang & Olufsen entertainment systems. This is a comfortable and unique way to live as a plugged-in Parisian. Stay tuned for yet another designer pied-à-terre in the same neighbourhood, conceived by Christian Lacroix — *Madeleine Czigler*
5 rue de Moussy: Paris; 33.1.44.78.92.00

Opulent R&R

The "French touch" triumphs with the luxurious renovation of the seventy-year-old **Lancôme Institute**, located on the most privileged of shopping streets in Paris, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. The ground floor houses a luminous beauty-concept store where you can discover the latest in Lancôme products and explore the space's high-tech nooks featuring powerful magnifying cameras to diagnose your complexion. Then traipse over to the makeup artist zone and meet with experts on hand to answer questions and recommend a suitable look for you. Upstairs at the spa, indulge in heavenly treatment sessions (try their fabulous versions of the hot-stone and four-hands massages), tailored to your colour, scent and musical-ambiance needs. — *MC*

LUX REDUX: LANCÔME

