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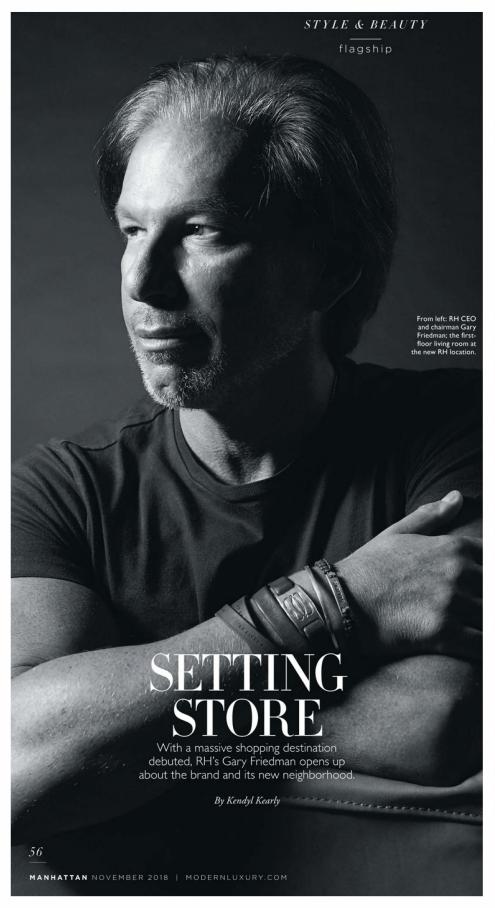
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With a rooftop park, barista bar, restaurant, wine terrace and 90,000 square feet of home shopping, RH's new, six-story outpost at the corner of Little West 12th and 9th is quickly becoming one of the most overwhelmingly luxurious stores in the city. A collaboration between RH chairman and CEO Gary Friedman and design architect James Gillam, the store includes goods from the RH Interiors, RH Modern, RH Baby & Child, RH TEEN and RH Outdoor collections artfully arranged in the kind of opulent, contemporary interiors for which RH is known. We checked in with Friedman on how this monolithic structure came to be and its impact on RH's legacy.

You have opened RH galleries all over the U.S. and Canada—why New York and why now? New York is our biggest market and the bridge to Europe. There is no other city more important to our brand and business. Our vision for RH New York was to create the most innovative retail experience in the world in the most important city in the world.

What drew you to the Meatpacking District? We liked the irreverence and soul of the Meatpacking District. At its core, it's a neighborhood of originals and leaders: Florent, Pastis, the first Soho House outside of London, Jeffrey, Diane V's modern steel and glass rooftop penthouse, the first Stella McCartney store, the High Line, The Standard, the new Whitney by Renzo Piano, etc.

### What do you love most about the space?

So many things. The adapted reuse of the original brick facade that Jim Gillam designed is so original yet ties perfectly to the history, spirit and soul of the historic Meatpacking District and the elevated trains. The central atrium beautifully ties together all the floors and floods the center with natural light. The cast iron columns are a perfect reference to the past, and many who have seen it think the atrium was always here. The rooftop restaurant and park take your breath away. The structure, simplicity and discipline of the landscaping is unlike anything in the city. It is hands-down my favorite rooftop in the world. 9 Ninth Ave., restorationhardware.com