

# HOUSE METHOD

## Best Boutique Hotels for Design Lovers 2018



Standards for hospitality are often set in the great hotels. Excellent boutique hotels are those that have mastered the art of environmental experience. Some transport guests to different worlds and others are a microcosm of their own environments—the perfect distillation of a time or place. This is why design loves great hotels, and why the House Method team loves great hotels as well.

The House Method team has stayed in many of these hotels (some of them many times), some were submitted by our readers, and some are just on our hotel bucket list.

With this list, we sought to capture the most unique boutique properties around the country. We looked for all sorts of styles, some bold and statement-making, others understated and subdued, all of them worth the experience of taking in the design.



# The LARK

## Bozeman, Montana

The LARK is downtown Bozeman's colorful, quirky boutique hotel perfect for lovers of retro style. The building dates back to 1963 when Los Angeles-based Imperial 400 Motels took advantage of the quickly expanding National Park and Interstate Highway system, which saw Americans hitting the road and drinking in all the delightful kitsch of the family road trip. The hotel changed names a time or two, but then closed its doors in 2009. Four years later, the imaginative minds at Bozeman's ThinkTank Design Group decided to begin the process of turning the shuttered structure into the playful urban escape that is the LARK. In June of 2018, The LARK completed a two-year expansion project that added 29 new guest rooms and a new café, where patrons can grab an espresso and a pastry or a light lunch and enjoy the Main Street vibes.

Rooms are modern, minimalist, and Montana-inspired: find nods to the outdoors and local Bozeman flair, thick wool blankets, and reclaimed wood barn doors. Neon minty green, rusty orange, and canary yellow against the white walls and concrete floors make for a cheeky environment that invites guests to pop out of their shells.

In case you're not familiar with Bozeman, the local community is tight and hometown loyalty is strong—but they always make room for more. And that's what you'll find in the spirit of the LARK: a celebration of local talent, local flavor, and local views, with plenty to go around.