

One of the Treehotel's most romantic treerooms, "The Cabin" is based on a platform high atop a steep slope overlooking the Lule River valley. Cantilevered slightly askew beneath the deck, the room with a balcony is accessible via a long bridge that leads from the ground level to a door seemingly hovering in mid-air. Step inside and down the stairs to the room, where the bed takes center stage and expansive windows offer a high-altitude view of the forest and river below.



TEXT LINDSAY LAMBERT DAY
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF TREEHOTEL, SWEDEN

Kent Lindvall and his wife, Britta Jonsson-Lindvall, are natives of Swedish Lapland, an intriguing 43,000-square-mile region in the country's far north that's blanketed with pristine woodlands, rivers and lakes. Year round, the region's remote beauty lures international

travelers who crave a connection to nature. Eager to provide just that, in 2010 the couple opened Treehotel on a wooded hillside near the village of Harads.

Inspired by the 2008 Jonas Helberg Augustsén film "The Tree Lover," the Lindvalls commissioned a handful of prominent Scandinavian architects to design a standalone room apiece. Each room would be suspended among the trees, four to six meters above ground. Bolle Tham and Martin Videgård came up with the Mirror Cube; Mårten and Gustav Cyrén conceived The Cabin; Thomas Sandell designed the deceptively named, bright-orange Blue Cone; and Bertil Harström, who wanted to design "a room in close harmony with its surroundings" and another that was anything but, ultimately did both, designing Bird's Nest and The UFO. The Dragonfly, designed by Finland's Rintala Eggertsson, and 7th Room, by Norway's Snøhetta, came later.

ABOVE AND BELOW: The newest and "7th Room," this suite's facade sports a burnt wood finish, while Scandinavian wooden accents and textiles dominate the interior styled with five beds, two rooms with two bedsuites each and one extra bed in the lounge. At the center of the suite there is a terrace, formed by a net floor with a naturally growing pine in the middle. A breathtaking, awe-inspiring and perfectly safe place to be.



NATURAL WONDER

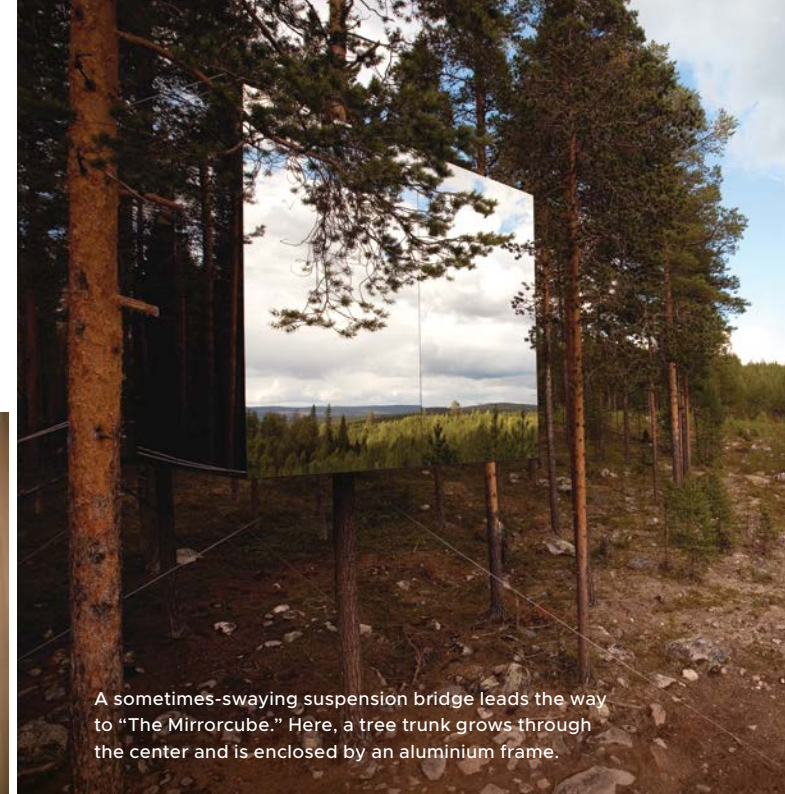
THROUGH LOW-IMPACT DESIGN, SWEDEN'S TREEHOTEL HELPS PRESERVE THE PRECIOUS LANDSCAPE ITS GUESTS COME HERE TO ENJOY

NATURAL WONDER



BELOW: Inside "The Mirrorcube," the walls are light plywood, with windows on three of them as well as on the ceiling. This exciting, camouflaged hideout provides excellent accommodations for two.

BOTTOM LEFT: Climb into the "Bird's Nest" via a ladder and through a hatch in the floor. It is perceived as remarkably bright, thanks to the interior decor and the windows which let light in. Suitable for four with two of the beds that curve to follow the walls.



A sometimes-swaying suspension bridge leads the way to "The Mirrorcube." Here, a tree trunk grows through the center and is enclosed by an aluminium frame.



FOREST SAUNA



AS SEEN IN
FLORIDA DESIGN



ABOVE: Unique in many ways, the "Dragonfly's" metallic facade has taken on a rusty brown shade, allowing the large two-bedroom suite to blend in among the pines. Inside, panoramic windows offer a view of the river valley. Even the bath, with its own shower, offers an amazing view of tall pines and the Lule River.

LEFT: Guests have plenty of quiet time to ponder why a treeroom named "Blue Cone" is bright red. The traditional pinewood shingle construction with three pillars on the ground gives a sense of height and lightness, and provides stability. A double bed centers the room with a view, while a loft sleeps two above.

Although their designs vary widely, all the treerooms were constructed and furnished using low-environmental-impact techniques and materials. No trees on the build sites were cut down or damaged, and power is supplied from a local, hydroelectric source. In lieu of a water-guzzling sewage system, electric combustion toilets incinerate waste at a scorching 1,000-plus degrees.

Kent Lindvall revealed that an eighth tree room might soon be on the way, this one of Danish design. Although he couldn't yet divulge more details, he all but counted out any further expansion, lest the Treehotel site become crowded. "We want our guests to have the feeling that they're nearly alone in the forest," he says. They would agree, naturally. treehotel.se



The "UFO" was designed to be the most unexpected thing to encounter in the forest. Cast in a high-strength composite material, this suite holds five with space-inspired interiors.