



**WHAT YOU'LL FIND JUST OUTSIDE:** Located on Lee Circle in the artsy Warehouse District, the Modern is surrounded by galleries and restaurants. Hop on the retro St. Charles streetcar and, for less than the cost of a cup of coffee, you'll be trundled past some of the city's lovelier sights. Or, a 20-minute stroll will have you sallying down Bourbon Street, frozen daiquiri in hand.



**DESIGN NOTES:** When German hotelier Klaus Ortlieb opened the Modern (formerly Hotel Le Cirque) in 2011, he aimed for a style that reflected the quirky eclecticism of New Orleans. Much of the artwork came from local junk shops, creating a look that ranges from elegant to garish, but never boring.



**LOBBY RESEMBLES:** Like the rest of the hotel, the lobby combines mock formality with a genuine commitment to comfort and hospitality: dim lighting, plush couches, a large painting of a man in a long blue wig (the Duc d'Orléans), a shelf of tattered old books and a parrot named Miss Scarlet. ("Her nickname is Birdzilla," says one of the strikingly dapper concierges.)



**BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT:** Named after New Orleans photographer E.J. Bellocq, the hotel's Bellocq lounge has a decadent air to it. Flop into a plump armchair, admire the blood-red decor and sip a faithful recreation of pre-Prohibition cocktails like the Sazerac, or an original creation like the Summer Is Coming, with mezcal, ruby grapefruit and Bittermens Hellfire.



## Hotel Modern, New Orleans

LOUISIANA

## MEXICO

## Nizuc Resort & Spa, Cancún



**BACKSTORY:** Nestled on the pristine shore of Punta Nizuc, this former Mexican presidential retreat was meticulously restored and reopened last year as an elegant, secluded 29-acre resort. During construction, mangroves were carefully uprooted and sheltered in an on-site greenhouse, then painstakingly replanted around the resort, where they quickly returned to their original lush glory.



**DESIGN NOTES:** Guests are welcomed into a soaring open-air lobby overlooking a mangrove-dotted reflecting pond. Water flows throughout the resort, which employs driftwood and slate to heighten the Zen-meets-Mayan aesthetic. The architecture throughout ensures guests never miss a glimpse of the surrounding beauty.



**ROOM WITH A VIEW:** It's hard to find a room without an ocean view at this 274-suite resort. Those looking for absolute privacy can stay in one of the garden villas, enclosed hideaways with alfresco dining tables and private plunge pools. Or withdraw to the opulent bathroom, where a butler will draw you a petal-strewn bubble bath in a double-occupancy soaking tub.



**WHAT YOU'LL FIND RIGHT OUTSIDE:** Just to the north of the resort, off the coast of Isla de Mujeres, you'll find MUSA (Museo Subacuático de Arte), an underwater museum of contemporary art containing more than 500 startlingly lifelike figures affixed to the seafloor. One memorable piece depicts a man sitting before a television set while coral creeps across his face. Not to be missed.