

COOL ARCHITECTURE
DESIGNING FOR COLD CLIMATES

64 59 : HOTEL IN PATAGONIA
GERMAN DEL SOL

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Hotel in Patagonia GERMAN DEL SOL ■ West Patagonia, Chile



This hotel was designed to provide accommodation for visitors to the remote southernmost region of Chile. Located on the banks of Lake Pehuel, the hotel lies in the 300,000-acre wilderness of the Torres del Paine National Park, which is fringed with ice fields to the south.

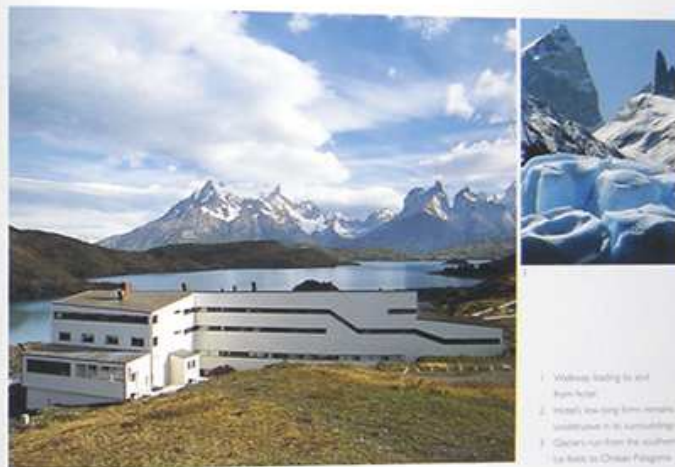
The weather conditions here can change rapidly from sun to rain to snow and the area is often exposed to strong westerly winds. During summer months, the temperature

can rise to around 82.4°F (28°C), dropping to 23°F (-5°C) at night. Throughout winter, the temperature may fall to about 30.4°F (-1°C).

As a result, special consideration was given to the building materials used for the hotel. A waterproof membrane envelope not only the roof but also the building's facade to protect against driving rain and snow. Materials also needed to be strong

enough to adapt to the dramatically changing weather conditions, and to be especially resistant to material fatigue, which such climatic changes can cause.

To combat strong prevailing winds, the building has an aerodynamic form, so that wind can stream past the hotel without undue pressure being placed on its extensive glazing. These large and prominent windows afford stunning views of the surrounding landscape and ensure ample natural lighting to the hotel's interior.



- 1 Walkway leading to and from hotel
- 2 Hotel's low lying form remains unobtrusive in its surroundings
- 3 Glacier run from the southern ice field to Torres del Paine

Torres del Paine National Park is part of the United Nations World Biosphere Reserve system, so be protected and preserved. Therefore, the architect was faced with the dual challenge to always remain sensitive to the hotel's unique environment while creating a safe and functional hotel in such a remote area.

The hotel is a low lying form designed so that it is not glimpsed at first sight and never dominates the landscape. It accommodates up to 40 visitors in 28 double rooms and has

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water, a reception, lounge, bar, and restaurant on a single open plan
level, all on the ground level, with a glass walkway. Outside,
a walkway leads down to an outdoor swimming pool, storage sheds and
rooms, and adjacent walking tracks.



1. Hotel's water glass system allows for temperature
2. Warm exterior walls in stone and brick
3. Hotel is located in the snow-capped Patagonian Alps
4. View of night
5. Dining room views overlooking lake
6. Hotel's indoor pool with multiple swimming lanes
7. Hotel's rooms are guaranteed to be warm



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