

NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa is full of precious cultural heritage and design treasures

NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa



NH COLLECTION
HELSINKI GRAND HANSA



The NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa is set in a listed building designed by architect Armas Lindgren in the early 1900s. Lindgren was assisted in the design of the new student house by Wivi Lönn, the most important female architect of their time.

Over the last 100 years, the houses have hosted countless dignitaries on visits to Helsinki, from presidents to grand dukes. In the 1910s, the Seurahuone also provided a roof for many Russian emigrants and political refugees. The premises have also seen historic negotiations, unforgettable celebrations and landmark events.

Art from various periods

At the entrance to NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa, visitors are greeted by Johannes Haapasalo's soapstone sculptures, human figures representing four character traits: melancholic, sanguine, phlegmatic and choleric. The building also features reliefs by artist Gunnar Finne and a fountain designed by sculptor Eemil Halonen.

Inspired by the Pantheon

The dome-shaped tower of the new Student House is inspired by the Panthéon in Paris and the symbolism of temples of knowledge and faith. The dome also had a practical function: the chimney of a power plant that provided electricity and heat to the building was housed in the lantern of the dome.

At the cutting edge of technology

At NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa, guests' journeys are facilitated and enriched by advanced technologies and applications. The history of the premises seems destined for us to do this. When the hotel business started here at the beginning of the 20th century, the buildings were at the cutting edge of technology, for example by being among the first to introduce central heating and in-room telephones.

Hotel Seurahuone's heritage

For decades, Helsinki's oldest continuously operating hotel, Seurahuone, was a pioneer in hotel accommodation, culture and social life. The hotel opened its doors on the edge of the Market Square in 1833 and moved to its current location in 1913. When designing the new building the hotel became a wonder of its time by embracing only modern style and facilities. Each of the sumptuously decorated rooms had a telephone, hot water and in-built wardrobes. There was also central heating, electric lighting, elevators, and a post office. The New Student House also has a long history in the hotel and restaurant industry and a colourful guest list to boast.

Interior design that skilfully blends old and new

NH Collection hotels are renowned not only for their high-quality accommodation and gastronomy, but also for their unique art and design. The NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa's interior design is the work of interior architect Carola Rytsölä and skilfully combines old and new. The interior of the historic landmark building was designed to respect the architects' original plans and preserve the spirit of the building, seamlessly combining history with the needs of the modern traveller. Inspiration for the furnishings has been sought from photographs of the period when the buildings were home to and celebrated the most important figures in Finnish culture and politics. The unique ensemble has been created from high-quality materials, design and art.



The subject of the carpet in the corridors was found in an old tapestry, which can be seen in the background of the picture taken in the Fellowship Hall. The photo shows Wilhelm Noschis, the hotel manager at the time, with, architect Armas Lindgren, Anna Nochis and architect Wivi Lönn.



The Arabian pots are over a century old and have been returned to their original positions in the Socis bar, which now serves as a meeting room. The Emil Halonen shower - fountain well in the space was moved to a new location in front of Cabinet 35. The reliefs on the ceiling of the Socis Bar have also been restored to their original pale appearance. The space's original ceramic hanging flowerpots were ingeniously electrified into lamps.



The inspiration for the Ballroom's new carpet came from an old photograph of the Ballroom celebrating Countess Marianne Armfelt's 90th birthday in 1913.



The reception in the newer annex has a sculptural, organic form thanks to the metal-clad desks which contrast with the linear flooring. The decorative glass wedges were found in the storage room of the parish hall and have been given new life as a central illuminated wall behind the reception pods.



Drawing inspiration from around the world, the Seurahuone was a pioneer of design in its time and used many strong, interesting wallpapers. The NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa has selected wallpapers in keeping with the spirit of the buildings, including those from the Finnish-German design collective La Feature.



The hotel's old, refurbished crystal chandeliers and Tynell lamps have been joined by timeless lighting in terms of design and materials, including a Novecento lamp made by Vistos in Murano glass.



All the fixed furniture in public spaces and hotel rooms are unique pieces designed by Carola Ryttsölä Interior Design. The furniture is made in Finnish carpentry workshops.



Guests at the NH Collection Helsinki Grand Hansa can enjoy Finnish contemporary art, which is hung in every room in addition to the public areas. All works are from the prestigious Himmelblau collection. Artists include Jukka Mäkelä, Jarmo Mäkilä, Tapani Mikkonen, Päivi Lempinen, Kristian Krokfors, Marika Mäkelä, Risto Suomi, Harri Leppänen, Antti Linnovaara and Silja Rantanen. Art in the hotel hallways and elevator lobbies is designed by Carola Ryttsölä, interior architect.



The hotel's moveable furniture pieces have been designed with timelessness, durability and interesting upholstery in keeping with the historic buildings. Furnishings include Poiat, Moroso, Potocco, Opinion Chiatti, Edra, Porro, Cattelan Italia, Copenhagen 101, Artek, De Nona, Norman Copenhagen, Adea, Wendelbo, Tonon and Munna.



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