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Scandic Oslo Airport wins the Innovation Prize

The Norwegian Design Council is the body behind the launch of a new Norwegian prize to reward innovative, accessible, user-friendly solutions. Scandic Oslo Airport was the winner in the 'Furniture and Interior' category and therefore automatically nominated for the Innovation Design Prize 2011. Today it was announced that Scandic Oslo Airport also won by the main prize – The Innovation Prize!

The prize recognises those who have innovatively and creatively developed products, services and environments that contribute towards a more inclusive society and the award is made on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion. The prize was awarded today at a special event at DogA (the Norwegian Centre for Design and Architecture).

The jury says:

- With Scandic Oslo Airport hotel, Scandic shows how modern architecture and design can be combined with a universal design approach. In this project, good, sustained quality in the design of products, the interior, the architecture and functional solutions produces universal design at a high level. Scandic is the only hotel chain today to have incorporated consideration for all user groups into its business strategy and Scandic Oslo Airport sets a new standard in the integration of universal design. The jury considers that the hotel is a fantastic, iconic project because it shows that competitive advantage and increased profitability can be attained by focusing holistically on the inclusion of all types of guest. The hotel epitomises quality. The design stigmatises no one and the building is welcoming and elegant. All guests are accommodated well and included.

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Everyone is equal and can participate equally in all contexts. The hotel has been designed well for guests with impaired vision, hearing and mobility, with good accessibility, visual alarms, telephones with induction loops, systems for charging electric wheelchairs and much more besides. The interior is also designed with people with environmental diseases in mind, i.e. asthma, allergies or hypersensitivities.”

Interior designers *Arkitektarna Krook & Tjäder AB* and architects *Narud Stokke Wiig Sivilarkitekter AS* are behind the hotel, which opened in spring 2010.

“First of all we would like to thank the Norwegian Asthma and Allergy Association (NAAF) for nominating Scandic Oslo Airport. This was the first Scandic hotel in which we really looked at every aspect of the construction process and design and it has been an incredibly useful learning process for us. NAAF helped and advised us from start to finish and it is fantastic that our work together has resulted in such a successful product,” says Wendel Holdener, the General Manager at Scandic Oslo Airport.

“It’s important to us that everyone is able to enjoy their stay at Scandic hotels, whatever their special needs. To improve accessibility, we are working on this aspect every day in all our hotels. We have even had our own Disability Ambassador since 2003,” says Scandic Norway’s CVP Svein Arild Steen-Mevold.

For more information and interviews, please contact:

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