



# STUDIO ROBERT MCKINLEY

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## CAFÉ SOCIETY

**SANT AMBROEUS** HAS NEW YORK'S ART CROWD RAISING ITS PADDLE FOR A CHIC SEAT AT SOTHEBY'S. BY SAMANTHA YANKS

Nestled inside the distinguished global auction house of Sotheby's Manhattan headquarters is a new Sant Ambroeus, a coffee-bar-cum-café that serves paninis, salads, and famed pastries in pastel-pink boxes. The rich portfolio of the brand, known for beloved and authentic Italian cuisine, has five other New York City locations and a Southampton outpost for the summertime set. While Sant Ambroeus Soho, for example, is a clubhouse for downtown's elite, the Sotheby's café is tailor-made for the uptown art and food lover.

Imagined by New York-based designer Robert McKinley of Studio Robert McKinley, the café pays homage to the aesthetic of Italian coffee bars in the 1960s while honoring the auction house's ambience. "One can't help but be inspired by the abundance of art and objects housed in the storied building," says McKinley. "The quality and finishes of the design need to appeal to a discerning clientele with an understated elegance." Indeed. The deep chocolate-brown and pale-pink marble floors are inspired by Giò Poni's geometric patterns, and the bar's custom Murano glass pendants and vintage Murano sconces are shaped like leaves illuminating the wood columns. It's the perfect setting for New York's most highbrow cup of brew. *Sotheby's, 1334 York Ave., 10th Floor Terrace, 212-606-7070; santambroeus.com* ■



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MOULTEFRAEN

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