



Future perfect: the spacey-looking Elbphilharmonie concert hall in Hamburg

Below: Light fantastic: a system of LEDs will illuminate W London hotel as night falls

hamburg **Elbphilharmonie** elbphilharmonie.de
Singing for your supper will be a significantly more stylish affair when done at Elbphilharmonie (above), a new concert hall in Hamburg's Hafencity quarter. Designed by Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron and scheduled for completion by 2012, the venue tops an old warehouse and will comprise three concert halls, a hotel, a slew of high-end apartments and a wharf basement with parking for all those convertibles. The show-stopping glass exterior is set to shimmer in the sunlight and dazzle by dark.

antwerp **MAS Museum** mas.be
Designed by Rotterdam-based architects Neutelings Riedijk, Antwerp's Museum Aan de Stroom (MAS) is set to be a new cultural hub when it opens in May, housing art and exhibitions that will journey through the city's rich history. Wedged between two of the oldest docks on the site of a former warehouse, it's constructed from stacked boxes that spiral an impressive 60 metres upwards. Who said square was boring?

berlin **Waldorf Astoria** waldorfastoria.com
Berlin will get a taste of the American pie from January at the Waldorf Astoria, the first Hilton property of its kind in Europe. If you're not bowled over by the 31-floor tower at Kurfürstendamm, you won't be disappointed with what's inside: the rooms will burst with Waldorf Astoria's signature New York style, while a restaurant, bar, spa and conference centre mean there'll be little need to leave.

oslo **Sult** sult.no
What's in a name? Everything, apparently: Sult means 'hungry' in Norwegian, while Tørst means 'thirst', so there's a theme running through this elegant eatery, with both its restaurant and bar named after the obvious. That said, there's nothing else straightforward about this super-stylish venue in trendy Grünerløkka; its clientele is an unexpectedly bohemian crowd of artists and writers, while its seafood-heavy menu comes courtesy of a former sous-chef from 'the world's best restaurant', Copenhagen's Noma.



london **W London** wlonon.co.uk
W is for wow at W London (above), the latest property to be added to the fit-to-bursting portfolio of the eponymous hotel chain. Scheduled to throw open its shiny doors in January, this incredibly well-appointed hotel is located in a shimmering glass building in Leicester Square. The *pièce de résistance* will be the W Lounge, set to become the place for Soho's trendy media types to see and be seen.

ghent **Ghent** visitgent.be
This is the year to discover why Ghent (right) is a travel must. A 12th-century fortress and a stunning Design Museum behind an 18th-century façade are just two highlights, while vintage shops, great restaurants and thriving markets further tempt – and, of course, there are the *frietten* (chips). What's more, this year sees the old Fish Market reopen in style after a €10m renovation.

geneva **Dick's Tea Bar** dicksteabar.com
After a hard day on the slopes of Val D'Isère, Dick's Tea Bar has après ski written all over it. Reopening under new management, this sloaniest of watering holes has three bars to prop up in your winter woollies and an oversized dance floor on which to sidle up to sexy instructors. A Ski Boot should get the evening going: a four-litre vodka and champagne number in a boot-shaped glass, it has quite a kick.

copenhagen **Torvehallerne** israelsplads.com
Back in 2000, author Iselin C Hermann and architect Hans Peter Hagens had the idea of turning a paved flea market in the shopping area of Israels Plads into a purpose-built veg and flower market. As with most things in Copenhagen, it'll be a stylish affair, with two market lanes beneath a roof of cut-away skylights. And flanked by stalls, trees and benches, Torvehallerne will bring the outside in to encourage shopping when the sun is out.

lisbon **Olivier Café** restaurante-olivier.com
Chef Olivier is to Portugal what Pascal Devalkeneer is to Belgium; a damn-good chef whose eclectic Mediterranean dishes have foodies flocking to anything he puts his name to. His new venture (right), an outpost at Rua Barata Salgueiro, will feature a lighter menu than his other eateries – good news, as it means twice as much can be eaten – as well as a cocktail bar for the roster of loyal regulars.

bristol **M Shed** mshed.org
M Shed is set to be Bristol's cultural highlight when it throws open its doors next year. This 1950s transit shed on the historic wharf – which cost €28m to do up – will tell the story of the city and its people, with a blank canvas for exhibits of art, artifacts



Go Ghent: this canalside Belgian city is crying out to be explored in 2011

Below: Communal dining in style at Berlin's Sage Restaurant

Bottom: For a more intimate dining experience, head to Lisbon's Olivier Café



and archives. The huge windows are the most striking addition, enhancing a connection to the city that stretches out before it through floor-to-ceiling glass.

berlin **Sage Restaurant** sage-restaurant.de
Everyone who's anyone is talking about this new eatery (above) in cool Kreuzberg. Traditional German dishes are given a high-end twist by chef Sebastian Leifer – think suckling pig chops with prune gravy and spinach – while the backdrop of a repurposed silk factory doesn't disappoint, with a dining area that's as razor-thin as the clientele, vaulted ceilings and bare-brick walls. No wonder the reservations book is packed. ➤