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HOUSE & GARDEN®

Hotels by Design



A GUIDE TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOTELS IN THE WORLD

HOME COMFORTS

Sally Shalam explores a wealth of exciting new hotels opening around the country, from the coast of Cornwall to the Scottish Highlands, that make stylish staycations a very appealing option for British travellers

Spring has arrived in Somerset and with it new life. Number One Bruton is the town's latest arrival – a small country hotel that opened its vibrant yellow door just before Christmas 2019 with eight bedrooms. By summer, renovation of a medieval forge at the bottom of the hotel garden will add a further four rooms.

'We're doing it for the joy of it,' says Claudia Waddams, who owns the hotel with her husband Aled Rees. They are part of a new breed of independent hoteliers redefining the way we stay in the UK. With subtle branding, works by local artists, British-made pieces and painstakingly sourced auction finds, these hotels make for an intensely unique holiday.

Collaborating with decorator Sarah Ellison of Frank & Faber, who understood the pair's desire 'to be as original and authentic as possible', Claudia and Aled have created prettiness with panache in this once-derelict Georgian property. A mural of cherry blossom painted by Kaffe Fassett winds up the staircase from reception (zinged up by a colourful leather armchair by Bill Amberg and Solange Azagury-Partridge). Intricate bespoke mirrors by the local mosaic artist Candace Bahouth reflect curtains in a fabric from NH Design by Nicky Haslam, while hand-painted pink and blue bathroom tiles from Balineum are a refreshing change from the clinical. Of course, it helps to have connections. Claudia's mother is the former fashion

editor Brigid Keenan, Kaffe a friend, and it is Brigid's collection of Sixties photographs by David Bailey, Terence Donovan and Sarah Moon that covers the sitting room walls. It feels a family affair. Osip restaurant, with its pale banquette seats tucked behind Dickensian bow windows, is the only clue that this is a hotel at all.

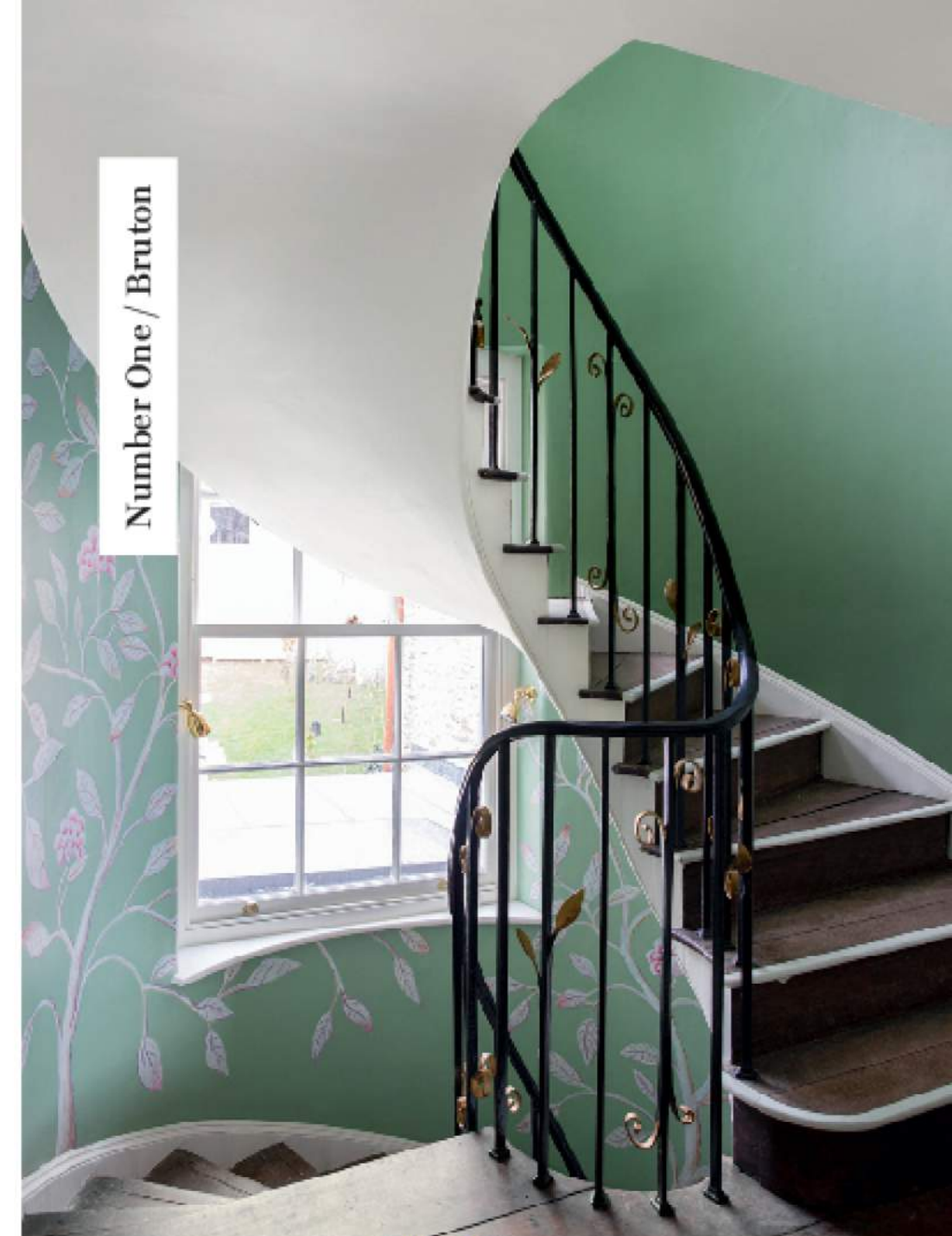
Naturally, The Pig's Judy Hutson has been a driving force behind the new rural vernacular. After launching at Harlyn Bay near Padstow, Cornwall, this June, she and hotelier husband Robin are heading to West Sussex for their next Pig opening. They might even run into Olga and Alex Polizzi, who are renovating The Star, a 15th-century inn in Alfriston, East Sussex, set to open later this year.

Meanwhile, the masters of country inn reinvention, Sam and Georgie Pearman, formerly of the Lucky Onion group (The Wheatsheaf Inn in Northleach and No 131

in Cheltenham) have a new firm, Country Creatures. Georgie's signature is swooshes of pattern and colour – she has already confidently mixed bold weaves by Abraham Moon with intense

Farrow & Ball shades at The Talbot in Malton, North Yorkshire. In The Swan at Ascott-under-Wychwood (the pair's latest acquisition in Oxfordshire), Lewis & Wood wallpapers rub shoulders with Fermoie patterns and repurposed silk lampshades. 'We're focused on reviving iconic country inns wherever we can,' Georgie says, adding that their next project is The Cotswold Plough near Kelmscott in Oxfordshire.

WITH WORKS BY LOCAL ARTISTS, BRITISH-MADE PIECES AND CAREFULLY SOURCED AUCTION FINDS, THESE HOTELS MAKE FOR AN INTENSELY UNIQUE HOLIDAY



Number One / Bruton



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The Talbot / Malton



The Talbot / Malton



Artist Residence / Bristol



Artist Residence / Bristol



The Talbot / Malton



The Swan / Ascott-under-Wychwood



Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve / Kent



Lundies House / Scotland



Lundies House / Scotland



Lundies House / Scotland



Artist Residence / Bristol



Brownber Hall / Cumbria



Brownber Hall / Cumbria

Revival is taking place in Bristol's once-edgy St Pauls neighbourhood, too. Artist Residence is about to launch its grandest hotel to date. Eschewing professional big guns, the hoteliers Charlie and Justin Salisbury have forged their own rough-luxe interior-design aesthetic, which they have described as 'undecorating', in five hotels from Cornwall to Oxfordshire.

Artist Residence Bristol straddles a Grade I-listed Georgian townhouse on Portland Square and an adjoining former boot factory. Light floods into suites on the first and second floors through lofty windows, but the Palladian grandeur of the building's former life (long before it landed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register) has been replaced by an array of mid-century modern furniture

with the occasional hostess trolley and works by the likes of artists The Connor Brothers, Kedals and Bristol-based Rose Vickers. Industrial doors slide open to reveal huge rolltops in crisp bathrooms. Downstairs in the old factory, cocktail glasses glint against a backdrop of exposed brick, steel girders and dark panelling. At 23 bedrooms, this is their largest project to date yet they have still managed to pull off an atmosphere of intimate clubbiness.

This conspiracy of cool is not confined to the south. The Harper will open 32 pale, beachy hotel rooms in a former glass blowing factory in the village of Langham in April, in time for summer breaks on north Norfolk's beaches. And in Cumbria's Howgill Fells, Peter and Amanda Jaques-Walker have joined forces with her sister, the ex-Soho House designer Nina Walker, at Brownber Hall, merging William Morris wallpaper with Nina Campbell fabrics, Seventies furnishings and the odd limited-edition Basquiat skateboard. It is a look they have christened 'Hackney in the hills'.

If anything, brave new British style in 2020 is about expecting the unexpected.

'SCOTLAND IS WILD – YOU WANT TO PUT ON YOUR BOOTS AND GO OUTSIDE, BUT THEN YOU WANT TO COME BACK TO A PLACE THAT REFLECTS THE LANDSCAPE'

Lundies House, which opened last summer, offers a luxury pitstop for travellers on the North Coast 500 route. The former manse and its converted steadings, beside the Kyle of Tongue in the far north of Scotland, is part of the Wildland conservation and tourism project created by Anders and Anne Holch Povlsen. The Danish power couple have bagged some dozen Scottish estates, rewilding land and renovating lodges in a style being dubbed 'Scandi Scot'. Weary drivers can hunker down in inviting sheepskin-covered Hans J Wegner 'Papa Bear' chairs and slide aching limbs between soft garment-dyed bed linen after gathering outside around a Swiss firepit grill, for which chef James Wilson might prepare oysters with lemon verbena kombucha, or turbot with wild garlic.

'We really wanted to create something so similar to our own style DNA,' says the Danish designer Ruth Kramer. She worked closely with Anne on the elegantly pared-back interiors, which include murals by French artist Claire Basler, Danish antiques and contemporary Scottish furniture. 'Scotland is wild, you want to put on your boots and get outside. But then you want to come back to something that feels clean and reflects the landscape in intangible ways.'

Least expected of all, perhaps, is the safari experience delivered at the Lion Lodges at Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve in Kent. There is nothing but a pane of glass between you and the big cats at The Aspinall Foundation's reserve, since part of the Kikuyu and Jibana lodges are within the lion enclosure. Design director Victoria Aspinall has blended concrete floors and reclaimed timber walls with soft throws, lush velvets and African flourishes, such as a clay beaded chandelier – and is adding a new lodge, Leopard Creek, this year.

The definition of a staycation is being pushed to the max and you really might never need to fly abroad again.

NUMBER ONE BRUTON numberonebruton.com; doubles from £130, B&B / **THE PIG AT HARLYN BAY** thepighotel.com/at-harlyn-bay; doubles from £159, room only / **THE TALBOT MALTON** talbotmalton.co.uk; doubles from £120, B&B / **THE SWAN AT ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD** countrycreatures.com/the-swan; doubles from £100, B&B / **ARTIST RESIDENCE BRISTOL** artistresidence.co.uk; doubles from £100, B&B / **THE HARPER** theharper.co.uk; doubles from £175, B&B / **BROWBER HALL** brownberhall.co.uk; doubles from £100, B&B / **LUNDIES HOUSE** lundies.scot; doubles from £400, dinner, B&B / **LION LODGES AT PORT LYMPNE HOTEL & RESERVE** aspinallfoundation.org; each sleeps four from £1,750, B&B □

CHRIS TERRY; PAUL MASSEY; JOHN CAREY; OWEN GALE; ALEX MACLEOD