

# DE BERGENSKE

Bergen  
March, 2017



Villa Terminus: Bergen's most sophisticated boutique design hotel.  
A historic hub of creativity on Norway's western coast.

In the 1760s, the merchant and philanthropist Alexander Kaae bequeathed 16,000 rigsdaler for the construction of a building in the centre of Bergen, intended to provide a restful retreat for individuals who had fallen on hard times. Fast forward 250 years, and his legacy lives on, albeit with a slightly modified remit...

With only 18 bedrooms, Villa Terminus is the smallest hotel in the hyper-local hotel group De Bergenske, a family-run collection of five remarkable – and remarkably different – historic properties all in the heart of the city. Now, freshly refurbished and sensitively rejuvenated by renowned Swedish architecture and design firm Claesson Koivisto Rune, Villa Terminus offers guests a finely balanced fusion of Bergen's history, Norwegian culture and iconic mid-century and modern-day design.

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De Bergenske, Kong Oscars gate 81, 5018 Bergen, Norway  
Tel. +47 55 21 25 50 [booking@debergenske.no](mailto:booking@debergenske.no) [www.debergenske.no](http://www.debergenske.no)

*Five truly unique hotels in Bergen:  
Augustin, Grand Terminus, Villa Terminus, Zander K and Bergen Bors.*

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The five De Bergenske hotels are being commemorated in a series of books by design author Max Fraser, exploring each property's unique history and the part it plays in the story of modern Bergen. Villa Terminus' book is the first to roll off the presses – soon to be followed by volumes for sister hotels Bergen Børs and Zander K.

## Travels in time

With a restrained late-Baroque exterior, and an interior design language that stretches from the 1950s to the present day, Villa Terminus seems to exist in several time periods at once. *The mix-up of time fitted us well since we were neither recreating the antiquarian nor building a contemporary statement. By choosing elements of furniture, fittings and colours from different eras – an ancient finish, a mid-century modern vintage accessory here, a contemporary piece of furniture there – the concept of time has surprisingly vanished,* says Eero Koivisto, Villa Terminus architect.

## Art and craft

For their initial inspiration, however, Claesson Koivisto Rune looked not to the realm of design but to the world of art – specifically the domestic paintings of 19th-century Danish artist Vilhelm Hammershøi, the great interiors artist known for creating works with an *air of tranquillity and clear soft light that was quintessentially Scandinavian*, as architect Mårten Claesson puts it.

The way sunlight plays upon the chalk-toned bedroom walls, the natural material palette, and the clear appreciation for the crafted and hand-made exhibited in the furniture and fittings are all designed to imbue Villa Terminus with the soothingly muted mystery of a Hammershøi oil painting. *The reason for choosing a number of interior pieces from the mid-19th century was because it was the last period when the handcrafted was strong in Scandinavia. And, if anything, handcrafted is something the entire building is,* adds Ola Rune, architect.

## The essence of Bergen

Barring the odd discreet skylight and the Arne Jacobsen lamps, there's little exterior evidence of the architect's intervention – the modest grandeur of the 17th-century villa survives intact. Inside Villa Terminus, however, is a different story.

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The line of sight from the lounge, through the dining room, into the kitchen. Armchairs designed by Ejner Larsen and Axel Bender Madsen.



Breakfast in the kitchen served by the house chef. Bell pendant lamps in bronze designed by the architects.

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As guests meander through the hotel – passing through an array of restful living areas, a sedate library, filled with works by Norwegian novelists and tomes of Bergenser history, and a genial modern kitchen – they encounter a host of vintage mid-century pieces, all handpicked by the architects and 20th-century design specialist Thomas Ekström of Stockholmmodern. Alongside, the hotel features furniture and objects by some of the most celebrated names in international design today – including Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec, David Chipperfield, Antonio Citterio, Ilse Crawford, Andreas Engesvik, Josef Frank, Sir Kenneth Grange, Konstantin Grcic, Jasper Morrison, Patrick Norguet, Russell Pinch, Samuel Wilkinson, Terence Woodgate and many more.

In this respect, a stay at Villa Terminus is akin to spending the night in an unusually comfortable design museum – highly appropriate, given Bergen’s importance on the contemporary Norwegian design scene. Thanks to the presence of the prestigious Bergen Academy of Art & Design, and a huge number of its students settling here to set up their studios after graduation, Norway’s second city punches well above its weight in the design arena. With the arrival of Villa Terminus, it may just have landed the knockout blow.

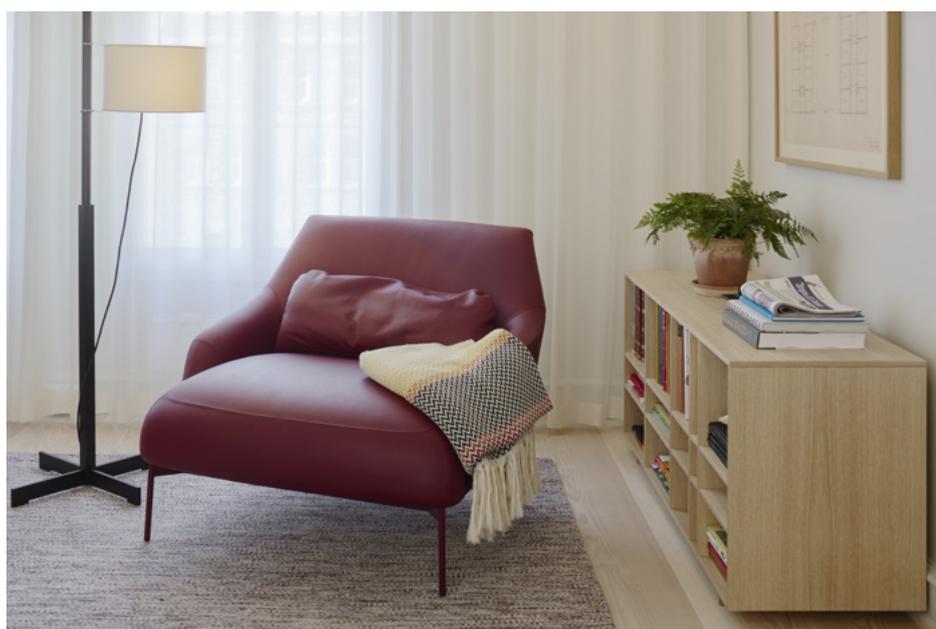
*For images or more information about Villa Terminus and the four other De Bergenske hotels, please contact Dorothy Bourne on +44 07939–200519 or at [dorothy@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:dorothy@zetteler.co.uk).*

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A still afternoon in the dining room. Lamps by Jørn Utzon and chairs by Børge Mogensen. The mouth-blown vases were made by Japanese glass artist Yoko Yamano.



Morning light in the upstairs library. All books are either by Norwegian authors or about Norway. Lima easy chair and Kilt cabinet designed by the architects. All carpets in the villa by Ogeborg.

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Notes for Editors

About Villa Terminus

Rooms: 18

Built: 1770

Architect: Johann Joachim Reichborn (1770); Claesson Koivisto Rune (2016)

Previous functions: Care home for elderly; refugee shelter

Location: Zander Kaaes gate 8, 5015 Bergen, Norway

Facilities: Gardens, library, breakfast room, kitchen, free WiFi (plus restaurant, whisky bar and fitness suite at Grand Hotel Terminus next door).

Designers represented: Marina Bautier, Jonas Bohlin, Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec, David Chipperfield, Antonio Citterio, Claesson Koivisto Rune, Nitzan Cohen, Ilse Crawford, Michele De Lucchi, Egon Eiermann, Andreas Engesvik, Josef Frank, Sir Kenneth Grange and Jack Smith, Konstantin Grcic, Arne Jacobsen, Chris Martin, Ejner Larsen and Bender Madsen, Miguel Milá, Børge Mogensen, Jasper Morrison, Patrick Norguet, Russell Pinch, Gio Ponti, Daniel Rybakken, Gino Sarfatti, Michael Sodeau, Ilmari Tapiovaara, Yoko Yamano, Sori Yanagi, Jørn Utzon, Nathan Wierink and Tineke Beunders, Samuel Wilkinson, Terence Woodgate

Website: [www.villaterminus.no](http://www.villaterminus.no)

About De Bergenske Hotels

Family-owned for four generations, the De Bergenske group owns and operates five hotels in Bergen, Norway, all centrally situated. Each one represents different facets of the culture and history of the city. Alongside Villa Terminus, De Bergenske's hotels are:

Grand Hotel Terminus: A 131-bedroom Continental-style hotel opened in 1928.

Augustin: Bergen's oldest family-run hotel, with a relaxed atmosphere and a harbourside setting.

Bergen Børs: Soft Opening 20 April. An elegant hotel and Nordic fine-dining restaurant in Bergen's former stock-exchange building.

Zander K: Soft Opened 17 March. Bergen's sleekest and most modern hotel, set beside Grand Hotel Terminus.

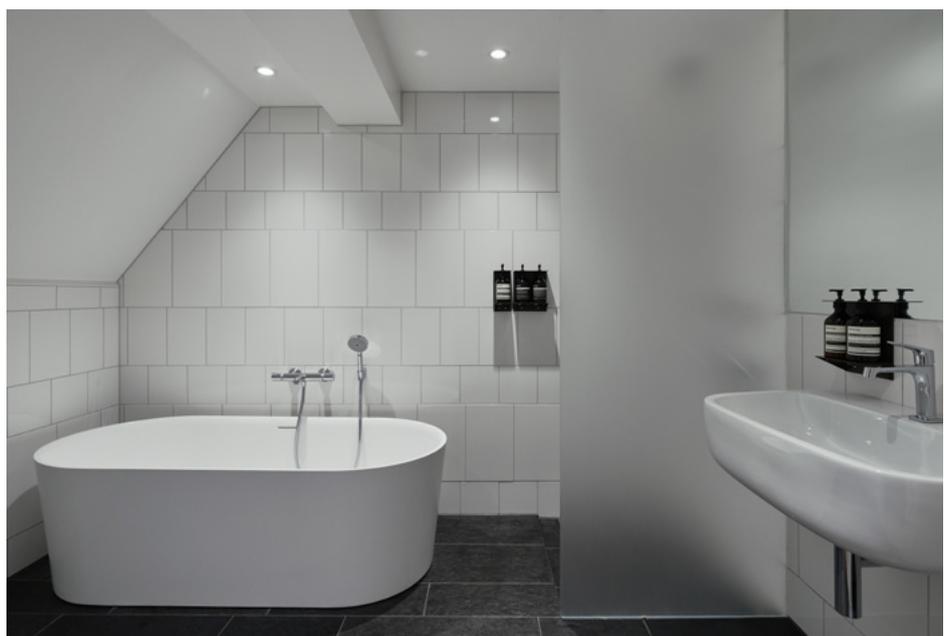
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The bedroom of room No. 14. Blanket and pillow designed by Andreas Engesvik. TV-set by Ronan and Erwan Bourroullec. Convex wall mirror by Josef Frank.



The bathroom with tub in room No. 7. Differently proportioned white tiles create a distinct horizontally layered pattern.

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About Claesson Koivisto Rune

Claesson Koivisto Rune is a Swedish architectural partnership, founded in Stockholm in 1995, by Mårten Claesson, Eero Koivisto and Ola Rune. It started as an architectural firm, but has since become an internationally acclaimed, multi-disciplinary office with an equal emphasis on both architecture and design.

As the first Swedish office to have exhibited in the international section at the Venice Architecture Biennale, in 2004, they are also responsible for award-winning projects such as the Tind Prefab house collection for Fiskarhedenvillan, Widlund House on Öland, Örsta Gallery building in Kumla, Sfera Building culture house in Kyoto and Nobis Hotel in Stockholm.

Claesson Koivisto Rune, 2017: Mårten Claesson, Eero Koivisto, Ola Rune, Deta Koivisto Gemzell, Patrick Coan, Kumi Nakagaki, Lotti Engstrand, Louise Bahrton, Farnaz Fazeli, Oliver Cap, Åsa Ekwall, Linnea Freij