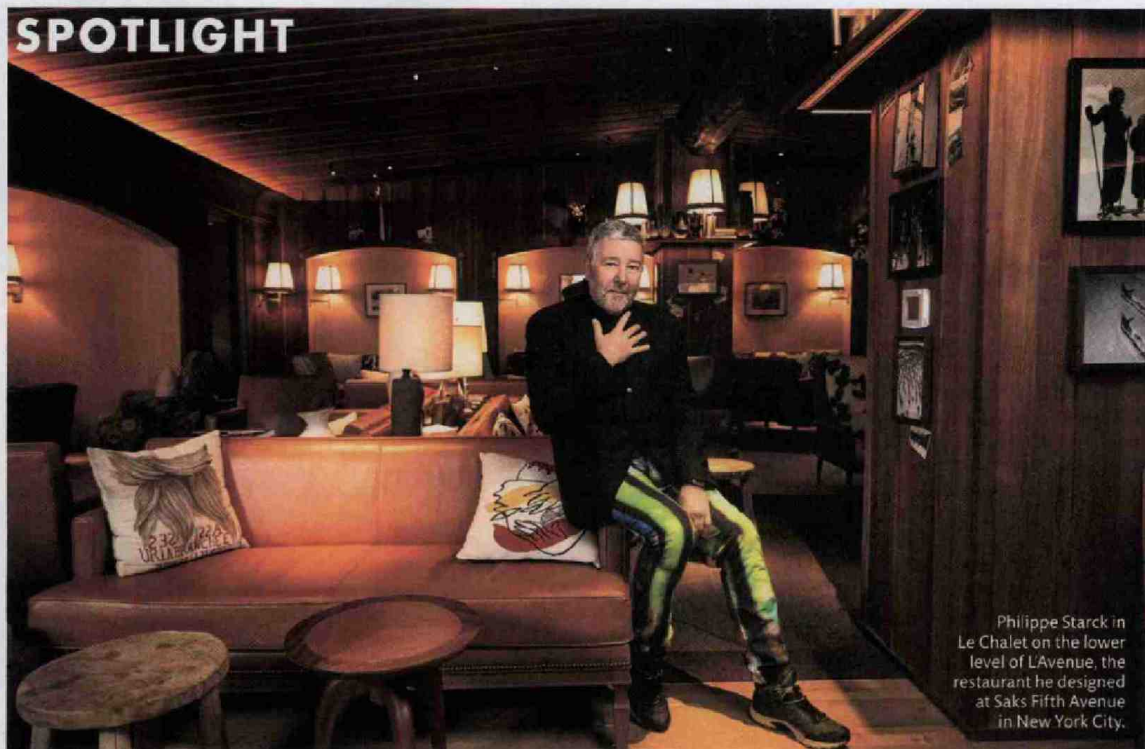


## SPOTLIGHT



Philippe Starck in Le Chalet on the lower level of L'Avenue, the restaurant he designed at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City.

# Starck QUALITIES

THE GLOBE'S MOST **PRODIGIOUS** DESIGNER STRUTS HIS STUFF AT NEW YORK'S L'AVENUE.

BY SHIVANI VORA PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP FRIEDMAN

**F**ROM RESTAURANTS TO HOTELS, FURNITURE TO SPACE modules, the French designer Philippe Starck has put his ingenious stamp on more than 10,000 designs. We caught up with him at L'Avenue, the buzzy, 1940s-inspired restaurant he designed at Manhattan's Saks Fifth Avenue.

**ELLE DECOR:** When you're hired for projects, are you given the freedom to create from scratch?

**PHILIPPE STARCK:** It's impossible to tell me what to do. Ideas

come to me intuitively. With L'Avenue, I knew that I had to bring together three elements: New York, Saks, and a bilevel space. My icon of an elegant woman is Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. In designing the restaurant, I visualized what this elegance would look like today. Upstairs is an ivory jewel box for a nice meal or tea, and downstairs is more casual, like a ski chalet. It's the yin to the yang.

**ED:** Where did you find the furniture for the space?

**PS:** I sourced it myself at flea markets and small stores all over the world. Every object has a story or purpose.

**ED:** Can you talk about your upcoming projects?

**PS:** I am working on a microscope that will allow you to see a lot more closely than existing microscopes, as well as on a machine where you can get a shot without a needle. A light will open the skin, and the liquid will go into the cells. I am creating eyeglasses that bend and twist. My father was a plane engineer, and I grew up with a heritage of technology and invention, so these projects are super exciting to me.

Continuing to develop my perfume brand, Starck Paris, is another focus. I want to make more perfumes that are asexual. I think the biggest revolution of the next generation will be the end of sexuality. I'll have more scents that can be worn by anybody. [starck.com](http://starck.com) ■

## OUT of THIS WORLD



The Oh, It Rains! outdoor sofa, Starck's first collaboration with B&B Italia. [bebitalia.com](http://bebitalia.com)



A rendering of a Starck-designed Axiom Space module for commercial space tourism.



The designer's Emeco Broom chair is made from reclaimed industrial wood and polypropylene dust. [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)