

In Hotel Design, He's Mr. Prolific

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In his SoHo office, the architect Gene Kaufman is presenting drawings of his latest buildings. 'This one is for Marriott in Chelsea,' he said, pointing to a rendering of a slender, gray tower. 'This is a Sheraton on Canal Street. This one's a Doubletree in the financial district...'

Mr. Kaufman is just getting warmed up.

Many architects would be happy to design a single hotel in Manhattan, his firm, Gene Kaufman Architect, is designing 36 of them. Nearly all are for national brands that are trying to establish beachheads in the city.

On one block near Times Square - 39th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues - Mr. Kaufman, 50, has five hotels under construction.

Three of the hotels will share a single, 36-story building on the north side of the street. When it is completed, it will contain a Holiday Inn Express, a Candlewood Suites and a Hampton Inn. Each will have its own signs and lobby, and guest rooms that are outfitted in its signature style.

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