

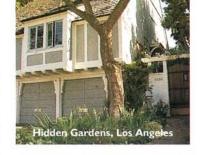
screens with infra-red Internet access. Guests receive private telephone numbers several days before check-in, or their regular business numbers are diverted directly to their rooms, bypassing switchboards and messy explanations. The staff has compiled an extensive list of nearby retailers and therapists who will show you their latest collections or offer massage and other treatments. Gourmet meals can be whizzed to slurping consistency and are elegantly waitered to the rooms. Patronized by: Middle Eastern princesses. Typical stay: Three to five days.

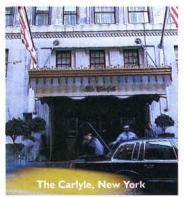
### Water's Edge Laser and Surgery Center, Stuart, Florida

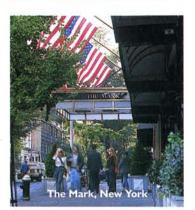
Dr. Robert Cooper spared no expense when building America's largest surgery and recuperation center. With a staff of 50 (including three full-time chefs), Cooper performs facelifts on upward of 500 patients annually, almost all of whom stay on-site in private or semiprivate rooms or in one of three penthouse suites that offer Jacuzzi, six-foot showers, kitchen and living rooms. Two full-time aestheticians provide manicures, pedicures, massage, aromatherapy and permanent makeup. A full gym offers what Cooper describes as a post-operative stroll to keep circulation moving. Featured on ABC's "Prime Time" and NBC's "Dateline," Cooper aims to "shut down the portal of mediocrity." Patronized by: Everyone. Typical stay: One week.

### Plastic Surgery Center, Malmoe, Sweden

Dr. Carl Troilius, Sweden's most respected cosmetic surgeon, created and runs a private hospital and recovery







shades. Summer is the quietest time (no respectable Atlantan would be caught dead in the city), but suites are again bursting with recovering patients in January. Patronized by: Well-connected Southern belles. Typical stay: Two to three days.

#### The Institute at Baptist Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee

Founded by G. Patrick Maxwell, the Institute hosts recovering surgical patients as well as holding seminars on beauty, nutrition and weight loss. Staffed with three full-time aestheticians for makeup, massage, skin care and hairdressing, each of the 12 huge "New York chic" suites offers private phone lines, cable television and VCRs. Patients are offered aliases on their first visit, and even among the carefully vetted staff, the number of people with access to the recovery suites and patient files is strictly limited. Patronized by: Country and Western stars. Typical stay: Two to eight days.

### Kurotel Clinic and Spa, Bairro Havairo, Bavaria, Brazil

Many of the world's top cosmetic surgeons practice in Brazil, but Kurotel differs from most recovery retreats: Patients fly in (most often by private jet) for one or two weeks following surgery instead of straight from the operating table. The facility has a split personality, teetering between a luxurious spa and a medical clinic with five doctors and two nurses on staff. Patrons, who include South American beauties and wealthy plantation owners, can have a full business center—including a chorus line of secretaries—set up in their rooms. For the athletically inclined, there are two swimming pools, tennis courts, a

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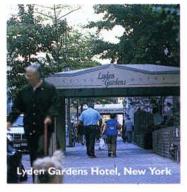
center with nine bedrooms and two operating rooms. The bedrooms are decorated like a smart private home, with private cell phones, faxes, and televisions. There are three therapists on staff to teach skin care and makeup, and a courtesy car is available to take patients on jaunts. Complimentary dark glasses on departure. Patronized by: Nordic beauties. Typical stay: One week.

# Shanteque, West Hollywood, California

Over 140 surgeons in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles refer patients to Maggie Lockridge, who opened Shanteque in March 1999. Each room sports a fire-place, multiline telephone and cable television. Shanteque's caring nurses pick up patients after surgery and tuck them gently into queen-size beds while taking orders for everything from gourmet to Gucci. Patronized by: L.A. ladies who lunch and lift. Typical stay: Three days.

## Paces Plastic Surgery and Recovery Center, Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Foad Nahai heads up a four-suite recovery facility in Atlanta that caters mainly to the local elite. Nahai has found that men, in particular, often maintain an "I feel fine, I can drive" mentality and simply don't listen to their doctor's advice. As a result, he says, men have twice the complication rate as women. Nahai insists on patients staying a minimum of one night if they live more than 30 minutes away and two nights if arriving from out of town. The rooms, superbly comfortable and individually decorated, are in flattering Southern





jogging park and gymnasium. Patronized by: South America's finest. Typical stay: Two weeks.

### HOTELS

New York may not have dedicated recovery resorts, but with several discreet and knowledgeable hotels in town, who cares?

### The Carlyle

The Carlyle, more than any other hotel in New York, boasts a seriously spoiled clientele. Its recovery service starts even before check in, with a special meal and flowers sent directly to the hospital. Expect to be coddled with masses of down pillows, thirsty towels, soft sheets and a choice of mattresses. The lighting is as discreet and gentle as the service, and the 10-page menu is considered more a guide than an edict.

### The Mark

Location, location, location. Within the surrounding blocks of The Mark are literally hundreds of Manhattan's finest surgeons. Europeans, especially, love this intimate hotel for its elegance and discretion. Decorated in Bedemeier style, suites have dining and living areas, four telephone lines and a cell phone in case they're all in use. Recovering divas can call at two in the morning for soft food and soups as they cuddle under a soft duvet and Frette linen sheets.

### Lyden Gardens Hotel

Guests at Lyden Gardens, conveniently situated