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HOTEL MAX

With its stark pink neon lettering the giant sign affixed to the roof of Seattle's new Hotel Max is a beacon for those who want to rest their weary heads, playfully romp, imbibe some of the city's most com-

PELLING art...or all three. Occupying the space left vacant by the long-ignored Hotel Vance, Hotel Max stands on the periphery of Seattle's bustling shopping district. Its governing concept is dubbed "Maximalism", and the hallways double as galleries, showcasing the work of a different acclaimed Seattle photographer (such as Charles Peterson and Paul Ford) on each of its 10 floors, alongside paintings from well-known local artists (such as Joan Broughton and Moon Lee). None of which would matter if the rooms weren't so delightfully inviting: Bathrooms are stocked with Aveda products and the soft lighting makes for optimum cocooning. There's also a "pillow menu," which makes sense because my bed was so comfortable that I wanted to live in it. LITSA DREMOUSIS

For more information, see hotelmaxseattle.com.