

# THE AUSTRALIAN



## TANGERINE DREAM

ANDREA BLACK

This hotel is a modernist haven dedicated to the greatest Danish designers of the mid-20th century.

In hindsight, booking to stay in the boldly coloured Verner Panton Suite directly after a long-haul flight from Sydney wasn't such a good idea. Open the door to this corner suite at Hotel Alexandra in Copenhagen and arresting hot pink walls in the entry hall lead to a bright tangerine-coloured living room coated in plastic paint and filled with 1960s Panton pieces, including the Pantonova sofa (in orange) and two Panton 1-2-3 chairs (more orange).

The bedroom is a luminous burst of purple, with swirly shagpile rugs and a quilt stamped with Panton's signature circle print. It all makes for a psychedelic experience. Fumbling for the bathroom in the middle of the night in my jet-lagged state results in further panic.

The Verner Panton Suite is one of 61 guestrooms in this modernist haven dedicated to the greatest Danish designers of the mid-20th century. General manager Jeppe Mühlhausen began collecting Danish modern furniture in 2001, focusing on the kind of pieces usually only on view in design museums or expensive auction house catalogues.

The next morning, as soft summer light streams in, it's easier to appreciate the Danish designer's immersive charms. Sitting on a Panton S Chair surveying the bedroom, I understand the designer's theory that "one sits more comfortably on a colour one likes". But he's preaching to the converted. I recently had a purple sofa freighted from Denmark for that very reason.

The hotel has its own app, Hotel Alexandra Copenhagen City Guide, compiled by staff showcasing the best design, cuisine and culture in Copenhagen and there are bikes parked out front for guest use. I cycle to the Danish Modern Museum where I can admire works from all of the key players featured at Hotel Alexandra.

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## HOTEL ALEXANDRA - COPENHAGEN

STEPHANIE WILLIAMS



As a multiple green award-winning city and high achiever on global liveability scales, there are reasons aplenty to visit Copenhagen. But a new interest in Nordic design is attracting fans and followers from across the world. At Hotel Alexandra, near Tivoli Gardens and Town Hall, every inch is dedicated to the work of 60s Danish designers, showcasing big-guns such as Finn Juhl, Hans J. Wegner, Arne Jacobsen, Ole Wanscher and Nanna Ditzel in a welcoming and homely environment. It's like staying with a friend obsessed with the golden age of Danish design. Every guest chamber is unique, from intimate Danish retro rooms to themed suites — think wooden floors, museum-quality furniture and modernist details. But it's the Collectors Suite that'll really get a design lover's Pantone charts in a tizz. Four times a year, design expert Anders Petersen and general manager Jeppe Muhlhausen refurbish the space, all for sale through Petersen's gallery. The current incarnation is a cosy, laidback 70s collection with hessian walls and rya rugs. Like its home city, Hotel Alexandra is green; bikes can be rented and guests encouraged to skip housekeeping service for bar credits. And if that wasn't feel-good enough, it's owned by a charitable foundation supporting disabled hospitality workers. This is mid-century heaven. More: [hotelalexandra.dk](http://hotelalexandra.dk).