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The Haldane Suite at the Raffles London at the OWO was used by the Secretary of State during World War II.

London remains one of the world's greatest cities for hotels, and the Big Smoke is having a bit of a hotel moment this fall. Last week, [we covered six of the biggest debuts](#), but of those half dozen spectacular retreats, [Raffles London at the OWO](#), which opened in late September, is the most ambitious of them all. The 1906 Georgian building, located next to the Royal Horse Guards and a

stone's throw from Buckingham Palace, is the former Old War Office where Winston Churchill led Britain through World War II.

The property has been transformed into luxurious digs with the help of architect Thierry Despont, and it's "a showcase of British heritage and artisanship, down to the translucent alabaster balusters and the 37 historic fireplaces throughout the hotel," writes Heidi Mitchell for AFAR. My own firsthand tour of this project of epic proportions back in December 2022 took more than three hours, and I got a firsthand look at that magnificent double staircase, the sprawling subterranean Guerlain spa, and the intricate original dark wood carvings that adorn several of the 120 guest rooms. To say that I'm looking forward to seeing Raffles London at the OWO myself in a couple of months is an understatement. In the meantime, I'm sending a discerning writer to review the property this month—watch this space for a thorough review soon.

In addition, we're obsessing over hotels and their connection to art and design this fall. As part of our [Hotels We Love](#) series, we rounded up the [best hotels in the world for architecture and design](#); for AFAR's culture issue, I explored the impressive [art world connections](#) of the [Hemingways Eden](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, which helped embed me into the scene there. Also for Hotels We Love, I rounded up [10 hotels that make art a central focus](#) of the guest experience in unique ways.

What's the most exciting hotel you've stayed in lately and why? Tell me at notification@afar.com.

See you on the road,

Jennifer Flowers
Senior deputy editor, AFAR

WHERE ELSE WE'RE STAYING



[Utah's New Under Canvas Retreat Takes Glamping to a New Level](#)



[This Dreamy New Farmhouse Villa in Maine Is Your Next Group Getaway](#)

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