

DEPARTURES

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Magnificent Obsessions

GREAT, BIG, BEAUTIFUL
BALL GOWNS
BY HORACIO SILVA

THE NEW FLAVORS OF
LIMA, PERU
BY TOM PARKER BOWLES

THE BATTLE FOR THE
MOST EXCLUSIVE
RESORTS IN THE WORLD
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INSIDE THE METROPOLITAN
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WHY PHILANTHROPY
MATTERS NOW
BY MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG



with and doesn't try to create another one. He is the secret weapon of many celebrities and has never so much as mentioned who his patients are, not even to his wife, and certainly not to me, because I would tell you."

Despite his impeccable sense of style (he is most likely the only person in a Savile Row suit having coffee at the old-fashioned soda fountain across from his office), Imber remains "undone" himself and is content when he looks in the mirror. "I just feel as if I'm at the place I should be at this stage of my life," he says. "I don't color my hair—I don't have any hair. I'm certainly not against any of it, but I'm at peace." And although he has an artist's eye (if medicine hadn't been his *métier*, it would have been architecture), he insists he doesn't go around critiquing friends and neighbors. "I don't look at people that way," he says. "Everybody's imperfect, and I don't want anybody picking at me."

There is a subtle aspect of his work that Imber takes seriously. "This is a watershed moment for the patient who makes an appointment, comes in and says, 'Can you help me?' My job is to help if I can and make it easy for that person to talk to me. There's a lot of

psychology involved." And yet he was taught "less than nothing" about the emotional component of his profession in medical school. "I didn't learn anything about the ethics or the morality of what I do until I was doing it," he says. "Are people saying what they feel? Are they telling the truth? I've done this for a long time—I know the red flags—and I reject easily 25 percent of the people I see because I

can't help them or I shouldn't be helping them, because what they want is unrealistic or beyond the scope of what I think is possible. A 60-year-old woman can't look 30 years old. But if a 60-year-old woman wants to look like a hot 50-year-old woman, she should, and a 50-year-old woman should look an indeterminate age. When a woman comes in and says, 'My husband wants me to do this,' I say, 'Then let him do it.' It's not going to make him happy or make him not wander, and it's not going to save a marriage."

As Catherine Deneuve once noted, at a certain age every woman has to choose between her fanny and her face, and Imber's recognition of the role fat plays in beauty is practically permission to go ahead and have dessert. "At first glance, beauty is about cheekbones and chin," he explains. "Any man or woman who has big cheekbones and a strong jaw looks terrific at first. Then you notice the wrinkles; then you notice that you hate them. But the angularity and the shadows that angularity brings suggest beauty and youth. Fat injections give you angularity."

Tiramisu and Imber's number on speed dial—sounds like a plan. ♦

Dr. Gerald Imber's practice is located at 121A E. 83rd St.; 212-472-1800; drimber.com.

"A 60-YEAR-OLD WOMAN CAN'T LOOK 30. BUT IF SHE WANTS TO LOOK LIKE A HOT 50-YEAR-OLD, SHE SHOULD."

THE SHORT LIST

City Confidential

Choosing a plastic surgeon can be daunting, even if the procedure you're considering is comparatively small. We asked an extensive, hand-picked group of experts—including doctors and beauty-industry execs, as well as great-looking, in-the-know friends who have had work done themselves—whom they'd suggest in three cities: New York, Dallas and Los Angeles, arguably America's capitals of plastic surgery. From that savvy panel, we present their top picks. —Rachel Felder

New York City

Dr. Daniel C. Baker Discreetly located in an Upper East Side brownstone that suggests a tastemaker photography gallery, Baker's specialty is natural-looking facelifts. 212-734-9695; danielbakermid.com.

Dr. Haideh Hirmand Known for her novel perspective on aesthetic rejuvenation, Hirmand tailors cutting-edge surgical and non-surgical techniques to individual needs and goals. She specializes in eyelid procedures, having pioneered safe injection techniques for around the eyes. A new addition to her office is SkinLabRX, a SurgiSpa that offers

a personal aesthetic consultant and a unique membership program for priority bookings. 212-744-4400; haidehirmandmd.com.

Dr. Adam R. Kolker A key focus of Kolker's Park Avenue practice is breast enhancement, both aesthetic and reconstructive. The goal is natural-looking, understated results. 212-744-6500; kolkermd.com.

Dr. Alan Matarasso A favorite among beauty editors and British bankers for his expertise in tummy tucks and liposuction. 212-628-0900; alanmatarassomd.com.

Dallas

Dr. Gregg M. Anigian Nearly a third of Anigian's patients are male, with the priority being minimal downtime. 214-369-0006; dallasplasticsurgery.com.

Dr. Fritz E. Barton Jr. Based in Highland Park, Barton's trademark is a so-called High SMAS facelift, which helps the jawline and neck look more youthful. 214-821-9355; drbarton.com.

Dr. Jay Burns Known for natural-looking facelifts and breast augmentations that typically minimize incisions and recovery time. 214-823-1978; drjayburns.com.

Dr. Rod J. Rohrich Accentuating each patient's best features for the long term, Rohrich's cosmetic practice specializes in rhinoplasty and facelifts. 214-821-9114; drrohrich.com.

Los Angeles

Dr. Rich S. Ellenbogen Specializing in minimally invasive plastic surgery and rhinoplasty, Ellenbogen's Beverly Hills location sees a large celebrity clientele. 310-276-3183; beverlyhillsbody.com.

Dr. Garth Fisher Well-known for creating enviable cleavage, Fisher has, perhaps unsurprisingly, a six-month wait list for new patients. 310-273-5995; garthfisher.com.

Dr. David Stoker With a forte in cutting-edge breast work, including laser lifts and

discreetly sized implants that look like patients were born with them, Stoker's broad area of expertise also extends to tummy tucks and liposuction at his Marina del Rey and Beverly Hills practices. 310-300-1779; drstoker.com.

Dr. Steven Teitelbaum Based in Santa Monica and known for complicated breast-implant revisions, Teitelbaum's mostly female patients include creative execs from the worlds of art and technology—and L.A. yoga moms aiming to look like they did pre-baby. 310-315-1121; drteitelbaum.com.