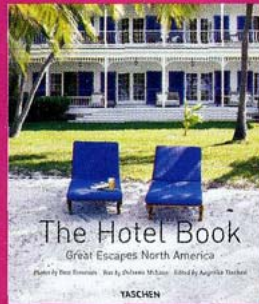


COFFEE TABLE >



The Hotel Book: Great Escapes North America Ed. Angelika Taschen, (Taschen, £19.99) There's no such country as America, but there are as many Americas as you would wish to find, in the same way that the hotel industry has evolved over the past few years from bland conformity to

individualistic capsule and boutique design shrines. There's something for everybody, if they just look for it.

Following up on their *Great Escapes Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America* titles is this beautifully illustrated volume, which concentrates on the most extraordinary and tempting Canadian and American hotels. Maybe you want to spend the night in a temple to 60s-70s' kitsch in California where Liberace would have felt at home? Or perhaps an Italianate villa in rural Massachusetts? Maybe mid-century shiny metal trailers with period interiors in Arizona are more your style. Ranging from funky and inexpensive to luxuriously elegant and wildly pricey, this book features hotels, inns, guesthouses, bungalows, ranches, lodges, resorts and even a "deluxe" wigwam, should you wish to experience a little taste of frontier living without missing the comforts of hot- and cold-running spas. A delight for the actual and armchair traveller. ■