

INTERNATIONAL

Objekt

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After a year of extensive renovations, a landmark 17th Century building on one of Amsterdam’s oldest canals has reopened its doors as Hotel The Craftsmen. The 14-room boutique hotel celebrates historical Dutch crafts with cleverly designed themed rooms. The Craftsman is a combination of the luxury and comfort of a boutique hotel, and a unique design, rich history, and craftsmanship.

Spread over three historical properties, the hotel offers fourteen distinct rooms. Each room is given the name of the various craftsmen, such as the Boat Builders Signature Suite, The Instrument Makers Single Room, and the Bike Builders Deluxe Double Room.

Together, the three buildings are listed as a national monument dating from 1652. During the extensive redesign, authentic elements were either preserved or meticulously restored. Any new design elements respect the distinct historical character and charm and pay homage to the hotel’s name. Period delft blue tiles, bedsteads, monumental floors, and the original staircase pair perfectly with beautiful antiques, vintage finds, modern materials, and clever reuse of craft related items the designers introduced to offer the comfort of today.

To achieve this, the owners turned to artist Stef van de Bijl, who brought in more local craftsmen such as illustrator Aart Taminiau and steel designer Joram Barbiers. Together, they implemented original and imaginative design elements for which they often repurposed vintage materials befitting the theme. With their collective expertise and craftsmanship, they have given antiques and curiosa a contemporary and practical function within the hotel.

Amongst the unique elements are an old canoe serving as a ceiling lamp, a wardrobe made with the emergency exit door of a Fokker F28 jet airliner, and reclaimed aluminum shoe-stretchers from the 1940’s getting a second chance in life as wall mounted reading lights.

The impressive canal houses at the Singel share a rich history. Roelof Swaen, deputy to legendary Dutch sea admiral Michiel de Ruyter, constructed the oldest of the three buildings in 1652. His ‘Huis de Swaen’ (The Swan) was initially a ferry house but turned into a hotel in the nineteenth century. An original stone plaque on the sidewall of the building, shows a swan, referring to its historical name today.

In 1917, an Amsterdam local man with the name Brouwer bought Huis de Swaen and opened his Hotel, aptly called Hotel Brouwer. Exactly 100 years later, the Brouwer heirs sold it to the current owners, the Zandbergen family.

The Zandbergen family took on the challenging task of turning the national monument into a luxurious boutique hotel. Challenging is an understatement, as the original 17th-century architecture had to remain intact in accordance with the requirements of Amsterdam’s monument care. They also stipulated that in some places in the hotel, the original features or elements had to be brought back. Some of these include authentic bedsteads, a so-called ‘Keulse goot’ (a 17th-century indoor gutter), and Delft Blue tiles. The rich history is also reflected in the monumental staircase, the exposed beams and eaves, the original wooden floors, and the intimate and narrow hallways.

Michelle Zandbergen, daughter of the Zandbergen family: “Amsterdam has a wonderful history of craftsmanship, we want to bring that cultural heritage to life by not only creating a beautiful hotel but also by letting the guests touch and feel the craftsmanship that is behind it. To achieve that we have combined the raw, authentic crafts that define this city with a modern, luxury boutique experience.”

craftsmen society

amsterdam authenticity



photos: João Vis



non usuel noir



The name came from the French term “non-usuel (non-usual)” and “noir (black)”. So it was designed with black as the basic color. ‘nol’ in Tokyo is a new chapter in the specific Japanese approach to creating minimal spaces. The restaurant was designed by Koichi Futatsumata’s Fukuokaa based design firm Case Real.

‘nol’ is a restaurant atelier with a distinct concept, located in Tokyo. Here talented chefs can work for catering preparation or for irregular dinner events. As an experimental kitchen, it is a flexible space freed from the physical restraints of a classical restaurant.

Though it is compact, the goal of Koichi Futatsumata, founder of Case Real, was to create an atmosphere that suits the extraordinary dishes that will be prepared. Compared to the spacious kitchen, this restaurant has only eight table seats and is not fully open to the public . Futatsumata’s idea was to create a restaurant with a very specific touch, considering the stance and characteristics of the space.

To create depth, the space was painted in a gradation from grey to dark grey. The dining area was finished with a matte, dark-toned lysine from floor to ceiling. Pendant lights above the tables were newly designed by Tatsuki Nakamura to fit the space. The shades of the lightings were finished with the same lysine material to maintain a common tone and to exaggerate the contrast between the light and the ceiling. The kitchen was mainly finished with stainless-steel, in order to create a brighter image and a space which functions like a stage in contrast to the black dining area.

Designer Koichi Futatsumata founded Case-Real in 2000. His company works on interior / architecture projects and performances.

Above: the experimental kitchen ‘nol’ in Tokyo, Japan, designed by Case Real.

Client: Marutaya Co.
Direction: Aid Inc
Design: Koichi Futatsumata, Koichi Shimohira [CASE-REAL], Yasushi Arikawa [Partner]
Cooperation: TANK, Tanabe Kensetsu
Lighting Plan: BRANCH lighting design (Tatsuki Nakamura)
Manufacture of Furniture: E&Y
Sign Design: Aid Inc
Paint: Nakamura paint
Photo: Daisuke Shima





The re-erection in wood of Neon's 'Shiver House' marked the fifth year anniversary of the project. Shiver House was previously installed in 2015 as part of the Barfotastigen exhibition on the island of Korppoo, Finland. The project was intended to be in-situ for 4 months but due to its popularity it was kept on-site longer. On the project's second year, Korppoo, began hosting summer concerts next to the project as part of the renowned Jazz festival Korppoo Sea Jazz. The jubilee edition is constructed out of Finnish Airplane Ply.

Shiver House is a radical reinvention of the common Finnish Hut (mökki). The project is a kinetic animal-like structure that moves and adapts in response to surrounding natural forces. Shiver House is an exploration into the idea that architecture can be used to create a closer emotional link between its inhabitants and the natural world it sits within.

In addition, the project enlightens the fact that architecture can seem alive: that it will engender a deeper and longer-lasting emotional relationship between people and the structures they inhabit.

Mark Nixon of Neon, an award-winning design practice based in Margate, UK: "While the world is adjusting to the new reality of Covid-19, I feel that there needs to be a greater emphasis given to the way architecture, art, and design are used as a means of reducing anxiety, connecting us with nature and bringing people together again in public spaces. Shiver House's architecture is in a constant state of transformation and 'performs' with the ever-changing flows of the wind, it is an ideal way of grounding people in the present moment."

The house is made of 600 kinetic counter-weighted shingles which respond to the changing weather conditions of the site. Wind, rain, and snow cause the shingles to rotate into a closed position giving the structure the function of a shelter.

The Shiver House is constantly transforming between being a functional shelter and a poetic and experiential device. Users can observe the ever-changing environment as they watch the kinetic shingles modulate the internal light levels.

The project is constructed around a simple timber structure, which supports a number of rows of tensioned steel wire. These steel wires are treated as batons and are designed to hold the counter-weighted shingles. The shingles are constructed using a folded and cut Airplane Ply, which has been soaked in protective oil. The counterweight is constructed using a stainless-steel nut and bolt.