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A Rare Bird

JOI-Design creates the fun, relaxing restaurant destination Wilde Ente (wild duck) for Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Iserlohn in Germany's Rhine region



Credit all photos to Simone Ahlers for JOI-Design

(London, 17 November 2017) Rustic yet refined, modern yet timeless – the interiors conceived by JOI-Design for the refurbished restaurant Wilde Ente, which translates as “wild duck”, shine with a new brilliance as the first milestone has been achieved in the studio’s extensive renovation of the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten in Iserlohn, a city in Germany’s North Rhine-Westphalia state. Located in an idyllic stretch of grassland by Seilersee lake, a favourite spot where locals mingle with guests and enjoy outdoor recreation, the foodie destination sets a new benchmark for the region and offers an amusing nod to the pesky mallards that shamelessly overtake the adjacent miniature golf course and surrounding terrain.

The freestanding building blends sympathetically with its environment, from its existing stone façade to the natural feel of the new interiors. The design was created to reflect Wilde Ente’s ethos of using high-quality, seasonal products from the region, including its own beehives for harvesting honey and cultivating ancient apple varieties. The result is a down-to-earth restaurant with a comfortable flair, modern industrial touches and an easy-going, young-spirited atmosphere as suitable for casual weekend lunches as it is for private parties or the live streaming of important football matches.



The structure's maisonette-style layout runs across two storeys connected by a self-supporting stairway. On the ground floor is the restaurant, a small retail section, a bar accessible to indoor clientele as well as those relaxing outdoors, the kitchen and the bathrooms. The restaurant continues with a handful of additional tables at the gallery level above, forming a space that, along with the outdoor terrace, can accommodate private parties. The soaring ceiling and loft-like feel emphasise the generosity of space and create an interplay between guests on the different levels.



Distinct areas accommodate a range of needs and moods. In the dining space, rustic timber tables invite guests to linger over a relaxed lunch or dinner, whilst taller tables for guests to stand by the bar create a more social atmosphere. Beneath the stairs are soft seating, stools made from mixed timber scraps, and plenty of blankets and cushions, which together form a cosy “living room” nook for warming up with hot chocolate or mulled wine by the contemporary black fireplace.



Ventilation pipes and cables within the structure are intentionally exposed and strengthen the restaurant’s rustic yet contemporary signature. This industrial style continues through enormous steel-frame windows that flood the whole room with light.

Establishing a harmony between the outdoor landscape and the industrial modernity of the materials and palette was essential to creating a balanced design. JOI-Design's solution was to use abundant quantities of restrained, natural finishes such as warm timber tones, flamed black steel, linen textiles, and untreated stone to create a calm, comfortable ambience. Ambient lighting from assorted pendants hung at varying heights playfully connects the two levels and brings a dynamic energy to the space.



The small retail corner offers locally-made sundries as well as those crafted at Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Iserlohn, whilst providing tables where guests can perch over a snack or beverage.



The sense of style was not forgotten in the public bathrooms, with the ladies and gents' facilities each offering their own monochromatic flair with shades of black, grey and white that form a clean, cool contrast to the lively atmosphere of the restaurant.





From season to season and morning 'til night, Wilde Ente is passionate about serving guests creative, high-quality and locally sourced cuisine within a modern yet friendly and relaxed setting.

Ends

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About JOI-Design

JOI-Design truly believes there's never been a more exciting time to be a hospitality designer. One of Europe's leading design studios, their clever interior, architecture, engineering, graphic and product experts have focused on the development of exclusive, design-oriented concepts for international hotels since 1984. From bijou, privately-owned boutique properties to trendsetting destinations for community-minded guests to glamorous landmarks for the world's most celebrated luxury brands, they know how to design the hospitality spaces people love and return to time after time. More recently, the practice has designed serviced apartments and high-concept office spaces, and through Products by JOI-Design, their talented creatives partner with respected, high-quality furniture, lighting and equipment makers to offer the wider marketplace contemporary pieces developed for their projects.

Highly regarded thought-leaders and sought-after consultants, JOI-Design benefits and shapes the future of the design industry by sharing their deep insider knowledge and enthusiasm with fellow professionals. Their designers embrace the motivations and goals of clients so that as partners, they

realise the optimal and sustainable solutions that make every project special. Keen observers of the world, JOI-Design understands how spaces affect people's physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing, which empowers them to reflect the modern-day zeitgeist through unique designs that elevate the human experience.

Current/recent projects include: Mercedes-Benz Living @ Fraser London/ UK; Reichshof Curio Collection by Hilton Hamburg; Steigenberger Hamburg; Trend Suites at the Radisson Blu Cologne and Radisson Blu Frankfurt; Capri by Fraser Berlin; Hapimag Venice/ Italy; Steigenberger Grandhotel Belvédère Davos/ Switzerland; Golf Resort "Der Öschberghof" Donaueschingen; JW Marriott Cannes and the AC Hotel Ambassadeur Antibes/ France; Capri by Fraser Frankfurt; Mercedes-Benz Arena Berlin VIP Lounge; Warwick Hotel Paris Champs-Élysées/ France; Moxy Warsaw/ Polen, Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg; Health Resort St. Andreasberg; Hilton Munich Airport; Hyatt Place Zurich Airport: The Circle/ Switzerland; Hilton Frankfurt Airport at THE SQUAIRE; Fraser Suites Hamburg; Le Clervaux Boutique Hotel Clerf/ Luxembourg; Hotel-Kompetenz-Zentrum Oberschleißheim; Mountain Resort Ismayilli/ Azerbaijan; Lindner Resort Portals Nous, Mallorca/ Spain; niu by Novum Essen; Dom Hotel Cologne; Arborea Resort Neustadt; Le Méridien Parkhotel Frankfurt; Le Méridien Stuttgart; Four Points by Sheraton Zaporozhye/ Ukraine; and Steigenberger Grandhotel & Spa Heringsdorf www.JOI-Design.com

For further information about the interior design and high-res photographs, please contact:

Su Pecha / Alicia Sheber at ESP Business Development

+44 (0)20 8374 6320/4476 asheber@espbusinessdevelopment.com