



mosaic

MORGAN STANLEY

ART & DESIGN

BREATH-taking BRIDGES

RETRO MOTELS

WOMEN IN FOCUS

ART THAT HEALS

BEACH-SEASON
BOOKSHELF

A DISEASE
DETECTIVE

COLD FOOD
FOR HOT DAYS

BE

Mix history with hospitality at the new crop of **RETRO MOTELS** that take their pedigree as seriously as the pillows.

THE

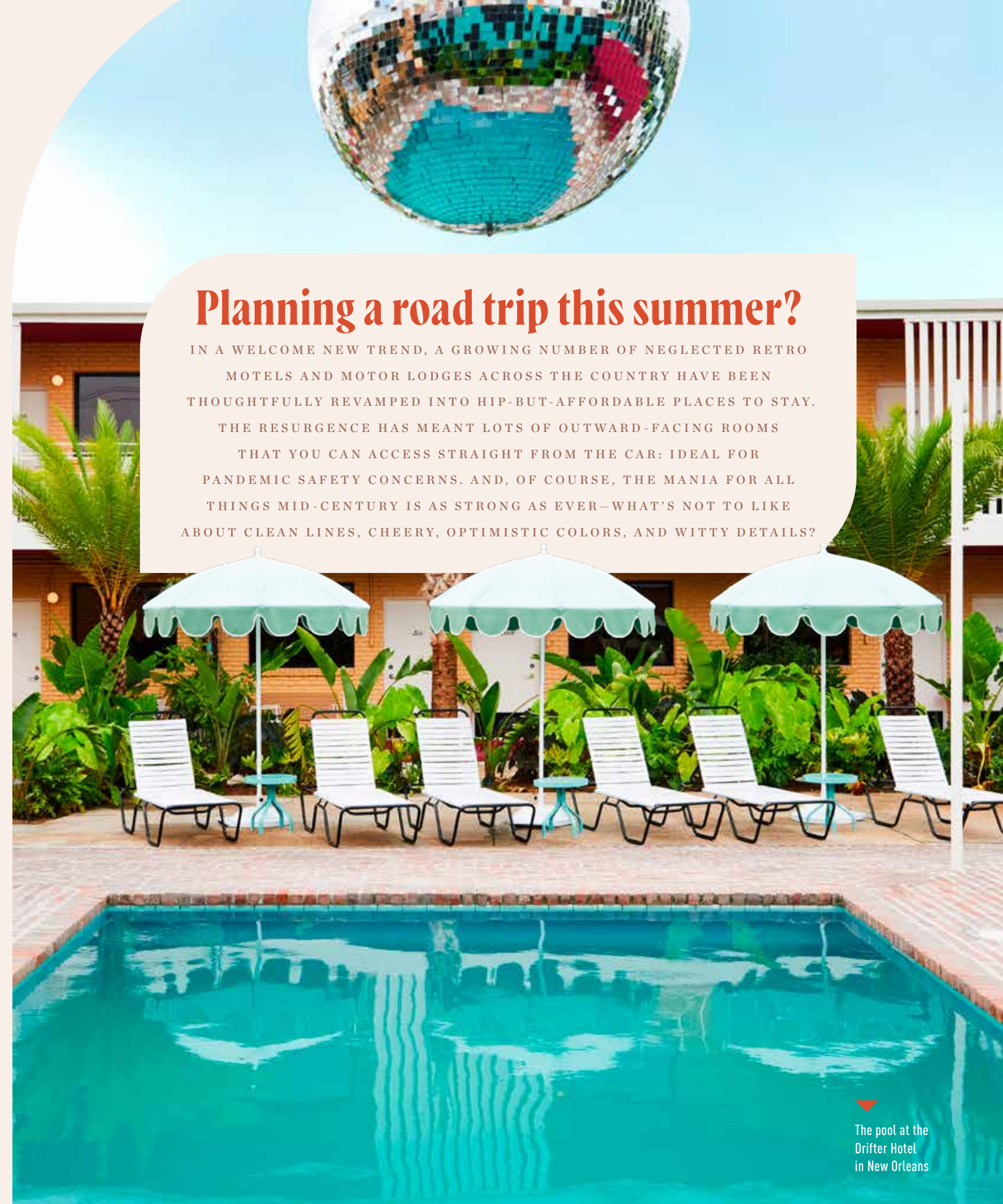
GET

BY JANCEE DUNN

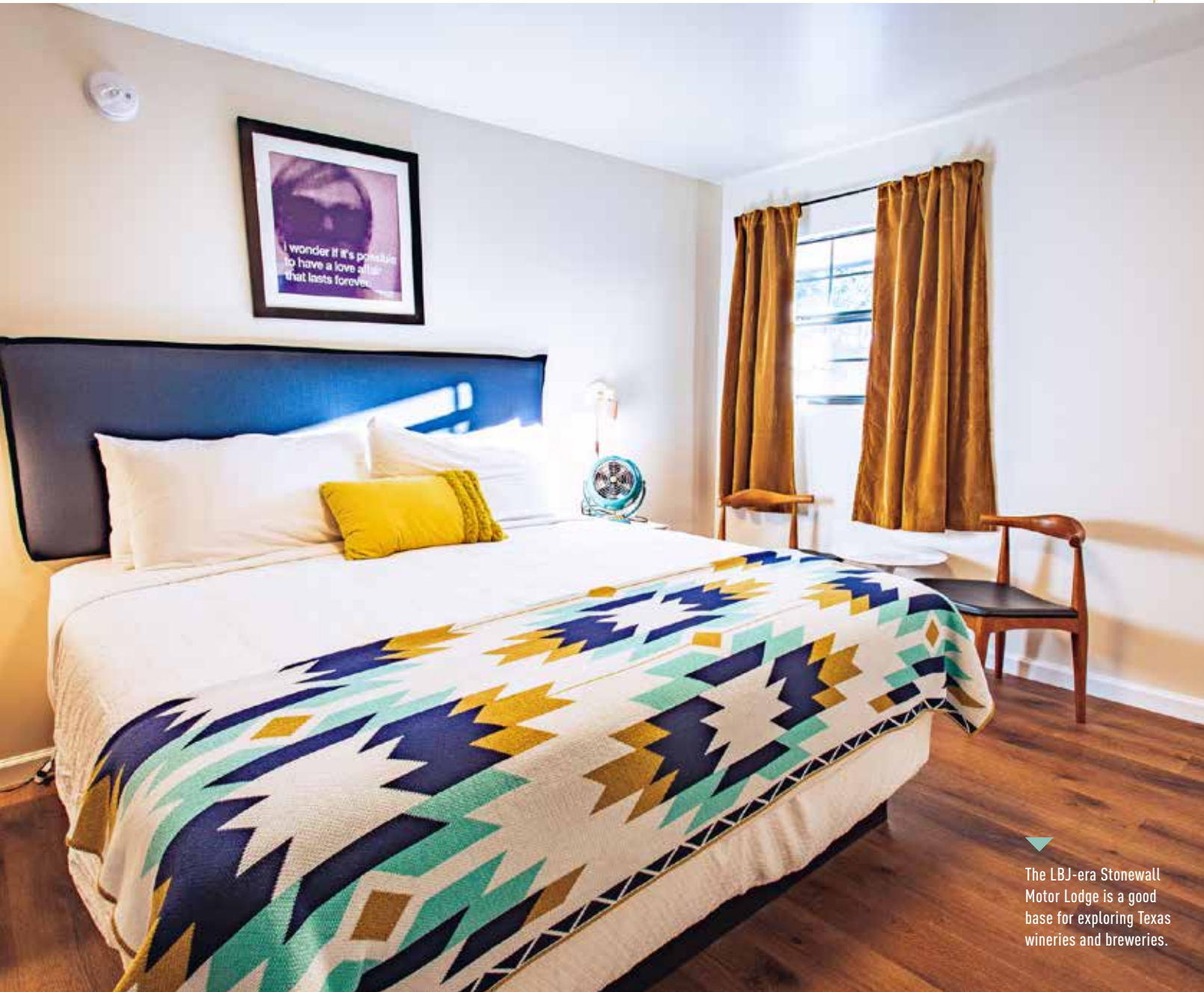
Planning a road trip this summer?

IN A WELCOME NEW TREND, A GROWING NUMBER OF NEGLECTED RETRO MOTELS AND MOTOR LODGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN THOUGHTFULLY REVAMPED INTO HIP-BUT-AFFORDABLE PLACES TO STAY. THE RESURGENCE HAS MEANT LOTS OF OUTWARD-FACING ROOMS THAT YOU CAN ACCESS STRAIGHT FROM THE CAR: IDEAL FOR PANDEMIC SAFETY CONCERNS. AND, OF COURSE, THE MANIA FOR ALL THINGS MID-CENTURY IS AS STRONG AS EVER—WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE ABOUT CLEAN LINES, CHEERY, OPTIMISTIC COLORS, AND WITTY DETAILS?

COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE HOTELS



The pool at the Drifter Hotel in New Orleans



The LBJ-era Stonewall Motor Lodge is a good base for exploring Texas wineries and breweries.

STONEWALL, TEXAS

Stonewall Motor Lodge

NESTLED DEEP IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY, this classic roadside motel was built in 1964 to accommodate the press corps when President Lyndon B. Johnson was in town at his ranch next door. Now it has been lovingly restored by Anita Ortiz Lubke and her husband, Lance. “We loved the L shape of the building, the drive-up carport, and the second-level deck,” she says. “It just screamed 1960s. We focused on mid-century décor with a little Southwest thrown in—after all, this is Texas.” In the heart of the Highway 290 Wine Trail, the Stonewall boasts easy access to wineries, breweries, and distilleries just a short drive away. The 12 rooms and four private cabins all house lively art: Room 8, dubbed the Press Room, has little-seen photos of LBJ and his family. stonewallmotorlodge.com, rooms from \$209

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

The Longleaf Hotel

A FORMER TRAVELODGE IN THE 1960S, the 57-room Longleaf, named after a beloved-but-endangered local pine tree, was given a spiffy new remodel in 2019. (One of the Longleaf’s designers used his grandfather’s den from the ‘60s as a design lodestar.) The owners uncovered many of the hotel’s distinctive mid-century details like the “starshine” breeze blocks hidden away behind a layer of stucco. For more retro fun, hit the popular Longleaf Lounge for craft cocktails and dig into classic fare like deviled eggs and the famous port-wine cheese ball. thelongleafhotel.com, rooms from \$128

The Longleaf Hotel bar in Raleigh, North Carolina



COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE HOTELS

A studio guest room at Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale



SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Hotel Valley Ho

ORIGINALLY DESIGNED BY EDWARD L. VARNEY ASSOCIATES IN 1956, the Hotel Valley Ho was a dazzling Modernist desert hideaway for movie stars such as Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, who were eager to flee the paparazzi of Los Angeles. Among the many refurbishments: Drywall was stripped from guest rooms to reveal the original masonry bricks, and a spa was also installed, which houses eight treatment rooms offering chromotherapy and Turkish hammam treatments. A more recent interior reimagining brightened the rooms with fresh sherbet colors. “We call it mid-century with a modern twist,” says Anissa Mendil of Mendil + Meyer Design Studio, “where the sophisticated glamour yet alluring simplicity of the 1950s movie star is married with the modern refinement of today.” Eminent architect Alan Hess has said that the Valley Ho is among the best examples of preserved mid-century hotel architecture in the United States. hotelvalleyho.com, rooms from \$229