



The Macallan Distillery and Visitor Experience

Speyside



Place
Speyside, Scotland, UK

Date
2012-2018

Cost
£140 million (includes
build and production
equipment)

Size
14,800 m²

Client
Edrington

Landscape Architect
Gillespies

Services Engineer
Arup

Structural Engineer
Arup

Lighting Design
Speirs + Major

Construction Contractor
Robertson Construction
Group



Our plan for the estate includes a contemporary distillery that embodies the international style of The Macallan and builds on the brand's tradition of quality and craftsmanship

Ian Curle, Chief Executive of Edrington



The Macallan new Distillery and Visitor Experience is set into the landscape of the estate that has been responsible for creating the single malt whisky since 1824. The Macallan is already established as one of the most famous whisky makers in the world and wanted a new brand home that could reveal the production processes and welcome visitors while remaining sensitive to the beautiful surrounding countryside.

The new Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners' building provides a facility capable of increased production and also allows for easy expansion in years to come. Internally, a series of production cells are arranged in a linear format with an open-plan layout revealing all stages of the process at once. These cells are reflected above the building in the form of a gently undulating roof, formed by a timber gridshell. Grass-covered peaks rise and fall from The Macallan estate grounds, signalling to approaching visitors the activities

housed beneath. Set into the naturally sloping contours of the site, the design makes direct references to ancient Scottish earthworks.

Easter Elchies House, the Macallan spiritual home – an original 18th century Highland manor house – must remain the primary focus of the estate and so the main access to the new Visitor Experience begins near this building. The estate is as important to The Macallan as the buildings that make up the distillery and so a subtle manipulation of the terrain is used to reveal the built form and control views without appearing forced or overtly grand. The great 18th century garden designers knew the importance of flow and movement in a large landscape; that parks should be experienced on a meandering journey. The new distillery project celebrates the whisky-making process as well as the landscape that has inspired it.