



THE SINGULAR HOTELS

Building a Heritage

Our Legacy



Workers of the Frigorífico Bories, 1911.

LIVING HERITAGE

A century ago, pioneers came from all over the world to the Frigorífico Bories to carve their destiny in an untamed land. Today, that former cold storage plant has been reborn as a five star luxury hotel that remains true to its rugged roots.

The word “sustainability” has become synonymous with taking care of our planet. At The Singular, this is dear to us. And that’s why we’re dedicated to rescuing, revitalizing, and rejuvenating what makes this home.

Since we restored Frigorífico Bories in Patagonia and transformed that historic cold-storage plant into a five star hotel more than 10 years ago, we’ve been dedicated to preserving Chile’s heritage.

That word, heritage, connotes the past for many... but not for us. At The Singular, it isn’t just a line in a history book or a black-and-white photo on the wall. It’s a continuum; a connection between the past and future that unites us—and animates us—in the here and now.

Heritage is alive. It’s who we are, and it’s all around us. You can see it, smell it, taste it... feel it.

We want you to feel the essence of our history and how our hotel, The Singular Patagonia, was built.





Installation of the monument in front of the Seno de Última Esperanza.

VOLÚMENES
PATRIMONIALES
ANTES DE LA
INTERVENCIÓN



LIVING HERITAGE

Descendants of the original pioneers resurrected the Frigorífico Bories. Wanting to honor the region’s heritage, they tasked an esteemed architect and interior artist with designing a hotel that was effortlessly elegant and authentically Patagonian. The result: a property regularly named among the best in South America.

Declared a national historic monument in 1996, the buildings and remains of the former Puerto Bories meat packing plant, in the Seno de Última Esperanza, Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica Region, were recovered and recycled in a programmatic reconversion to hotel infrastructure.

Puerto Bories was founded in 1902 and was a determining factor in the foundation and growth of the provincial capital, Puerto Natales (1911).

Located 5.5 kilometers northeast of the present city of Puerto Natales, with a post-Victorian architectural style, this monument was one of the major drivers of the growth of Puerto Natales for almost seven decades, representing livestock production as a fundamental role.

The Frigorífico Bories stopped its production and was abandoned at the end of the operations. In 1998 part of the land was acquired by a private company, which a year later began a slow process of heritage recovery that did not conclude until 2011, when the work of recovery and recycling was completed to accommodate the Hotel “The Singular Patagonia”.



Facade of the restored hotel.

RESTORING THE FRIGORÍFICO BORIES

A project without a project

To house a high standard hotel in industrial facilities deteriorated by the passage of time, neglect and theft, the logic of action of the architect in charge of the project, was not to impose or generate something prior to the slow process of discovery of the hidden vestiges. With a sense of craftsmanship and deep respect for the history of the monument, the architect decided, on the first instance, not to do, but rather to let it unveil. A kind of archeology of the work that gradually reveals material and spatial discoveries providing the guidelines for project action.

Among the 'discoveries' is a floor of the tannery's naves semi-buried by remains of shells. Along with these findings there are countless English bricks that had once been used to fill part of the land and now were used to

restore damaged walls. Inside the warehouses there were still remains of machinery and artifacts from the original production processes. All of this began to rustle.

The complex comprises a loading dock, the factory and cold-storage pavilions, together with some singular elements that were present, gave character and delimited the space of action. The main icons are a large wall that confined the cold storage pavilions - none-existent at the time when the intervention began- and the chimney next to the leather press.

There was little to propose, the most sensible thing to do was to wait for the full revelations of the place, for it to unveil itself completely, beyond its imposing geographical setting and sub-Antarctic climatic conditions.





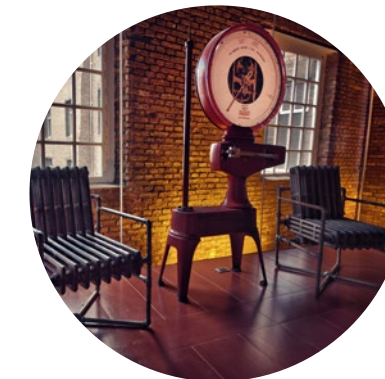
Original Frigorífico machinery, located next to the transition walkway.

RESTORING THE FRIGORÍFICO BORIES

Formless

Thus, little by little, the place began to strongly suggest what should be done to it. The architect, respectfully, listened delicately to each of these signals. That is why the project does not have a form, because form is not relevant, least of all in this case. The absent morphology is what was necessary to solve and achieve all the proposed tasks: recovery and enhancement of the heritage value, to which were added the new facilities for a luxury hotel, but whose value would be its recovered past.

The design decisions were aimed at maintaining as much of its originality as possible and rescuing it. This recovery meant inhabiting the place, giving it a new use in such a way that all the hotel's activities and programs were distributed in the existing pavilions, together with a museum. With the exception of the rooms that are located outside the existing volumes, the project is housed within the original program and body, programmatically inhabiting the history, as a museum that can be visited by the guest.



The rooms were built on the foundations of the former cold storage sheds, contained between the great brick wall and the old machine and boiler room. The architectural body corresponding to the rooms is neutral, without formal attributes, but full of architectural virtues. Despite its steel and glass materiality, with its façade facing the sea, it fits in surprisingly naturally. Facing the entrance to the hotel complex, its façade is a continuous wooden framework reminiscent of the pioneering refrigerators, whose height respects the hierarchy of the post-Victorian pavilions.



GENERAL VIEW FROM THE
LOADING DOCK



Remodeled interior, living rooms and dining rooms.

RESTORING THE FRIGORÍFICO BORIES

Balance between the old and the new



In the interior of each pre-existing volume, the program is arranged without touching, like a guest that subtly places itself in a new interior spatiality, which is housed and contained by the heritage, in a fruitful dialogue for both. Corridors that seek to float, programs surgically fitted into every space left possible by history, make this a work whose project planning is based on a permanent general logic, but also on many specific decisions that should preserve that global raison.

The action of attachment, care and vigilance of the work by the architect is decisive. The sum of non-projectable decisions, but which configure the final result, are reminiscent of Peter Zumthor's logic of action, since –as a

cabinetmaker– suggested a general control of the expected result was required, but renouncing the new material action as a factor of concreteness.

So it is the design materials that change. In an act of purification, it is understood that the work should be full of the author's renunciations, to reach its material presence from the delicate and appropriate atmospheric work determined by the materials, by the industrial artifacts, by the original structures, by the machineries, by that reminiscence of the Magellanic pampa that presents light and dark because it receives a very inclined solar angle, making the immeasurable extension of the southern land its own.



Hotel access.

RESTORING THE FRIGORÍFICO BORIES

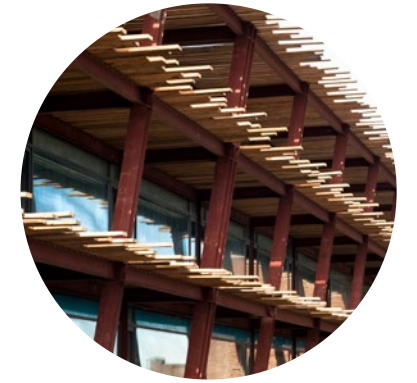
Internal Logic

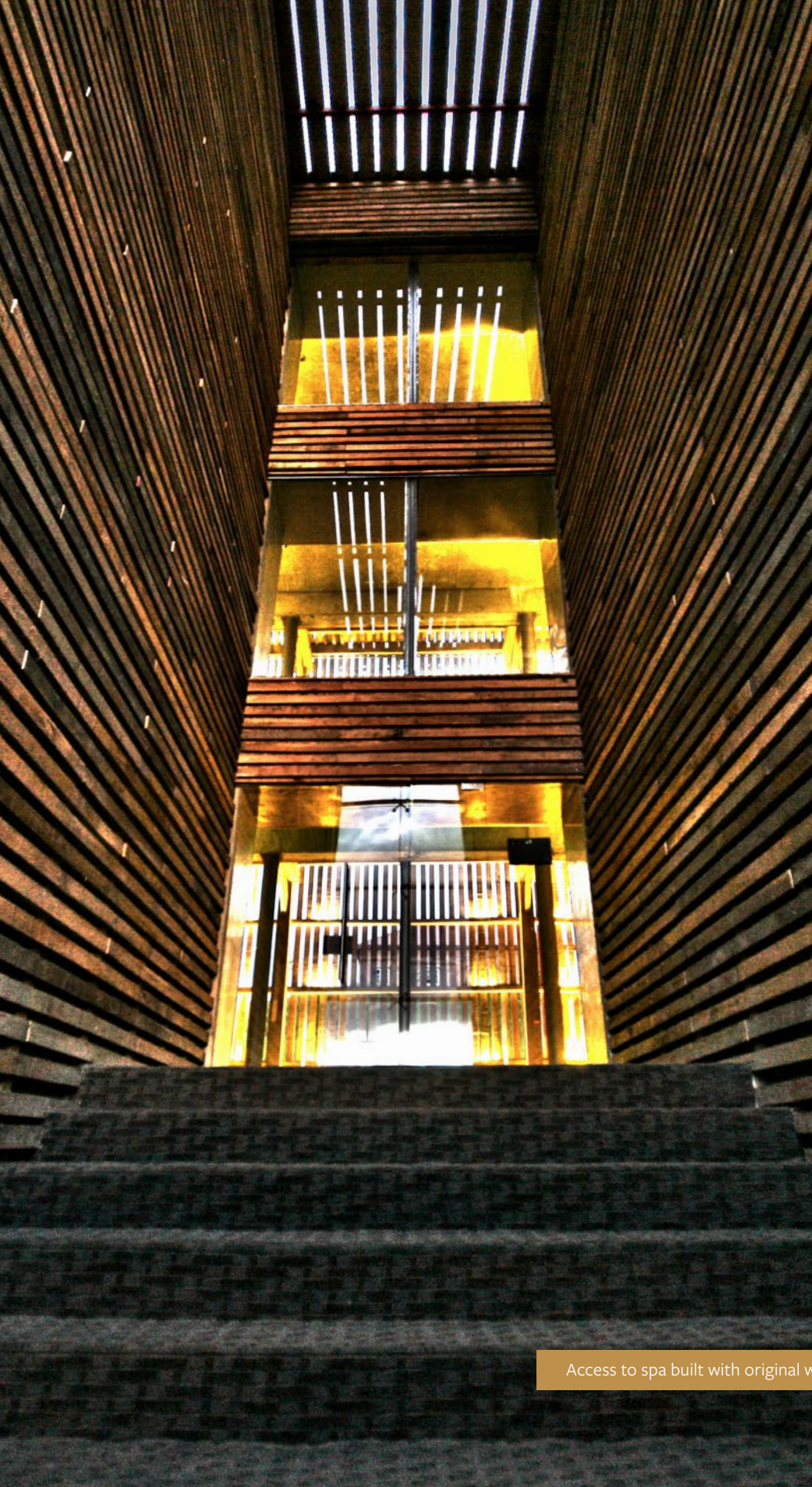
The project is solved with a single break in the perpendicularity, a new angle in plan allows multiple benefits: to solve the access, the entrance of the funicular, the interior and exterior circulations, the changes of level and the interconnections of the interior spaces. This new angle enables a positive dialogue between the new programmatic elements and the previous order, as a sediment that participates in the new habitat.

The entire project only makes three punctual incisions in the tectonics of the original buildings. Only with these three surgical actions is possible to communicate and solve all the complexity of the hotel's functioning. The old machine room is open in three directions: towards the tannery, towards the former meat packing plants and

towards the product drying pavilion. Respectively, lounges, bars and dining rooms, rooms and access are connected to these three incisions.

The work of artificial illumination plays the role of setting in heritage value, of enunciator of the materials, of the structure and the interior richness of the existing buildings. Contrary to the previous strategy of enhancing the patrimonial interior, the new volume is illuminated to be seen from the outside in the dark, as a serene, unpretentious reference. In this way the new body during the day presents the typical neutral and hermetic expression of the pioneering industrial constructions of the region, constructing a material and luminous filter that, from the interior, allows a glimpse of the surrounding geography.





Access to spa built with original woods.



As a last poetic gesture, the architect collects all the original timbers thrown away, recovers them and makes them face the landscape, as life does in these extreme climates: without contemplation.

The new volume of the rooms is respectful in its height with the heritage buildings. It recognizes the oxidation of the metal in the weather and does not deny it. It is almost completely glazed in a mimetic decision to pay homage to the skies and views of Ultima Esperanza.

The work of recovery and enhancement of the former Frigorífico Puerto Bories is an example of respect and restraint. It is also the simple expression of complex thought, without previous archetypes, naked, meeting what the work whispers to the author telling him how it wants to be constructed.



Bories frigorífico prior to the restoration process.

Committed to heritage

We don't simply want to observe and present our heritage... we want to participate in it. To contribute to it, to help shape it, to celebrate it. And to share it with our guests.

That's why we've created our Heritage Stewardship program at The Singular. Our hotels are a part of our communities—we want to support them economically, civically, and culturally.

This program will include specially curated tours, unique educational opportunities, and commitments to cultural preservation in the areas, and much more. We are building the Heritage Stewardship program for our homeland, but we're also doing it for you, our guests. Why?

Because we don't want you to miss what's here. What's really here. What runs deeper than stone and glass; what goes beyond fine dining and five-star accommodations.

We want you to feel the essence of Chile. Our story. We own that story. The beauty and the blemishes, the struggle and the splendor. It's all a part of who we are, and we embrace our role in telling that story... and preserving it so the next chapters can be written.

As our native son Pablo Neruda so beautifully wrote above, what we love can be so fragile, and we can forget so easily...and for so long. Through our Heritage Stewardship program, we're committed to keeping our heritage brimming with life—to remember who we are and what makes our home so special. But we can't do it without you.

We invite you to come share it with us.



THE SINGULAR HOTELS

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