

# DESCENE

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DEFIANCE



# PILLOWS MAURITS AT THE PARK

Thoughtfully restored and quietly luxurious, this hotel blends heritage with elevated modern comfort.

Tucked into the leafy embrace of Amsterdam's Oosterpark, Pillows Maurits at the Park offers a refined balance of elegance, design, and serenity. Once a 20th-century university building, the structure has been carefully reimagined into a five-star hotel that feels at once rooted in history and refreshingly modern.

Opened by the Pillows Hotels group, known for its design-led properties across the Netherlands and Belgium, this Amsterdam outpost sets a new benchmark for contemporary luxury hospitality.

## DESIGN

Pillows Maurits at the Park stands out even before you step inside. Its imposing brick façade and century-old frame may suggest a certain formality, but inside, warmth and calm define the experience. The transformation, led by architectural firm Office Winhov, respects the site's monumental past and actively reconnects it with its surroundings. More than 4,000 square meters of the surrounding park have been given back to the public, and thoughtful touches like birdhouses and feeding areas create a seamless connection between the building and nature.

The interior concept, developed by Studio Linse, relies on what designer Paul Linse describes as "noble simplicity." Earthy tones, soft textures, and plush seating create a cocoon of comfort that feels effortlessly sophisticated. The transition from historic architecture to modern hospitality feels fluid, with light flooding in through varied window styles and public areas that invite guests to linger.



## ROOMS

The hotel's 88 rooms and suites, ranging from a cozy 18 to a generous 50 square meters, are designed as havens for rest. They maintain the design language of the public spaces but dial it up with tactile luxury. Beds are perfectly balanced between soft and supportive, and the lighting is warm and adjustable, ideal for guests looking to unwind. What elevates each room further is the original art by Raphaël Hermans, adding depth and emotion without overwhelming the calm atmosphere.

Practical comforts haven't been forgotten. USB ports and outlets are well-placed, the showers are rainfall-perfect, and acoustic insulation means you hear little of the city beyond your window. There's a quiet sense that every element has been chosen with intent, nothing is excessive, yet everything feels considered.

## DINING

VanOost, the hotel's signature fine dining restaurant, is a visual and culinary showpiece that immediately commands attention. Set within a soaring space with 15-meter-high ceilings and restored architectural details, the restaurant pairs grandeur with intimacy. Designed to reflect the spirit of the neighboring Tropenmuseum, the setting blends historical echoes with modern elegance. At the heart of the room, an open kitchen stages each dish as a performance, inviting guests into a dynamic exchange between chef and table.

Helmed by chef Floris van Straalen, VanOost delivers what he calls "worldly cuisine," a cosmopolitan approach that draws inspiration from global flavors while maintaining a grounded, ingredient-first philosophy. Plates are delicately composed, often surprising in their combinations, but always precise. Whether it's a multi-course tasting menu or an à la carte experience, each dish is built with imagination and restraint, reflecting the restaurant's mission to push fine dining forward without losing its soul.

In contrast, Spring Café Brasserie brings a lighter tone with all-day dining led by chef Luigi di Benedetto. His Italian-French hybrid menu is ideal for lunch or a relaxed dinner, especially with the brasserie's bright interiors and terrace opening onto Oosterpark. For those wanting something more intimate, Fitz's Bar offers a moody, 1920s atmosphere complete with velvet chairs and expertly mixed cocktails by Nick Vrieling, one of the Netherlands' most lauded bartenders.

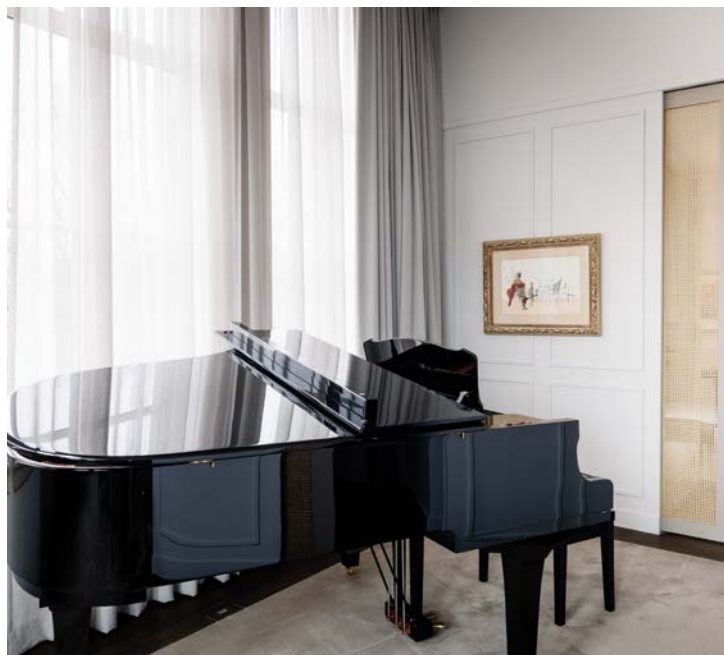
There's also a rooftop bar, an unexpected bonus. With unobstructed views of Amsterdam's treetops and rooftops, it's an ideal summer destination for sun-downers or a quiet drink under the stars.

## EVENTS

Beyond the guestrooms and dining venues, Pillows Maurits at the Park extends its offerings into events and private gatherings. Three salons, beautifully decorated and versatile, cater to business meetings or elegant soirées. The Living, a guest-only lounge with a curated library, serves as a more informal retreat where visitors can read, relax, or enjoy a drink in peace.

Programming is another strength. The hotel hosts regular events in collaboration with both local creatives and international talents, from intimate concerts to art talks, deepening the connection between hotel guests and Amsterdam's cultural scene.

Pillows Maurits at the Park is a hotel that understands discretion, design, and the evolving needs of the luxury traveler. It doesn't shout for attention, instead, it whispers all the right notes: thoughtful interiors, serene rooms, standout dining, and a sense of quiet sophistication. In a city often bustling with energy, it offers a rare thing, a place to retreat, recharge, and reconnect. Whether you're visiting for business, pleasure, or something in between, this is a hotel that feels like it truly belongs in Amsterdam, not just geographically, but emotionally.



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