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how to spend it

A trinity of cool urban hotel oases

From a converted church in Washington DC to fine dining in Shoreditch, these are the hippest new hotspots on both sides of the Atlantic

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Rooms at The Line DC in Washington feature fine-art photography and custom light fixtures

Urban hotel oases are proliferating on both sides of the Atlantic, with emerging “micro-chains” the stars of the show. There is Public New York (publichotels.com; from \$200), the Ian Schrager brand debut on New York’s gritty/fabulous Lower East Side, which will comprise 300-plus rooms across several floors of a Herzog & de Meuron-designed tower on Chrystie Street.

In Washington, DC – fast emerging as a destination in its own right thanks to new cultural institutions such as David Adjaye’s stunning National Museum of African American History & Culture – is The Line DC (thelinehotel.com/dc; from \$268), brought to the nation’s capital by Sydell Group, the team behind New York’s NoMad hotel, and a sister to The Line in

LA’s Koreatown. The deconsecrated neoclassical First Church of Christ, in the groovy Adams Morgan neighbourhood, houses two bars, three restaurants and the hotel’s very own radio station, while seven recently added storeys next door hold 200-plus rooms and suites kitted out with fine-art photography and custom light fixtures, and there is also a rooftop terrace.

And hot on the heels of his Malibu Ryokan opening, is Nobu Matsuhisa’s five-storey, 150-room Nobu Hotel Shoreditch (nobuhotels.com; from £249), a stone’s throw from Old Street’s Silicon Roundabout in east London, promising striking architecture, supreme service and that famous miso cod in the restaurant to satisfy the E2 fine-dining classes.