



# THE CONNAUGHT

## THE CONNAUGHT UNVEILS THE KING'S LODGE

*A Celebration of Craftsmanship Created in Partnership with Turquoise Mountain*



The Connaught, the legendary Mayfair hotel built on Carlos Place, has stood as an emblem of discreet and authentic elegance since 1897. In February 2024, The Connaught, in keeping with its tradition of heritage and craftsmanship, unveiled a one-of-a-kind suite – The King's Lodge - a collaboration between Guy Oliver, The Connaught's renowned legacy interior designer, and Turquoise Mountain, a charity supporting artisans across the Levant, Afghanistan, Myanmar and India.

Founded in 2006 by His Majesty King Charles III – then the Prince of Wales – Turquoise Mountain supports artisans with everything they need to thrive and revitalize their heritage. The charity works in Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Middle East, combining crafts practice, training and heritage buildings. The King's Lodge is the second collaboration between Oliver, Turquoise

Mountain and The Connaught, joining The Prince's Lodge which opened in 2010. The Prince's Lodge was created in a style inspired by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Peacock Palace in the old city of Kabul.

Guy Oliver comments, *“True luxury has always been made to measure and since it was built, The Connaught has been known as the handmade hotel, constructed by the finest artisan builders and cabinet makers. Now, working with Turquoise Mountain, we can support the highest level of craftsmanship in communities at risk around the world. It is a delight and an honour to bring them together to create such a remarkable and unique project.”*

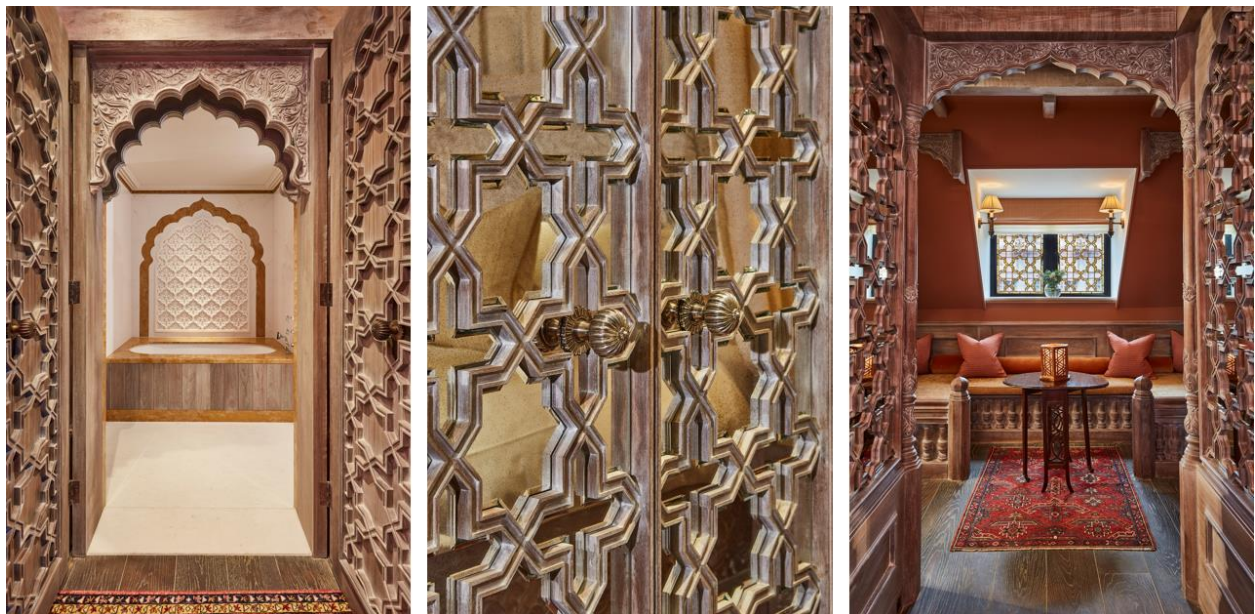
The history between The Connaught and Turquoise Mountain spans nearly as long as the organization's existence; in 2006 Guy was volunteer Creative Director for the Turquoise Mountain when he was appointed lead designer for the restoration of The Connaught in 2007, and he was keen to bring the two together. The result was The Prince's Lodge. It was the first major project for Turquoise Mountain and The Connaught is honoured to continue this special collaboration with the introduction of The King's Lodge.

The King's Lodge is a singular space, located on the fifth floor of The Connaught designed to showcase the highest level of craftsmanship from the Levant, Afghanistan, Myanmar and India. Artisans from these far-reaching destinations have been commissioned to create every element of the suite, from the intricate architectural woodwork made in Jordan by Syrian artisans, to handwoven carpets and miniature paintings from Afghanistan, fabrics from Myanmar, as well as carved marble panels and mirrored glass insets from India.

Dr. Thalia Kennedy, Creative Director at Turquoise Mountain added, *“The King's Lodge has brought together over one hundred master artisans and team members from across Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, Myanmar and India, to create and celebrate the finest craftsmanship and heritage design. Thanks to commissions like this suite, and the vision and commitment of Guy Oliver and The Connaught, artisan communities and these important traditions continue to thrive today.”*

Guests entering the suite are immediately transported, enveloped in a space that showcases the authentic traditions from each destination. The one-bedroom suite, conceived in the historic

Mughal style and nestled in the eaves on the fifth floor of The Connaught, welcomes guests into a richly appointed seating area, featuring deep window seats overlooking the intersection of Carlos Place and Mount Street, at the very centre of Mayfair. The four-poster bed, a work of art into itself, is one-of-a-kind, with motifs carefully hand-drawn and crafted for this particular suite. The fabrics featuring a zigzag motif were inspired by chevrons that come from Mughal columns while specific carpets from Lahore and the Mughal textiles from the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha inspired the use of colour. Turquoise Mountain worked with fine woodworkers to create walnut jali fretwork, a craft found across Afghanistan that intricately joins pieces of wood, which feature in the arches of the bedframe as well as the screens throughout the suite. The marble carvers from Makrana – people descended from the Mughal court who have created panels with stunning lily floral motifs - are considered some of the finest stone carvers in the world.



Throughout every element of the suite, guests are not only transported to these various corners of the world, they are enveloped in a celebration of the craft from each destination. The King's Lodge suite is an homage to artisans and very much in keeping with The Connaught's larger support of artists which has always been integral to the hotel. A portion of the proceeds of every booking from both The Prince's Lodge and The King's Lodge goes directly to Turquoise Mountain and their programming to support artisans.

The Connaught's General Manager Sandeep Bhalla comments, *"It is an honour to once again welcome the master artisans from Turquoise Mountain to The Connaught in their creation of this truly remarkable suite, The King's Lodge. Our strong commitment to design and celebration of art has helped establish The Connaught as one of the world's most coveted hotels and it gives us great pleasure to reveal The King's Lodge."*

## **ABOUT THE CONNAUGHT**

At the centre of London's Mayfair, The Connaught, managed by Maybourne, redefines the British luxury experience. An expertly judged blend of tradition with the utmost modernity, and is the insider's choice of connoisseurs in the art of living well. The Connaught includes a magnificent selection of traditional and contemporary guest rooms, suites and interiors, as well as the United Kingdom's first ever Aman Spa, a David Collins Studio designed penthouse. Michelin chef restaurants by Helene Darroze, Jean George and the multi award winning Connaught Bar and Coburg bar along with the Red Room create a destination for dining and drinking in London. A delightful Japanese influenced garden and by renowned landscape artist Tom Stuart-Smith, and a Ballroom for international and local Mayfair events makes The Connaught Hotel a true London landmark.

[www.the-connaught.co.uk](http://www.the-connaught.co.uk)

## **ABOUT MAYBOURNE**

Maybourne manages Claridge's, The Connaught, The Berkeley, The Maybourne Beverly Hills, The Maybourne Riviera and The Emory opening in April 2024, some of the world's most legendary luxury hotels. Maybourne is committed to inspiring extraordinary experiences that reflect the individual nature of its hotels, its guests and its staff whilst maintaining a timeless and intuitive service style that are the hallmarks of its priorities.

## **ABOUT TURQUOISE MOUNTAIN**

Turquoise Mountain was founded in 2006 by His Majesty King Charles – the then Prince of Wales – and currently works in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the Middle East, combining crafts practice, training and heritage restoration to create sustainable income opportunities for artisans. Turquoise Mountain has trained over 15,000 artisans and builders, restored 150 historic buildings, and

organised major international exhibitions - from the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. The organisation has brought over \$17m in handmade crafts to international markets, working with prestigious international retailers, from Bloomingdales and Kate Spade in New York, to five star hotels in London and the Gulf such as the Connaught, Four Seasons and Fairmont, developing products based in craft traditions for contemporary international markets that provide viable incomes for artisans.

### **ABOUT GUY OLIVER**

Guy Oliver is the owner and Managing Director of leading international design company Oliver Laws. The firm is known for the restoration and redecoration of the state rooms at 10 Downing Street as well as the refurbishment of London's Connaught Hotel and Claridge's, and Guy has recently completed the redesign and refurbishment of Ireland's most iconic hotel, The Shelbourne. Guy is passionate about the education and training of artisans around the world. He is volunteer Creative Director of The Turquoise Mountain and is a trustee and advisory committee member of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

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