
November 26, 2006**CHECK IN, CHECK OUT**

Copenhagen: The Hotel Fox

By SETH SHERWOOD

THE BASICS In an unusual joint venture with Volkswagen, the aging Park Hotel last year commissioned 21 artists, illustrators, graphic designers, graffiti writers and other forward-looking creators to decorate its 61 rooms. The result is the Hotel Fox, a visually dazzling — though not always comfortable — array of fantasylands and dreamscapes. Designed in styles as diverse as Japanimation, neo-Baroque pastiche, fractal-like abstraction and Pop Art flamboyance, the rooms often playfully blur the line between sleeping and waking.

THE LOCATION On the periphery of the historical city center, the Fox is also roughly a 10-minute walk to Tivoli amusement park, Central Station, Norreport train station and other points of interest.

THE ROOMS Rooms come in small, medium, large and extra large. My room was No. 510, a small room designed by a German illustrator, Birgit Amadori, and nicknamed King's Court 2. Lining the walls were pictures of regally attired humanoid creatures with playfully monstrous heads — Medusa-esque, squidlike, flame-engulfed. Like a 19th-century dollhouse, its furniture included tufted armchairs and Gothic electric candelabras. According to the plaque on the door, the room was “designed to soothe thoughts.”

The design was partly a triumph of style over substance. About the size of a cruise-ship cabin, the room had a single bed and a chintzy little desk that could hold only the small flat-screen TV and a simple phone. Though the room had a high-speed Internet connection, the lack of a desk chair meant that I had to lie in my narrow bed to use my laptop.

THE BATHROOMS Untouched by the commissioned artists, the generic industrial tiles and fixtures recall an American college dormitory. Mine had only a shower with an unmountable, hand-held sprayer. The lone serving of Hotel Fox combination shampoo and shower gel came in a packet like airline salad dressing. The stiff towels seemed washed once too many times.

ROOM SERVICE Guests can order food to their rooms only during the dinner service of the hotel's restaurant. Presided over by Anders Barsoe (a veteran of WD-50 in [New York City](#)), it serves somewhat adventurous Nordic-tinged dishes, like rooster with sautéed liver in oatmeal and rhubarb. A three-course meal for two, without wine, runs about 600 kroner, about \$100 at 6 kroner to the dollar. The hotel desk also sells a trio of Snack Bags (150 to 250 kroner): one for lovers (with a half-bottle of champagne and various “toys”); one for hangovers (with a sandwich, aspirin and a

Bloody Mary); and one for movie watchers (candy, popcorn and soda or beer).

AMENITIES Don't expect a spa or fitness center to pamper your body or pump it up. You can, however, rent an iPod (100 kroner a day) and a bicycle (100 kroner a day), both nice touches. Also solid is the free breakfast, which includes smoothies, sugary crepes, sandwiches, yogurt, granola, fruit juices, coffee and tea. The bar (a.k.a. the lobby on Thursday to Saturday) has D.J.'s and signature cocktails, like the Glitterati (gin, rose syrup and champagne; 95 kroner).

THE CROWD On an August morning, the breakfast area was abuzz with cool kids: Japanese rock fans in platform boots; tattooed artists; hip German parents with fuchsia hair; and media types in rectangular glasses and old-school Adidas sneakers, carrying laptops.

BOTTOM LINE Despite some flaws, the Fox is a welcome experiment and even a decent value for [Copenhagen](#). True, the bathrooms won't win any awards, and the small rooms (945 kroner) are tiny. But the avant-garde décor, central location, robust breakfast and hip night scene are all appealing. It's probably worth paying extra for a medium (1,120 kroner), a large (1,320) or an extra-large (1,620) room, unless you race horses for a living.

[The Hotel Fox](#), Jarmers Plads 3, Copenhagen; (45-33) 13-30-00; www.hotelfox.dk.

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