project Hotel Norge client Scandic

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project information

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architect building Grieg Arkitekter

contractor Constructa Entreprenør AS

specialist joinery FPI Baltic

special features Giant sun

Escalator tunnel Amfi stairs

Bespoke wall panelling restaurant Nova Globe light feature Escape Room

Brass ceiling ballroom

Room with sliding mirror and hanging chair

Suite with sauna and hot tub

lighting consultant Flos

photography Wouter van der Sar

total area 30,000 m² (incl. boh)

total keys 415 rooms duration construction 24 months opening September 2018

HOTEL NORGE - DESIGN STORY

STAY TO ESCAPE

Concrete is proud to announce the opening of Hotel Norge in Bergen; a new home for travellers with a curious mind. Hotel Norge embraces Bergen's history and combines it with an international and contemporary lifestyle. The design is highlighted by the eternal sunshine of the giant sun in the lobby, a surprising feature hidden in the heart of the building.

The hotel is a destination in itself, offering an escape from the daily grind for business and leisure travellers alike, without even having to step outside. Designed as a collection of unique curated spaces, with a different array of ambiances that capture the city of Bergen. Staying at Hotel Norge means meeting like-minded people at the urban, bright café Norge and forgetting time because you're having fun. Going up to the Lobby, a more sophisticated and ambient space, lit by the giant sun that changes colour depending on the season and mood.

Discover nature's richest and purest Nordic flavours in restaurant NOVA, explore new urban scenes with the lifestyle concierge, and experience the greatest freedom of the outdoors, away of the hustle and bustle, in the 'hytte' inspired guest rooms at the end of the day. Staying at Hotel Norge offers a unique travel experience. The hotel allows both locals and travellers to eat, work, drink and sleep in the heart of the city, situated between the mountains and the vast blue sea. Surround yourself with city life, break free into nature when you need it, and stay to escape.

CAFÉ NORGE

Café Norge is the perfect place to enjoy the vibe of an international city combined with the best of Bergen. Choose a spot to eat, drink, work or lounge and share experiences with like-minded people. The iconic wooden staircase that connects the two floors can be transformed into a stage for lectures and performances, while the central bar serves freshly-made breakfast in the morning or exotic cocktails at night. Everyone is invited to sit back and take in the buzzing energy of this brand-new urban hotspot.

MEETING STUDIOS

"Work is not a job", which is why the café blends into the informal conference area and the other way around. Guests can sit down and plug in their laptop anywhere, while interacting with locals and business travellers. A range of meeting spaces is available for both private and public purposes, with every meeting room featuring a custom designed rug with an abstract pattern inspired by Bergen, referring to the mountains, sea, buildings and rain in different tones of blue.

RESTAURANT NOVA/NOVA STUENE

Discover nature's richest and purest Nordic delicacies in the restaurant and broaden your horizon with new flavours based on old traditions. The restaurant features a sequence of rooms that can be connected or separated, each with its own intimate atmosphere. The soft walls display mesmerising horizons that reflect the beauty of nature and its ever-changing scenery. While dining, guests can enjoy the colourful perspectives of the interior and views over the city all at once.

THE LOBBY

Since sunlight is scarce in Bergen, Hotel Norge offers its guests eternal sunshine at its core. Catch a glimpse of the light, be drawn into the lobby, and take the escalator up to the 2nd floor to the heart of the building. Guests will be amazed by the sophisticated space that kindly welcomes them into the hotel. The giant sun that changes colour throughout the day is the centrepiece of this space and builds a unique atmosphere throughout the lobby. Enjoy a drink at the bar while you check in or lounge around and enjoy live music with the sun as the backdrop. The sun always shines at the heart of Hotel Norge.

ROOM

The rooms of Hotel Norge represent a modern interpretation of the traditional Norwegian Hytte. Leave the daily grind behind as you kick off your shoes in the mudroom, close the double doors behind you and disconnect from the hustle and bustle of the city. Materials, colours and textures are inspired by nature and create a cosy atmosphere. Eat, work, relax, daydream and sleep softly in your bed at the heart of your room. You can even book a suite with a private sauna and hot tub that overlooks the small lake of Bergen. Once you stay, you'll never want to leave.

BALLROOM

A conference in nature, a wedding under the leafy canopy of trees, a celebration under the starry sky; this was the inspiration for the design of the ballroom. The idea is reflected in the pattern of the brass ceiling panels and the design of the columns that mimic abstract trees. The soft walls in different tones of green combined with the natural wooden floor give the ballroom an inviting and natural look.

WALK-THROUGH

CAFÉ NORGE

When entering the building under the double height canopy, guests find themselves in an open and vibrant café. The former lobby of Hotel Norge has been given back to the people of Bergen, completely transformed as Café Norge, and is accessible to hotel guests and locals alike. Café Norge is the perfect place to enjoy the vibe of an international city combined with the best of Bergen. The large tiled bar with brass details on the right and the iconic wooden staircase to the left of the entrance form the centrepieces of the café. The floor is a light grey-tone terrazzo, while the double-height columns clad in different shades of white handmade tiles with black skirting create a brasserie-like ambiance.

Oak tables with comfortable chairs are placed along the large windows of the façade. The velvet curtains and soft rugs create a cosy and comfortable atmosphere, and the adjacent bar serves freshly-made breakfast in the morning and exotic cocktails at night.

On the other side of the bar, high sofas in between the columns invite guests to sit down and relax while enjoying the buzzing atmosphere of this new urban hotspot. Right behind the bar is a custom-made divider with a large brass planter and high tables on both sides. Further to the back, a comfortable sofa with oak tables and comfortable chairs is placed in front of a soft velvet curtain; perfect for enjoying a coffee while sampling one of the local delicacies from the kitchen.

The back wall opposite the entrance, covering both floors of the café, is a large backlit glass façade with black steel profiles and double doors. The ground floor features a bakery; show kitchen, lifts, and escalators in the centre that lead directly to the lobby on the second floor. On the first floor the glass wall separates three meeting studios from the café. When these studios are not in use, the large open doors connect them to the café, inviting guests and locals to work and meet like-minded people. The double-height columns feature brass wall lamps that can be found throughout the café and meeting studios. A brass balustrade, designed especially for café Norge with diagonal lines that refer to the letter N in the logo and the mountains of Bergen, embraces the mezzanine.

On the left side of the entrance the iconic wooden staircase connects the two floors of the café. The staircase with its loose cushions and playfully arranged side tables that overlook the café doubles as an inviting seating area. During events, the staircase can be transformed into a stage for lectures and performances. Its oak wooden cladding matches the oak floor underneath, creating a harmony with the light grey terrazzo of the adjacent floor and the soft blues, rusty reds and ochre tones that are used in the design of the café. The sides of the staircase feature niches for styling and glassware, and in the back, there are two comfortable seating booths. Two large oak communal tables are placed behind it and loose lounge chairs are situated in front of a petrol blue velvet curtain. This is the quieter part of the café and the ideal location for a good conversation or getting some work done. It's also where the entrance to the ballroom can be found: two sets of double doors in the glass walls give access to the pre-function from the café.

The three meeting rooms on the first-floor gallery of the café are fully integrated into the glass wall. A golden wall that includes a shelved cabinet, with books, games and styling items that inspire to work and play, serves as a back drop. Due to their more residential look these rooms can be used as part of the café (private dining) and as meeting rooms. A custom designed rug in each room, with an abstract pattern inspired by Bergen - the mountains, sea, buildings and rain in different tones of blue - creates a unique atmosphere.

A second bar at the top of the iconic staircase on the first floor can be used on nights when the café is crowded. Alongside the brass balustrade, comfortable lounge chairs and small side tables create the perfect spot to have a drink and overlook the café. In the centre of the ceiling of the double-height space, a graphical lights arrangement from Flos forms a nice contrast to the brass details of the café. Custom made brass planters with plants and integrated lights on the other side of the mezzanine are featured above the three tables next to the balustrade.

A similar brass balustrade was designed for the central stairway that connects the café to the meeting studios and the lobby. An iconic artwork, made by famous local street artist Dolk, can be found in this staircase together with one of the original chandeliers that came from the old Hotel Norge.

THE LOBBY

The new lobby is now located in the former ballroom at the heart of the building. The ballroom has a long history in the city of Bergen, with many Bergen people having been here for special family events and festivities. To preserve the heritage of this space, the iconic curved ceiling (which almost every Bergen resident remembers) was completely restored. Combined with the contemporary design of the reception and bar lounge area, it now creates a unique lobby experience.

A newly installed escalator connects the café directly to the hotel lobby. It creates a tunnel-like experience with walls in a special warm grey plaster featuring the altitude lines of the seven mountains around Bergen. At the end of the tunnel, a glimpse of the giant sun is reflected in the golden ceilings above the escalator. The giant sun with a five-metre diameter in the back is the showstopper of the hotel. It is a playful nod to the very special light situation in the Nordics. In addition, it interacts with the light and weather conditions outside: on very sunny days in Bergen the backlit LED screen is programmed with a very warm and moody dark orange to purple tone, and when the weather is dark and cold the lobby has a fresher and brighter ambiance. The solar light scenes change very slowly during the day so that the atmosphere is constantly adapting to the different functions of the space.

In front of the sun, there is a huge stage for special events and performances. The iconic pot armchairs (designed by Arne Jacobsen) in front of the stage form the perfect spot for the audience. The different fabrics and leather tones create an elegant yet playful palette, and four giant trees reflect the nature around Bergen with up-lights creating with the effect of shadow leaves on the historical ceiling. The black terrazzo flooring forms a contrast with the white curved ceiling, and all seating areas have an oak 'carpet' with a diagonal pattern as an inlay in the floor.

Adjacent to the elevated part with the historic ceiling, the lobby has two side wings with a lower golden ceiling. The reception desk and bar are located opposite each other in these (lower) parts at the centre of the lobby, each accompanied by two living rooms separated by wooden lamellas. These rotating oak lamellas have been accentuated with up-lights to create a sense of privacy and warmth at the same time.

The reception

The reception desk consists of a combination of black stained oak with a dark green marble top, detailed with brass fittings. The real highlight is the back-lit black steel cabinet completely filled with red rain boots. Bergen is one of the rainiest places in Europe and concrete has chosen to embrace and flirt with this fact.

The lobby bar

The bar has been designed as a grand table made of dark green marble, eliminating the boundary between bartender and guests. Without a clear front or rear, the beer tap and cocktail station are fully integrated, while the height of the bar and stools is slightly lower than average. The backdrop of the bar is a similar back-lit open cabinet as in reception but completely filled with bottles instead.

The lounge

On both sides of the bar and reception, there are small 'living rooms' featuring a variety of Scandinavian design furniture. The comfortable sofas and lounge chairs evoke a residential feel and add a layer of cosy luxury to the lobby. The colour and material palette varies from dark green, wine red and night blue velvets to different shades of natural leather. Combined with luxurious rugs, black marble side tables, brass details and iconic floor lamps it creates a warm and moody atmosphere.

The escalator bench

Along the opening where the escalators come up, several custom designed sofas in a booth-like setup offer the perfect place to sit and work. With sockets integrated in every seating booth, the ambiance is completed by a custom designed brass lamp and wooden table.

ESCAPE ROOM

The escape room is the connecting hub between the lobby, restaurant, lifts and main staircase. This is home to the lifestyle concierge, offering guests unique and out-of-the-box experiences. The lifestyle concierge knows everything about the city, its surroundings, the hidden gems, and ultimate 'escapes'. The room is designed as a huge library with all walls covered with books (presented with the front covers on black stained oak shelves) on inspiring topics such as travel, art, photography, fashion, and food from around the world. Comfortable armchairs in dark green velvet combined with the iconic 'urbanhike' side tables by Moooi are positioned along the walls and invite guests to take their time to browse. The mirror on top of the shelves creates an infinite ceiling effect.

The centrepiece of this space is the enormous 'escape table' with an abstract globe as an iconic art piece above it. It is situated in the centre of the oak floor that has a special pattern that symbolises the four cardinal points. The table, with a diameter of 2.5 m, has a dark green marble top, a dark green steel base and accommodates multiple functions. It has cut outs for bar stools, open shelving for the shop, and an integrated hosting station for the restaurant.

The huge opening in the wall toward the lobby gives a nice view of the eternal sun in the lobby and forms the perfect backdrop for the shop. Here, you can buy local lifestyle products like the typical raincoats and boots, as well as custom designed clothes and jewellery.

RESTAURANT NOVA/NOVA STUENE

The restaurant is located on the second floor and has a perfect view over the main square of Bergen (Olle Bulls Plass) and the Lille Lungegårdsvannet lake. A sequence of five dining rooms (over the total length of the 60m façade) total over 300 seats. The restaurant can become larger or more intimate, as the rooms can be closed off individually by hidden wooden sliding doors. In the evening the entire atmosphere transforms from breakfast restaurant to exclusive fine dining. Lights are dimmed and the sliding doors are closed to create a smaller and more intimate setting.

Every dining room has its own identity and colour scheme. The walls are covered with bespoke padded panels with an exclusive textured canvas showing abstract landscapes from all over the world. From a certain perspective one can see all different landscapes in a row as a sequence of nature. The colour tones of the specific landscapes are also reflected in the fabrics of the comfortable dining chairs and curtains, and even the small vases have flowers in matching colours. A floating ceiling with a rim of warm white light enhances the foggy and mysterious scenery, and the light oak floor with herringbone pattern completes the nature inspired appearance of the contemporary and elegant restaurant.

Bespoke light grey leather sofas along the walls are combined with handcrafted oak tables and upholstered chairs and communal tables with marble tops are placed together with beautiful detailed wooden chairs along the façade and in the centre of each room. The centrepiece in the largest dining is an iconic seating island with grey leather sofas integrated into a huge travertine block, with integrated planters in the middle that function as room dividers.

Large openings in the scenery wall allow sneak peeks into the open show kitchen, which is the heart and soul of the restaurant. In the mornings it is set up as a large breakfast buffet and for exclusive dinners the two buffet tables can be transformed into exclusive chef's tables for private dining. The design of the special kitchen is a modern interpretation of 'grandmothers' kitchen, and it is framed by a reinterpretation of a classic buffet cabinet. The oak cabinet with a brass hexagonal mesh and a mirror as a backdrop stores the contemporary tableware so that it's visible from its open compartments. The flooring refers to the traditional black and white kitchen tiles, but the hexagonal tiles in a diagonally striped pattern give the area a modern twist. The remaining walls are covered with handwritten Norwegian recipes from the grandmother of the sous chef.

The food concept by renowned chef Ørjan Johannessen combines the best seasonal ingredients from the local region with flavours from all over the world to create astonishingly unique dishes.

MEETING STUDIOS

There are several meeting facilities on the ground floor and first floor. The wooden staircase in the café connects both areas.

The three largest meeting rooms in the corner overlooking the lake (Lille Lungegårdsvannet) have the nicest view; they can be combined into one big meeting space to provide optimal flexibility for different setups and events. The tribune along the façade (a smaller interpretation of the big wooden stairs in the café) gives a playful and more flexible ambience. The three-step tribune can be used for relaxing during breaks or as additional seating for lectures. Custom designed rugs with an abstract pattern inspired by Bergen - the mountains, sea, buildings and rain in different tones of blue - enhance the unique character of the rooms.

In the four smaller meeting rooms, suitable for 10 to 12 people, the wooden flooring flows over into half-height wall panelling which also functions as a display rail for artworks and books. The meeting rooms are furnished with a custom designed rug and trolley with office equipment. One special meeting room has a more residential feel with a living room and private bar and pantry and can also be used for private events, parties or family gatherings.

The meeting rooms have a similar steel glass façade as the café, creating a very open and light break-out area. The buffet is the centrepiece of this area, allowing people to meet and mingle during breaks. The buffet is clad with the same handmade tiles as the café bar, combined with brass details and a natural stone worktop.

The break-out area is encompassed by a curvy and flowy wooden wall that has various functions, with integrated coffee stations, seating booths, a welcome desk and wardrobes. The wall holds deeper seating niches for four to six people, divided by brass metal mesh room dividers, and smaller seating booths with enough privacy to make phone calls. Padded walls on the backside of the niches guarantee good acoustics and a soft feel.

THE BALLROOM

A conference in nature, a wedding under the leafy canopy of trees, a celebration under the starry sky; this was the inspiration for the design of the ballroom as reflected in the bespoke design of the ceiling. With an area of 400 m2, the ballroom consists of a double-height space and two lower wings. The double-height ceiling is covered in brass panels with a perforation reminiscent of the canopy of trees. The playful and irregular pattern is backlit to create a nice play of light and shadow, while the mirrors on the sidewalls enhance this effect and create an illusion of an infinite ceiling.

The wooden flooring, an oak industrial parquet, combined with fabric wall panels in different green tones and textures, forms an interesting contrast to the brass ceiling, while the wall panelling is the connecting element to the pre-function area. A folding wall can combine or separate the two areas depending on the event. A hidden bar with an illuminated bottle rack is integrated within the wall panelling for evening events. The columns are visually elongated with white steel rims that climb like tree branches to create an interesting pattern on the white ceilings in the wings.

ROOM

The entrance vestibule of the room is called the mudroom. Here guests are invited to take off their shoes and unpack their luggage. With a wooden sideboard that functions as an open wardrobe and includes the minibar, the space feels like an open dressing area. The materials used are honest and natural: oak combined with a black natural stone top and brass details. In addition, the mudroom has an open coat rack, playfully arranged hooks, and a special place for your rain boots, which you need in Bergen all year round.

A double door separates the bedroom from the mudroom, and creates the ultimate switch-off and escape from the world outside. Closing the double door creates intimacy in the room, making it feel like a private cocoon where guests can relax and disconnect. They don't even have to leave the hotel to escape.

The centrepiece of the room is the multifunctional bed, designed as a hybrid for sleeping, working, having a drink and relaxing. The footer is designed as an additional headboard so that the bed also serves as a day bed. With an extra cushion in your back guests can choose to enjoy the view or talk to someone on the opposite sofa.

The bedside table is actually a large shelf stretching over the full width of the room. It turns into a sofa towards the end and even includes an actual plant. The headboard of the bed, made of dark green leather, continues as the backrest of the sofa, while the reading lamps are integrated in the same way as the stitched buttons. The small table at the end of the bed, next to the footer, provides some extra space for a laptop or other items.

Because of the open layout and the very efficient use of space, the zone between the bed and sofa functions as a living room. The circular table together with the comfortable chair can be used as a desk or as a dining table for two. The existing windows were completely replaced by a new full glass floor-to-ceiling façade. The hanging chair in front of the window makes guests feel right at home, offering a perfect moment of relaxation with splendid views over Bergen.

The TV frame is designed as a multifunctional element. If the TV is switched off it is barely visible, since it is fully integrated into the frame. The frame has a rack for lifestyle magazines and small books about Bergen, providing analogue inspiration for exploring the city, and also features the (hidden) ironing board.

The wall behind the bed is a continuation of the floor. The wooden wall panelling creates a very warm and natural feel, while a dimmable LED strip enhances this warm and cosy effect. Opposite, the walls are covered in a custom designed wallpaper that features a very subtle green to grey gradient, reminiscent of a misty day in the woods or mountains and inspired by the landscape around Bergen.

Two hanging lamps, developed in cooperation with Flos, comprise a very special light feature in the room. The two suspended lamps have visible cords that make a playful and visual connection by writing the message 'escape' on the wooden wall.

Bathroom

The bathroom has been realised in natural materials and colours. The walls have different shades of green glass mosaics combined with a transparent grey tinted glass wall as the shower separation. The special feature in the bathroom is the circular window, allowing guests to enjoy the view while brushing their teeth. A half overlapping sliding mirror with a hidden mechanism in front of the window can be used to close it for privacy.

SUITES

The suites follow the same design principle as the rooms, but take it one step further. Here, the mudroom is equipped with a walk-in closet and the living room area has a large sofa and a big table for meetings or dining. One suite is dedicated to famous local street artist Dolk and has two unique art pieces by his hand, which were made especially for Hotel Norge. Situated on the top floor of the hotel, all suites have private balconies with breath-taking views over Bergen and the surrounding mountains. One suite even has a hot tub on its balcony and a private sauna connected to the bathroom.

GYM

The gym has been designed as a playful and inviting sport area, with the two colours of the running track on the floor continuing over the walls and ceiling. The gym equipment is placed alongside the longest wall, while the other wall features a mirror. The two remaining walls are covered by an oak climbing frame on one side, and wooden slats in a diagonal pattern on the other. The oak cladded wall has an integrated pantry and brass niches for towels.

FURNITURE. LIGHTS & MATERIALS

CAFÉ NORGE

Fiber bar stool Muuto Fiber low stool Muuto Aleta chair Viccarbe Synnes chair Menu Pato lounge chair Fredericia Morph lounge chair Zeitraum

Circus ottoman Normann Copenhagen

No No table Menu Area side table Fogia Plaisir side table Zeitraum Burin side table Viccarbe Jev side table La Palma Slit table Hay Catch lounge chair &Tradition

Cloud sofa &Tradition Arrangements by Anastassiades Flos Disc and Sphere wall light

Disc and Sphere pendant light Areti Fulcrum pendant light Lee Broom Vibia La Palma Line floor lamp Douglas&Bec

Areti

Van Besouw Rugs

Bespoke furniture Oiled oak floor

Light grey terrazzo floor Off-white terrazzo floor

Tiled columns Backlit glass wall Velvet curtains

BALLROOM

Revolver bar stool Hay Perch wall light Moooi

Bespoke furniture Oiled oak parquet

Custom wall panelling fabric

Brass wall panelling

Brass ceiling with custom-made perforation

Custom-made ceiling branches

Mirror walls Velvet curtain

MEETING STUDIOS

Conference chair Conference table

Custom-made Burin side table Viccarbe

Round conference table Custom-made

Softshell chair Vitra

Wiro Diamond 3.0 Wever&Ducré
Collect lighting Ferm Living

Rug with custom-made print Ege

Bespoke furniture
Oiled oak floor

Oiled oak wall panelling

Velvet curtain

BREAK-OUT MEETING STUDIOS

Revolver bar stool Hay
Pato lounge chair Fredericia
Morph lounge chair Zeitraum
Catch lounge chair &Tradition
Jey side table La Palma
Slit table Hay
Area side table Fogia

North pendant e15

Abalis T Parachilna

Bespoke furniture Off-white terrazzo floor

Hexagonal tiles in diagonal pattern

Carpet

ESCAPE ROOM

Spine bar stool Fredericia
Spine Petit lounge chair Fredericia
Urbanhike side table Mooi

Studio floor lamp

Custom-made globe light feature

Bespoke furniture

Oiled oak floor in diagonal pattern

RESTAURANT NOVA

Harbour chair Menu Doll 551 chair Billiani

Disc and Sphere wall light Areti
Disc and Sphere pendant light Areti

Bespoke furniture

Oiled oak floor in herringbone pattern

Fabric wall panelling with custom-made print

Handvark

SHOWKITCHEN

Spine bar stool Fredericia

North pendant e15

Bespoke furniture

Hexagonal tiles in diagonal pattern

Recipe wall (printed wallpaper with custom-made print)

THE LOBBY

Spine bar stool Fredericia Spine stool Fredericia Poff sofa Won Nakki sofa Woud Fredericia Spine sofa Spine daybed Fredericia Gather sofa Edsbyn Oyster chair Comforty Swoon lounge chair Fredericia Enclose chair Fogia Fritz Hansen Pot lounge chair Inox round table Pedrali Gather ottoman Edsbyn

Circus ottoman Normann Copenhagen

Accursio side table

Buddy table

Flash table

Cupidon side table

Cage side table

La Cividina

Pedrali

Tom Dixon

Ligne Roset

Tacchini

W132 Nendo floor light

Cinétique floor light

Dimensions floor light

Spilla floor light

Ligne Roset

Ligne Roset

Ligne Roset

Rugs Linie Design, van Besouw

Bespoke furniture Custom-made giant sun

Stage

Planters with trees
Black terrazzo floor
Light grey terrazzo floor

Oiled oak floor in diagonal pattern

Concrete stucco walls Metal mesh ceiling Velvet curtain