



The bedroom at the inn overlooks the dramatic landscape of Newfoundland

CRAFT FROZEN IN TIME

Bring together local heritage and modern design at this isolated winter escape

Words by LAURA BROWN



Freezing temperatures and fog loom over the cliffs of Newfoundland, an island on the eastern province of Canada. Made of rock and surrounded by icy water, it hosts a solid steel structure that braces harsh winds and brittle sunrays: Fogo Island Inn. Designed by native architect Todd Sanders and entrepreneur Zita Cobb, the inn stands on a granite rock formation, facing the North Atlantic Ocean in an area of traditional fishing grounds. Its orientation shields guests from harsh weather conditions while also creating a private area perfect for hot-tub soaks under the stars.

Fogo Island Inn sits on an isolated part of the isle – at once an eerie presentiment as well as an ode to its existence. Over the years, with fewer jobs available, the native population has diminished and local traditions were in danger of being lost. To mitigate this impact, the inn honours

four centuries of life on the northeast coast of Newfoundland, captivating guests with traditional artistry and re-imagining them in a contemporary expression within its modern-day building.

The inn has invited over fifty artisans to express their take on traditional crafts using new materials. In this way, folklore acts as the basis of inspiration for new, modernised designs. Guests can expect to find story-telling-inspired hooked rugs, quilted bed covers and hand-drawn wallpapered walls, while local island residents stop by the inn to tell tales, adding spirit and soul to the hotel experience. The guesthouse also pays homage to local customs at its restaurant, which infuses its menu with regional recipes and cuisine. Inspired by the landscape, the culinary team uses seasonal produce, from fresh fish and hand-picked berries to mushrooms scavenged from the marshlands.

This impressive stilt-based steel structure stands as a beacon of innovation on the jagged terrain, welcoming visitors to view a solid space for evolving designs and craftsmanship, which is quite a statement for a local inn. While temperatures regularly dip below freezing, you can be sure to have an experience full of warmth, beauty, and well maintained traditions. fogoislandinn.ca ■

Traditional wallpaper designs and textiles from Newfoundland's artisans decorate Fogo Island Inn

Photography: Paddy Barry and Alex Fradkin