



NATURE DECONSTRUCTED

FEATURE: MICAH MCGEE. PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF JUVET HOTEL

Nestled in the heart of the Norwegian valley of Valldalen, the Juvet Landscape Hotel proffers a stunning stay with Mother Nature.

Blending streamlined architecture with natural surrounds, the Juvet Landscape Hotel is sublimely landscape-oriented. This escape never would have come about had it not been for a series of fortunate incidents regarding the hotel's owner, Knut Slinning. Having fallen in love with the fjord-filled wilderness, Slinning purchased a cabin in Valldalen in 1986 and later the surrounding land. Several years later, the *National Tourist Routes Project* came into being, in which the Norwegian government provided funding for various stretches of road and commissioned architects to improve local infrastructure, allowing tourists access

to the wondrous inlands of Norway. This hotel was the brainchild of Jensen & Skodvin Architects, who approached Slinning and shared their desire to create a landscape hotel that would meld into the natural scenery encompassing it. Slinning accepted the offer and has not looked back.

Recently featured in the Oscar-winning film *Ex-Machina* as the expansive property of a billionaire, the fame of Juvet has increased exponentially and many rooms now require bookings a year in advance. The increase in traffic, however, has not diminished the beauty and calm of the outdoor surrounds.





The Juvet Hotel endeavours to be one with the Norwegian wilderness



Juvel's cubes are built on stilts to highlight their temporary nature



Jensen & Skodvin Architects designed Juvel's rooms to blend seamlessly into their forest locale



Only glass separates guests from the natural surrounds

SWEET SLEEPS

Although the rooms all differ, each is designed to give guests the best vantage of its forest locale. Seven of the rooms resemble upgraded lean-tos, with their timber cubes resting on stilts. The stilts are Slinning's endearing way of reminding guests that the structure is purposefully temporary. "We are only guests in nature, so it is a good idea to be able to take the hotel away again," tells Slinning. This great respect for nature can be seen throughout Juvet's makeup – though due to its popularity, it is doubtful the hotel will be removed any time soon.

Encased in glass, with the exception of the small bathroom, each transparent wall is naked of curtains to yield a clear view of breathtaking scenery. Uniquely, lighting is not a key feature, and the walls that aren't glass are an earthy brown, as the purpose of each cube is to point guests' focus outwards towards the gorgeous valley. Seeing as they must be private, colour is allowed full reign in the bathrooms with their canary yellow walls and slatted timber floors. Simple, clean and sparse, the décor of each cube is modern, yet natural in its overall aesthetic.

The Juvet Hotel recently added to their offerings with its two "birdhouses," new single rooms fashioned in the style of stabburet, traditional Norwegian log houses typically used for food storage. These structures are settled gently above the other cubes on the raised slopes. Within the stabburet guests will discover a comfy bed and small sofa bench in addition to the bathroom. The rooms intentionally measure no larger than eight square-metres, as the getaway discloses: "We have tried to highlight how little we actually need to achieve a sense of well-being." In such lodgings, one doesn't just wake up next to nature, one wakes up in nature.

“ONE DOESN'T JUST WAKE UP NEXT TO NATURE, ONE WAKES UP IN NATURE”



Curtainless windows make the outdoors the interiors' decoration



The hotel has now expanded to cater to business or company retreats

NORWEGIAN FARE

In a desire to portray and maintain Norway's cultural heritage, Slinning restored the farmhouse on his property, originally built in 1870. Communal dinners take place in this welcoming red building where guests dine upon fares of fresh codfish, smoked whale, lime brûlée and local beers, all sourced from local farms and boutique breweries. Adventurers from all across the globe sit around the farmhouse's long table to exchange stories, trail discoveries and a few laughs. Guests can return in the morning to fill up on a hearty tray of cold cuts, fresh bread and jams, smoked salmon and scrambled eggs topped off by coffee or apple juice fresh from the valley.

RESTORATION

Adventurers can soothe well-worked muscles after a day on the trail in Juvet's spa facilities, located just next to the River Valldøla that rushes below. A wooden deck encircles an outdoor Jacuzzi and is also home to two lounge chairs for those wanting to stretch out next to the enchanting water. The dark concrete floors of the spa's interiors are contrasted by bright primary coloured walls, all of which point outwards towards a 15-metre glass wall that reveals a sweeping panorama of the winding waterway. The spa plays host to a relaxation area centred about an open fireplace. Showers, dressing rooms, a calming steam room and a separate *Quiet Room* comprise the other contemplative spaces of the spa.



Every building boasts floor-to-ceiling windows



Juvel's spa facilities sit just next to River Valdøla



Bathrooms are a canary yellow



Guests can gather by the spa's fireplace or steam room



The hotel is located next to this gorgeous rushing river

IT IS A HARMONIOUS MARRIAGE WHERE NATURE AND MODERN DESIGN BRING OUT THE BEST IN EACH OTHER”



All four seasons offer natural marvels at the Juvet Hotel

THE EXPLORER'S PLAYFIELD

Unfolding before the guests lays a blanket of snow in winter, wildflowers in spring and summer and vibrant red and yellow leaves in autumn. All four seasons offer stunning Nordic views. Guests can ski during the winter and spring months, canoe the fjord in summer or participate in a local autumnal hunt later in the year. Weather permitting, guests can explore all of the Mother Nature's offerings by way of rafting, hiking, climbing, trout and salmon fishing or abseiling. Drink in the rich landscape of the West Norwegian Fjords on a ferry trip across the Geiranger Fjord, a World Heritage site, to behold the striking waterfalls with the curious names of "The Seven Sisters," "The Bridal Veil" and "The Suitor."

Slinning perfectly summed up Juvet's relationship with nature; "It is a harmonious marriage where nature and modern design bring out the best in each other." A stay at the Juvet Hotel is an unparalleled experience that allows visitors to become one with the lush mountain wilderness.