



A LOVE LETTER TO...

Interior designer Suzy Hoodless reveals why the Nordic archipelago of Stockholm provides her with year-round inspiration

I'VE BEEN in love with Stockholm since I first started coming nearly 30 years ago, when I was art directing and styling shoots for *Wallpaper** magazine. It's easy to walk around, design is simple, modern and timeless, and the food is very good. The archipelago islands are a short hop from the city but a world away from busy life; it's a place I return to time and again.

- My favourite places to stay include Grand Hôtel, amazingly located on the waterfront overlooking the Royal Palace and Gamla Stan. Ett Hem (above left), designed by Ilse Crawford, is slightly out of town but a great home from home. Berns Hotel has a beautiful restaurant serving great food. It is good for cocktails and live music too.
- Eat out at Sturehof, which, aesthetically speaking, reminds me of Bibendum in London, being large, light and airy. My favourite dish is

Toast Skagen: prawns in thick mayo served on toast with lots of lemon and dill. For something special, Ekstedt has a Michelin star tasting menu. This is a theatrical restaurant. You start in the reception area with your first course then transition into the kitchen where you watch the chefs cook, before eating straight from the oven. Every course is beautifully presented and delicious.

- Do visit Östermalms Saluhall, the city's vibrant food market, which is fantastic to wander round. Restaurant Lisa Elmqvist takes up half the building and is great for lunch, especially the herring and fish plates.
- Svenskt Tenn on Strandvägen (above right) is, of course, a must, selling wonderful textiles and furniture by Josef Frank – it's a feast

for the eyes. I recently bought a number of candlesticks there, including a pewter one in the shape of a small branch and another very tall one in silver. Asplund, a small family business, sells contemporary Swedish furniture. We often buy their Snow cabinet for projects – it's a simple, modern design that's easy to use and hard-wearing. Modernity offers beautiful and well-curated 20th-century Scandinavian classics.

- I enjoy walking around the city taking in different areas. Gamla Stan (the old city) can be touristy but the Royal Palace is unmissable, while Södermalm and Djurgården are interesting areas. Do stop at the Nationalmuseum, housing Sweden's largest collection of art and design, and Vasa Museum for the world's only preserved 17th-century ship. 📷

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