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SWEDEN A stylish guesthouse in Stockholm invites visitors to feel at home with a new element of luxury

We wanted to continue the story of this house by giving it a meaning for the future,” says the designer Ilse Crawford of her latest project: a spruced-up 1910 building in Stockholm’s upmarket residential district, which is due to open as a 12-bedroom guesthouse in May. Ett Hem, which means ‘a home’, is far from your typical, high-spec design hotel, as you might expect from a woman known for sensitive restorations (of places such as The Olde Bell in Berkshire). Together with Swedish owner Jeanette Mix, Crawford has created a space that is both grandly elegant and comfortably homely. ‘I wanted somewhere sophisticated but unpretentious’, says Mix. So wood panelling, marble baths and dramatic bespoke furniture (there are brass minibars in every room) are balanced with a soothing colour scheme, plenty of tactile furnishings and beautiful heritage touches including ceramic fireplaces and Swedish antiques. There will be a manicured garden with a glasshouse (a lovely setting for breakfast) as well as a cosy living room and a library with, Mix says, ‘books you actually want to read’. There’s no formal restaurant, but guests can help themselves to wine from the fridge and rummage around for a snack from the local produce, including Swedish cheeses, on offer in the kitchen (although formal group dinners, private dining or even a picnic are all available on request). The plan has always been to recreate the feel of a stylish private home but with service levels (and pricing) to match the country’s finest hotels. It’s a concept that could translate well to other locations. ‘We could open anywhere,’ says Mix. Skoldungsgratan 2, Stockholm (00 46 8 20 05 90; www.etthemstockholm.se). Doubles from €390