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# ANTONY GORMLEY CREATES INHABITABLE SCULPTURE FOR NEW LONDON HOTEL

*Room*, by internationally celebrated artist Antony Gormley, a giant crouching figure on the façade of London's new Beaumont Hotel, the interior of which is a hotel suite, was unveiled at a press preview today in the presence of the artist.

Antony Gormley said: "I take the body as our primary habitat. ROOM contrasts a visible exterior of a body formed from large rectangular masses with an inner experience. The interior of ROOM is only 4 metres square but 10 metres high: close at body level, but lofty and open above. Shutters over the window provide total blackout and very subliminal levels of light allow me to sculpt darkness itself. My ambition for this work is that it should confront the monumental with the most personal, intimate experience."

Antony Gormley, born in London in 1950, is widely acclaimed for his sculptures, installations and public artworks that investigate the relationship of the human body to space. His work has developed the potential opened up by sculpture in the 1970s through a critical engagement with both his own body and those of others in a way that confronts fundamental questions of where human being stands in relation to nature and the cosmos. He continually tries to identify the space of art as a place of becoming in which new behaviours, thoughts and feelings can arise. Gormley's work has been widely exhibited throughout the UK and internationally. His many successful projects include the *Angel of the North* (1995-1998) and *One & Other* (2009) for the Fourth Plinth in London's Trafalgar Square. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, and was knighted in the New Year's Honours list in 2014.

The Beaumont, in Brown Hart Gardens, Mayfair, is being developed by Grosvenor in partnership with Corbin & King Hotels. It is the first hotel that renowned restaurateurs Chris Corbin and Jeremy King will operate and it will in Autumn 2014.

The Beaumont, Brown Hart Gardens, Mayfair, London W1K 6TF.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

### **Grosvenor Group**

Grosvenor is a privately-owned property group, active in some of the world's most dynamic cities. Our future success is tied to the sustainable growth of the cities in which we have a presence. We have a vested interest in the future shape of the urban landscape and aim to help create and manage attractive and vibrant cities, in which people choose to live and work.

Grosvenor Britain & Ireland aims to create value through its skills in place-making and design, repositioning locations in ways that change customer perceptions and deliver results for our stakeholders. We own and develop an exceptional range of properties and locations in Britain and Ireland through two business units: our London estate, responsible for assets across 300 acres of Mayfair and Belgravia, and Grosvenor Developments, responsible for all offestate activity in Britain and Ireland. Both teams have a common goal: to create great places for people to live, work and visit. As at 31 December 2013, Grosvenor Britain & Ireland had assets under management of £5bn.

## **Corbin & King**

Chris Corbin and Jeremy King have been business partners for over thirty years and in that time have developed, owned and managed some of London's most respected, revered and successful restaurants.

In 2003 they opened what was considered to be London's first Grand Café, The Wolseley in Piccadilly, in 2013 voted Restaurant of the Decade by popular vote at Taste of London, and regularly topping the lists as London's favourite restaurant in the Zagat and Hardens guides. In 2011, they opened The Delaunay, a Grand Café with a *mittel*-European slant, located on the corner of Aldwych and Drury Lane. The adjacent Counter at The Delaunay is a relaxed café and take-away.

In June 2012, they opened the 240-seat, spectacular Art Deco Brasserie Zédel just off Piccadilly Circus in London's Soho, serving classic French brasserie food at remarkably low prices; the venue also houses the Bar Américain, ZL Café and a cabaret space, The Crazy Coqs. 2012 ended with the opening of Colbert, an informal neighbourhood brasserie on Sloane Square in Chelsea.

Prior to 2003, Corbin & King owned and managed some of London's most famous restaurants, including Le Caprice (opened 1981), The Ivy (1990) which consistently topped the Zagat and Hardens Guides as the most popular restaurant in London, and J Sheekey (1998), all as part of Caprice Holdings, which they sold in 1998, staying on as directors until 2002.

2014 sees the opening of Fischer's in June, an informal, neighbourhood café and *konditorei* evocative of Vienna in the early 20th century on Marylebone High Street and the opening of their first hotel, the 73-room Beaumont in Mayfair.