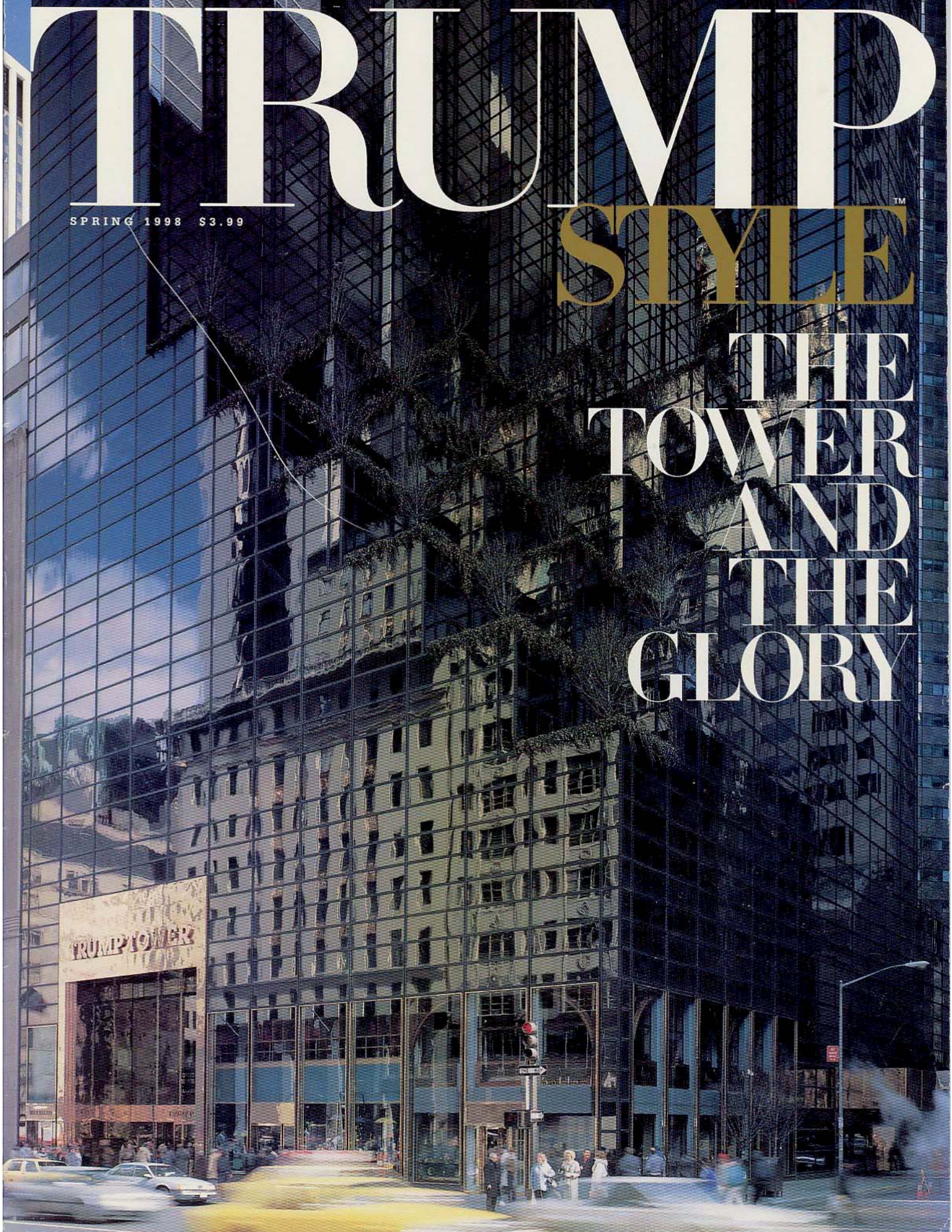


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STYLE

THE TOWER AND THE GLORY



with music and an indoor-outdoor waterfall. Or you can sign up for aromatherapy, Pilates, and other mind/body/spirit treatments at the nine-month-old Aspen Wellness Center. Mariel Hemingway, race-car driver Emerson Fittipaldi, and members of the L.A. Lakers have all stopped in.

For a little outer beauty to go along with your inner glow, head to the Cos Bar. A makeup lover's paradise, the Cos Bar has hosted beauty queens Trish McEvoy, Bobbi Brown, and Laura Mercier (Madonna's favorite makeup artist), and members of their staffs. You probably have a better shot of getting a makeover from one of these high-powered artists in Aspen than in New York or L.A. The Cos Bar

also sells Prescriptives' High-Altitude Sun Cream, which owner Lily Garfield says is made exclusively for the store. (The ski patrol and the instructors swear by it.)

The cream will probably come in handy—most people who visit Aspen return again and again, and many decide to stay. After all, what other mountain resort offers arts and entertainment with glitz thrown in? All this doesn't come without a steep price tag: In 1997, *Worth* magazine rated Aspen the second-wealthiest city in the nation, with an average home price of \$1.4 million. But there's no shortage of buyers, because they learned long ago "How to Aspen." All they needed was a little refresher course. **T**

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Prince of the Hill



Wander the streets of Aspen and you're sure to bump, literally, into any number of celebrities. They come for vacation and leave their entourages behind. But it's not that simple for His Excellency Prince Bandar bin Sultan Al-Saud, the 48-year-old Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States. He has made Aspen his second home (after Washington, D.C.), but he can't exactly enjoy it unobtrusively.

So if you're sitting at Ajax Tavern and see a guy skiing surrounded by four rigid bodyguards also on skis, it's probably Bandar. Or if you're in any of the jewelry stores, and you see the manager twitch as a group passes by, Bandar again. But as the prince notes in *Aspen Magazine*, although he can't walk anyplace unrecognized, "the Aspen people have never been intrusive of my privacy."

The prince decided to settle in Aspen after various trips in

the late seventies, including one to The Aspen Institute (an international nonprofit educational group committed to serving leaders). He has since become a trustee of the Institute, which has named a building after him. Many other local charities benefit from his largesse, including the community hospital and DanceAspen, but he has made a point of trying to keep his name out of the press and his good deeds to himself.

In the summertime, Prince Bandar holds the annual Ducky Derby on Roaring Fork River. Melissa Coleman of *Aspen Magazine* explains the event: "Participants launch rubber duckies in the river; the person whose duck crosses the finish line first wins whatever prize Prince Bandar has donated. Last year's lucky winner took home a Jeep Wrangler."

Bandar seems to have a soft

spot for youngsters: The Kids' Stuff Foundation at the Silver Lining Ranch, which provides terminally ill children with a week of adventure in Colorado, is one of his beneficiaries.

"Bandar was one of the reasons Kids' Stuff has expanded its programs and now reaches a lot of children around the world, not just in the local area," says retired tennis pro Andrea Jaeger, who runs the foundation. "His was our first really significant donation. He gave \$225,000 initially, and every time we've gone to him and asked for help and support, he has always been more than willing to do something for a great charity and for this community where he has built a home."

The home Jaeger is referring to is a 55,000-square-foot, \$40-million mansion on about 95 acres in Starwood, Aspen's most exclusive enclave. The 15-

bedroom glass, cedar, and red-wood structure, complete with separate areas for male and female employees and the mandatory Jacuzzi, pool, and game rooms, was completed in 1990. It even has its own water-treatment plant to contend with the 17 bathrooms. Bandar got approval for this enormous project after pledging to donate \$500,000 for a new county health and human services building, and \$150,000 for "deed-restricted" housing to accommodate his staff.

The estate on which Bandar's home sits also holds numerous dwellings for guests and family members. Cassandra Lohr, a Denver-based interior designer known for her ability to make Western-style homes look elegant, decorated one of his guest lodges and helped out on the main house as well. "He is great to work with," says Lohr, "and has a strong sense of design. He knows what he wants, which is coupled with excellent taste."

What Prince Bandar seems to want most is to enjoy Aspen. And he's doing his best to ensure that the locals and the visitors enjoy it as well. The charities are certainly pleased he has decided to call Aspen home. —L.D.

