

# CITY

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## ACTION



### GROOMING: SOAPS

## Roger&Gallet

Back in 1879, Armand Roger and Charles Gallet of Roger&Gallet introduced the very first round soaps, and today the sweet-smelling circular disks are enjoying a resurgence in the States. The *savon parfums* are especially soft and long-lasting thanks to a traditional Marseille manufacturing method that Roger&Gallet employs—and closely guards from imitators. But even better than their softness is their scent. The new Blue Lotus Soap, for example, balances floral and fruity notes with musk and patchouli. So no excuses for smelling anything less than *très bien*. —AT

Go to [www.roger-gallet.com](http://www.roger-gallet.com)



### STAY: CHICAGO

## James Hotel

Chicago may be the Windy City, but the James Hotel, which opened this spring, is decidedly unflappable. Designed by New York architect Deborah Berke and former Barneys New York's co-chairman Gene Pressman, the hotel coolly merges a minimalist vision with 300-thread count sheets and raw-slate bathroom tiles with plasma TVs. Somewhere between boutique and luxury, the guestrooms feature both fresh flowers and Panasonic iPod docking stations, Etienne Aigner products and free Wi-Fi. A sleek steel and glass lobby features original works from Chicago artists and a grand center staircase leads to the sexy skylit ballroom. Perhaps it's lighting that James knows best. The tripod floor lamps and bubble-shaped ceiling fixtures cast perfect candlelight at all hours of the day, making stark white linens luminescent. Not headed to Chicago? The James is set to open new locations in NYC, LA, and Miami by 2008. —HANNAH MORRILL

55 East Ontario, (877) JAMES-55. Or go to [www.jameshotels.com/chicago](http://www.jameshotels.com/chicago)

### SPA: FURNITURE

## Clodagh

Spa design is a funny thing. It needs to be serene, often elegant, and yet easily navigated by blissed-out clients still woozy from the sauna. The architect Clodagh has designed six spas, and recently introduced a line of furniture for these retreats. She refers to the seating, tables, and treatment lounges for Boden as "silent design." "They're like Jeeves the butler, doing the job silently, but with a small smile." The New York-based architect is also in the midst of planning her first large-scale residential commission, the Caledonia, a condo on Manhattan's far west side nestled into the future Highline—the elevated strip of green space that will replace what's now just overgrown train tracks. Her plans include a lobby she calls "a necklace of experiences": a library, bamboo grove, reflecting trough, and fireplace. "I'm an Irish county girl, I grew up with roaring fires. I think people are hardwired to want a hearth." —SOPHIE DONELSON

Go to [www.clodagh.com](http://www.clodagh.com)





### SIT > BENCH

Designed for spa use but destined for your master bath, this dual-level bench has ample storage space to keep rolled towels and personal effects below, while providing a place to sit and dry your toes. **Vistara Bench by Clodagh Spa by Boden, \$1,900, [www.bodenfurnishings.com](http://www.bodenfurnishings.com)**



### REST > BEDDING

Yes, real men think about percale. One of the world's most luxurious linen companies uses only the first spinning of premium Egyptian cotton for the softest fabric possible, so your princess (or prince!) won't bat an eyelash at the pea. **Pratesi Basic Chain Sheet Set \$1,400; King-Sized Cashmere Double-Face Blanket, \$5,580, [www.pratesi.com](http://www.pratesi.com)**



### WAKE UP > RADIO

If Brahms bursting from a carburetor isn't your optimal listening experience, try a "boom box" that will never incite the word "lug." A battery-powered FM radio, clock, and digital music player, this device accepts music downloaded from your computer care of an SD card slot. Big sound in a tiny footprint. **Bang & Olufsen BeoSound 3, \$850, [www.bang-olufsen.com](http://www.bang-olufsen.com)**



### BATHE > FLOW CONTROL

High-tech bathing now includes an endless array of spray combinations and an elegant in-shower digital interface with presets and personalized hydrotherapy programs. **Kohler DTV, price upon request, [www.kohler.com](http://www.kohler.com)**



### DRESS > CLOSET

The designer contents of your wardrobe may be an afterthought once they're in the grips of this boundlessly customizable closet. A staggering array of doors, heights, finishes, and flourishes help keep the Blahniks with the Blahniks and the Louboutins with the Louboutins. **Poliform Closet, price upon request, [www.poliform.com](http://www.poliform.com)**

