

SLEEPER

HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCE & DESIGN



FOUR SEASONS – CARTAGENA • ALDO MELPIGNANO • SIX SENSES – LONDON

Dun Aluinn

ABERFELDY

A Victorian manor is reborn as a design-led luxury hotel offering a contemporary combination of Scottish and Scandinavian interiors.

Words: Matt Turner • Photography: Courtesy of Dun Aluinn (unless otherwise stated)

Its name roughly translates from Gaelic as 'beautiful hillside house' and that's exactly what Dun Aluinn is, standing high above the Tay Valley in Perthshire, on the outskirts of the charming Scottish town of Abergfeldy.

The Victorian manor house was built by architects Sydney Mitchell & Wilson in the ornate Queen Anne style. Its transformation was the result of an 18-month labour of love back in 2018, when husband-and-wife co-owners Susie Whyte and John Burke sought to imbue its historic walls with a contemporary design sensibility. Originally, they launched it as an exclusive-use property available for private hire, but in early 2026 it was opened as a fully staffed luxury hotel, its nine spacious guestrooms available for overnight stays.

Led by Whyte – an architect and interior designer by background – the design scheme blends pared-back Victorian elegance with contemporary, global influences. Layers of paint have been stripped down to reveal the original pine flooring, traditional fireplaces and intricate period details now lovingly restored in collaboration with local craftspeople.

Upon entering the hotel, guests are met with an imposing yet atmospheric hallway, where mahogany panelling and charcoal walls contrast with a burning log fire within a

sage green ceramic hearth and the watercolour painting illuminated above it.

By contrast, the adjacent dining room and lounge is a light, airy space of soft white, moss green and pale pine. A bright orange Tufty Time sofa by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia provides a strong pop of colour, surrounded by a solid plinth cube in Calacatta Viola marble, a brace of NaughtOne Dalby coffee tables and towering Kentia palm plants. White sheepskin throws and Danish vintage lighting lend a Scandinavian sensibility, whilst the three-sided bay window frames dramatic views of the Cairngorms mountains in the distance.

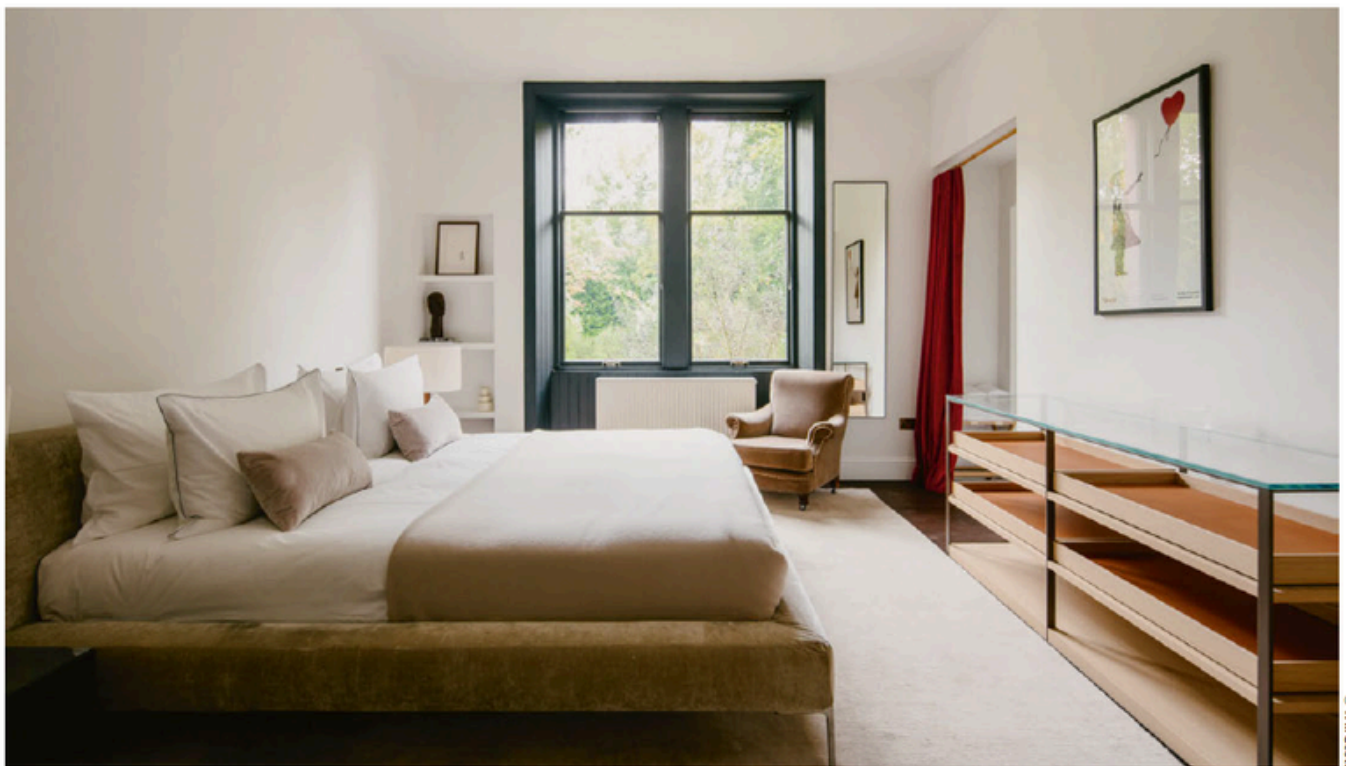
Up to 20 guests can be seated on Mid-Century Modern-inspired Chicago chairs by Bolia, which are positioned around a 5.5m-long bespoke dining table in bronze and pale oak, created to Susie's specifications by Nairn-based Black Isle Bronze. Also bespoke is an architectural LED lighting arrangement by Kreon suspended above. Contemporary artworks, restored radiators and an ornate timber fireplace provide the backdrop to communal dinners conjured up by Head Chef John Christie to celebrate the very best in seasonal, local produce.

A second lounge offers a more intimate space suited to





© Ruth Maria Murphy



© Will Scott



late night drinks and reading, with its plush velvet modular sofa in a muted duck-egg blue strewn with cushions in contrasting hues of burnt orange and deep crimson.

From the central hallway, a carefully restored wrought iron and pitch pine staircase leads up the guestrooms, each of which is named after a local tree species. Every room has its own distinct look and feel, although a soft organic colour scheme unifies them. In one of the main bedrooms, a handmade leather pendant by Paris-based LuLé Studio hangs beside a Maxalto Alcova bed in a deep red wine hue, topped with a long Icelandic sheepskin throw. In another, an oak four-poster bed by Benchmark is accompanied by a white chair by Belgian firm XVL. Elsewhere, console tables – also from Maxalto's Alcova range designed by Antonio Citterio – sit beneath contemporary artworks such as a framed print of American photographer William Eggleston's Memphis, or Pop Art pieces by Alex Katz. Select bathrooms feature luxurious steam rooms, while others

feature freestanding bathtubs, one of which is handmade by William Garvey Furniture Maker and inspired by deep Japanese soaking tubs.

The estate grounds also play host to The Lodge, a standalone cedar-clad retreat discreetly hidden in a wildflower garden away from the main house. Here, the look is a more contemporary combination of Scandinavian and Scottish, where cool, contemporary chalked-white interiors are offset with earth-toned textiles. In addition to four en suite guestrooms, the cabin offers a stunning open-plan dining area, plus an outdoor deck, where guests can dine al fresco or lounge by a firepit in Oasiq Sandur sofas and chairs, taking in the painterly panoramic views of the Perthshire countryside.

Nestled in a glade on the opposite side of the house, sits a wood-fired cedar hot tub perfect for stargazing. For those who prefer more modern forms of entertainment, there is also a cinema room complete with surround sound and a corner sofa upholstered in Tiano jacquard velvet by Black Edition.



EXPRESS CHECK-OUT

Owner: John Burke and Susie Whyte
 Architecture and Interior Design: Susie Whyte
 Visual Identity: Adesso
 Procurement: Bartek Zawilinski
 Main Contractor: Corryard
 Project Manager: Bartek Zawilinski
www.dunluinn.com