



COME ON IN...

Whether you're seeking a sanctuary from everyday life, an alternative to the office or WFH, or simply looking to network with like-minded individuals, members-only clubs provide the perfect landscape

Words Cara Gibbs

Private members' clubs, by their very nature, are anchored by exclusivity. But these days it's less about being in the club and more about being in the *right* club. The relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions ignited an uptick in private club memberships, as they offer up safe havens by way of intimate, well-considered spaces in which to work, retreat, and socialize.

Here's our curated edit of the best new clubs around the globe.

The Twenty Two London

"The Twenty Two is a complete lifestyle," says proprietor Navid Mirtorabi of the West End hideaway, a design-forward venue that promotes connection. It is, as its website has it, perfectly pitched for the creative and the curious. "I want to redefine the face of hotels and clubs in Mayfair," explains Mirtorabi, "to allow guests to be comfortable coming in night or day, even if just for a coffee." Founded on the principle of providing guests and members with a sense of belonging to a "dynamic network of nonconformists," the design concept boasts rich textured fabrics, elegantly embroidered silks, lavish velvets, and bespoke wallpapers for a modern maximalist style that keeps guests cocooned in comfort. Mirtorabi chose to partner with interior designer Natalia Miyar to bring his vision to life, creating fluid spaces that pay homage to the grandeur of the building in which the club is housed. The club also has an Artist in Residence program, the first of whom was Laila Tara H, whose work was "showcased and celebrated" in its private dining room, which is available for breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and drinks receptions. the22.london

The Aster Los Angeles

Situated at the famed Hollywood and Vine intersection in a well-appointed six-story building is L.A.'s newest members-only hotspot, The Aster. Part hotel, part private members' club, The Aster is a destination designed to activate minds, bodies, and social communities—a place where individuals can work, play, and stay in the heart of Hollywood. Among the club's USPs are the rich, Hollywood-inspired interior decor, a private cabaret room, and a wellness suite, as well a recording studio. Another highlight is the Lemon Grove indoor-outdoor restaurant. Helmed by award-winning celebrity chef Marcel Vigneron, it is perfectly placed on a sweeping rooftop space inspired by the lemon groves that once dotted the landscape. The club's team wanted to give members and guests an authentic sense of place, a calm oasis in which to socialize and conduct business. Programming at The Aster runs the gamut from creative screenings and live music to high-end guest chef collaborations such as the Food As Art culinary series, which began by teaming up with the co-founding chef from Noma, Mads Refslund. As a retreat for jet-setters and worldly go-getters, The Aster also offers access to 30 reciprocal partner clubs around the globe. theasterla.com

"The Twenty Two is a complete lifestyle."
Navid Mirtorabi



World exclusives

The terrace at Carlyle & Co. in Hong Kong (left) and the pool at The Aster in Los Angeles (above right). Previous page: the restaurant at The Twenty Two in London.

JONATHAN MALONEY & INGA BECKMANN / WHAT THE FOX STUDIO



NeueHouse Venice Beach

Despite its modern interiors, NeueHouse is well-seasoned in its delivery of beautifully executed gathering places. "The founders are very much focused on co-working through design-first spaces," says chief brand officer, Jon Goss, who details the inner nature of the club that primarily caters to creatives—from fashion designers and artists to tech entrepreneurs and everything in between. "Here, you become part of a cohort," Goss explains. "There's something kindred about creatives—a shared curiosity to create—and NeueHouse facilitates these serendipitous collisions fostered within our tapestry of members." Perhaps it's the brand's German roots that play to the efficiency of their services, but NeueHouse is more of a solution than a lifestyle choice for its members. "Work is social," says Goss, "and we provide the social platform for creatives to build upon—the connection point between culture and commerce." Hosting a location in New York City, several outposts in southern California, and soon to debut a five-story Miami hub at the intersection of the Design District and Wynwood, NeueHouse is careful to position itself as the point at which art and design unite—wherever the brand calls home.

SAM FROST

Goss muses, "In recent years, there's been a reunion around the notion of coming together—there's magic in the alchemy of creatives gathering in comfort-first spaces, ripe with functionality and inspired by form." All NeueHouse members also enjoy reciprocal memberships and access to a range of global clubs. neuehouse.com/houses/venice-beach

Carlyle & Co. Hong Kong

Joining this club provides an opportunity to mix with a hand-picked community of like-minded individuals—those with shared stories and interests, looking to spend time with one another in beautifully designed spaces. As is the case with its sister venue, The Carlyle in New York City, discretion is at the heart of Hong Kong's Carlyle & Co., and many people inquire for membership largely because there's a notion that something great is happening behind closed doors—and they're not wrong. Prospective members are also well aware that the community curation is of the highest standard—Hong Kong is a small city, after all. The club bills its membership as "a collective that lives for exhilarating social encounters." Finding that members are often looking for a "third space" to connect with others, ▶

Members' clubs

Carlyle & Co. has a comprehensive collection of spaces designed to suit its members' needs, whether it's to unwind, entertain, or work, enabling them to live their lives to the full at one address. carlyleandco.com

b_together *Singapore*

Our next private club is switching up the dynamic—offering the thoughtful amenities you would expect, but presented through a family-first lens. “Members-only clubs offer a familiarity,” explains b_together founder Maggie Bolger. “It’s a home away from home, but with all the luxuries laid on to ensure the experience is the ultimate in relaxation and quality time.” b_together caters to busy parents in search of somewhere inspiring, magical, and fun for kids to play, while providing adults with respite through a great cup of coffee and a delicious meal. That might not seem like much to ask, but often it’s not easy to come by. Aimed to be an entirely different kind of family club, b_together takes a holistic approach to exclusivity. “When I founded b_together I wanted something that catered not just to new mothers or toddlers and pre-schoolers, but to the whole family,” says Bolger, who aimed to create spaces that speak to all ages. “The beauty is that each space has been meticulously designed to meet these varying needs—there’s the baby play, the toddler play, the lending library, the game zone, the club lounge, the build-your-own-play—and at its heart, b_together is a hub for families to hang out, chill out, and reconnect.” singapore.b-together.com

Casa Cipriani *New York City*

A mere glimpse of the Cipriani logo conjures instant images of beautiful people sipping cocktails in stunning spaces. Casa Cipriani is self-styled as “a true private members’ club in the modern sense, bringing together a community of like-minded people who share life’s simple pleasures.” Located on the water at the tip of Lower Manhattan, the 1909 Beaux Arts building itself is spectacular—the club is housed in the Battery Maritime Building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976—with interiors designed by renowned French architect Thierry Despont to match. It is reminiscent of an elegant 1930s ocean liner, and as you enter, the magnificent spaces reveal Italian craftsmanship in their furnishings, Art Deco touches, and amenities. The views of the East River waterfront, from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Statue of Liberty, are breathtaking and there are captivating vistas from many of the private balconies in the suites (there are 47 rooms and suites here, making it one of the larger new club openings). Whether enjoying the spa, the state-of-the-art fitness center surrounded by the original architectural iron structure, or a variety of dining options—from the elegant Club Restaurant to the eclectic Pickering Room or the classic, intimate Jazz Café with its live entertainment—there’s no shortage of things to do within the walls of Casa Cipriani. casacipriani.newyork.com ●

*Cara Gibbs is a lifestyle writer and stylist whose work has appeared in Architectural Digest, The Wall Street Journal and Wallpaper**



“Each space has been meticulously designed to meet varying needs.”
Maggie Bolger



Club together
(Clockwise from far left) Views of the Statue of Liberty from a terrace at Casa Cipriani in New York City; a sleek fireplace at NeueHaus Venice Beach; and family-friendly fun at b_together in Singapore.

YOSHIRO MAKINO, HOLLAND HARVEY

Featured properties: members' clubs

Exclusive access

Timeless style, eye-catching pools, and state-of-the-art home theaters—these properties have everything required to recreate a members’ club vibe at home



Built to inspire
Decorative interlocking blocks adorn the L.A. home of architect Lloyd Wright, son of Frank Lloyd Wright (left); relax and recharge in statement grounds that celebrate the Florida sunshine (below left).

The Lloyd Wright Studio and Residence *Los Angeles, California*

For a home that effortlessly combines creative design with functional spaces, this 1927 masterpiece by Lloyd Wright is hard to beat. Lovingly restored, it’s an inspiring sanctuary, with separate units for living and working coming together to create a cohesive lifestyle offering. Upstairs, a living room has a stunning wood and glass alcove; downstairs, the large studio has access to a fantastic patio; and a hidden courtyard is a calming place to recharge. All this, just 15 minutes from creative members’ club, The Aster. \$5,995,000 AKG Christie’s International Real Estate, akgre.com, Dalton Gomez, dalton@aaronkirman.com, +1 424 249 7162



MBRGR PHOTOGRAPHY

Living the dream *Southwest Ranches, Florida*

Within the ultra-exclusive Landmark Ranch Estates, this gated 2.25-acre (0.9 ha) property is a quintessential resort-style home, inside and out. Arriving in the motor court, a porte cochère marks the entrance to a private realm of luxury living, and gleaming marble floors lead the way to a spectacular double-height living room. With a wall of recessed cabinets to display treasured *objets*, it’s a magnificent place to take time out or gather for drinks. On the gallery above, wood paneling and custom lighting create an inviting space for a game of cards or pool. Elsewhere, sink into an immersive experience in the home theater, or host meetings in the grand home office, where hidden features await discovery. The palatial 11,803 sq ft (1,097 sq m) interior also takes in a statement kitchen, eight bedrooms, eight full bathrooms, and one half bathroom. Outside, the Florida lifestyle comes into its own. Catering to every whim, the grounds encompass a free-form pool with feature lighting, a basketball half court, a putting green, pristine lawns and terraces, a summer kitchen, and a six-car garage. \$8,850,000 Fortune Christie’s International Real Estate, fir.com, Danielle Elfassy, delfassy@fir.com, +1 786 877 0965

Featured properties: members' clubs



Lakefront marvel

Lakeside, Michigan

Perched on the shore of Lake Michigan, this stately nine-bedroom estate is perfect for gatherings and events. A family room with wet bar and wine cellar sets the scene, while an intimate library evokes the members' club spirit. Relax on the terrace, at the pool, or beside the lakefront firepit. \$9,450,000
@properties: New Buffalo, atproperties.com/sw-michigan, Will Schauble, willschauble@atproperties.com, +1 312 860 4192

Natural charm

The Lake Michigan shoreline is a perfect backdrop for a palatial estate (above); beautiful landscaped gardens are part of a stunning design ethos in Phoenix, Arizona (below).

Rare masterpiece

Phoenix, Arizona

Historically significant, this dazzling estate has undergone an inspirational redesign in recent years to become a new-age work of art with an old-world classic twist. Crafted with impeccable style, all the materials chosen have been carefully selected from reclaimed sources, and the palatial living spaces are accentuated by European-style minimalist contemporary lines. Introduced by a grand entryway with a handcrafted front door, the majestic property opens to a stunning cathedral-ceiling living room that could serve as a chic piano lounge. Original wood flooring, stone fireplaces, and gorgeous granite countertops in the bright, inviting kitchen with breakfast bar are particular highlights, while plentiful accommodation takes in six bedrooms and three baths. Outside, the luxury continues, where a sparkling pool, landscaped gardens, and a guesthouse with its own courtyard await. The addition of a double garage makes this rarely available 1920s residence in Los Olivos—a highly desirable area with first-class shopping, top golf courses, restaurants, and good schools nearby—a one-of-a-kind opportunity. \$8,500,000
Walt Danley Local Luxury Christie's International Real Estate, waldanley.com, Katrina Barrett, katrina@localluxuryre.com, +1 520 403 5270



COLTON SIMON