



langt hús (longhouse)

Amongst the vast and vivid landscape surrounding Mývatn, emerges a silhouette reminiscent of a traditional Viking Longhouse. Expanding off the main structure, into the distance appear a series of guest houses. Drawing from the bold volcanic landscapes of the Icelandic countryside, the collection of buildings are linked together, and to the land, by the combination of contrasting light and dark natural materials.

Much like it's predecessor, this Longhouse is a structure built of a wooden frame above a stone foundation and serves as a space for groups to gather, socialize, entertain and relax. The design is composed, not of heavy timber, but of smaller, locally sourced dimensional lumber. Two rows of columns divide the space into three while simultaneously supporting the canopy, allowing the side walls to be free of structural support. Without need for exterior support, expanses of glass comprise the exterior framework of the Longhouse. The result is a floating canopy on the landscape, framing full panoramic views of the most unique and incredible natural wonder - the iconic Aurora Borealis.

To gain benefits of the Earth's constant temperature, and provide a unique vantage point, the building is sunk into the ground. In contrast to the traditional form of an Icelandic Longhouse, the roofline has been rotated to maximize views and provide a rain and snow collection strategy.

