

Beauties Are Doin' It for Themselves

With U.N. Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson starring as Belle in this month's live-action *Beauty and the Beast* remake, it's no surprise that the Disney princess is getting a feminist makeover. Here, three ways Watson is tweaking the tried-and-true formula. (MARCH 17)



1 She's an inventor. How does Belle have time to read so many books? She invented a washing machine that cuts down on laundry time.

2 She wears sensible shoes. Watson swapped Belle's ballet flats for "proper boots" that allow her to garden, ride horses, and repair machinery.

3 She ditched the corset. Watson refused to wear a corset under Belle's iconic yellow dress because she wanted to play a more "active" princess.



This Old Casa

Three new hotels play on Barcelona's greatest asset: its rich architectural history

BY JESSICA BENAVIDES CANEPA

ARCHITECTURE



MONUMENT HOTEL

The grande dame Hotel Condes de Barcelona occupied two Passeig de Gràcia mansions until last March, when the brand spun off half of its flagship into the 84-room boutique Monument. The neo-Gothic building, designed by pre-Modernist architect Josep Vilaseca i Casanovas (the man behind the city's Arc de Triomf), was renovated to reintroduce its original 1896 facade, a mix of brick, stone, ceramics, and wrought iron. Inside, the biggest challenge was marrying mod decor with fragile structural accents; the result yields striking touches like the lobby's inverted skylight "tree," which transforms the original bearing walls into dramatic "branches."



SOHO HOUSE BARCELONA

For its Spanish debut, the Soho House members-only club revamped an 1864 Gothic Quarter apartment building built on the foundations of a medieval convent. The 57-room hotel incorporates elements of vintage Catalan design, such as traditional *volta catalana* (vaulted red-brick) ceilings and mosaic tiles. A highlight is the Cowshed Spa, which is inspired by both a 1930s pharmacy and the *modernista* Hospital de Sant Pau. Rooms feature a mix of retro furnishings and custom-made new pieces, and the stairwells are decorated with quirky illustrations by Blanca Miró Skoudy, a descendant of Joan Miró.

CASA BONAY

Opened last February, the 67-room Casa Bonay bears the name of the family that once lived in this 1869 Francisco Batlle-designed residence, in the burgeoning Dreta de l'Eixample district. "It was very important for us to find an interesting house," says co-owner Inés Miró-Sans, who cut her teeth at New York's Ace Hotel, "one with a history." The restoration, by Brooklyn's Studio Tack, kept much of the Neoclassical detailing intact, including mosaic tiling in every room, iron columns in the Libertine lobby bar, and the carved-wood doorman's depot, which serves as a library curated by indie publisher Blackie Books.

ATLAPIX/ALAMY (WATSON); NACHO ALEGRE (CASA BONAY); RAFAEL VARGAS (MONUMENT); SOHO HOUSE BARCELONA (SOHO HOUSE)