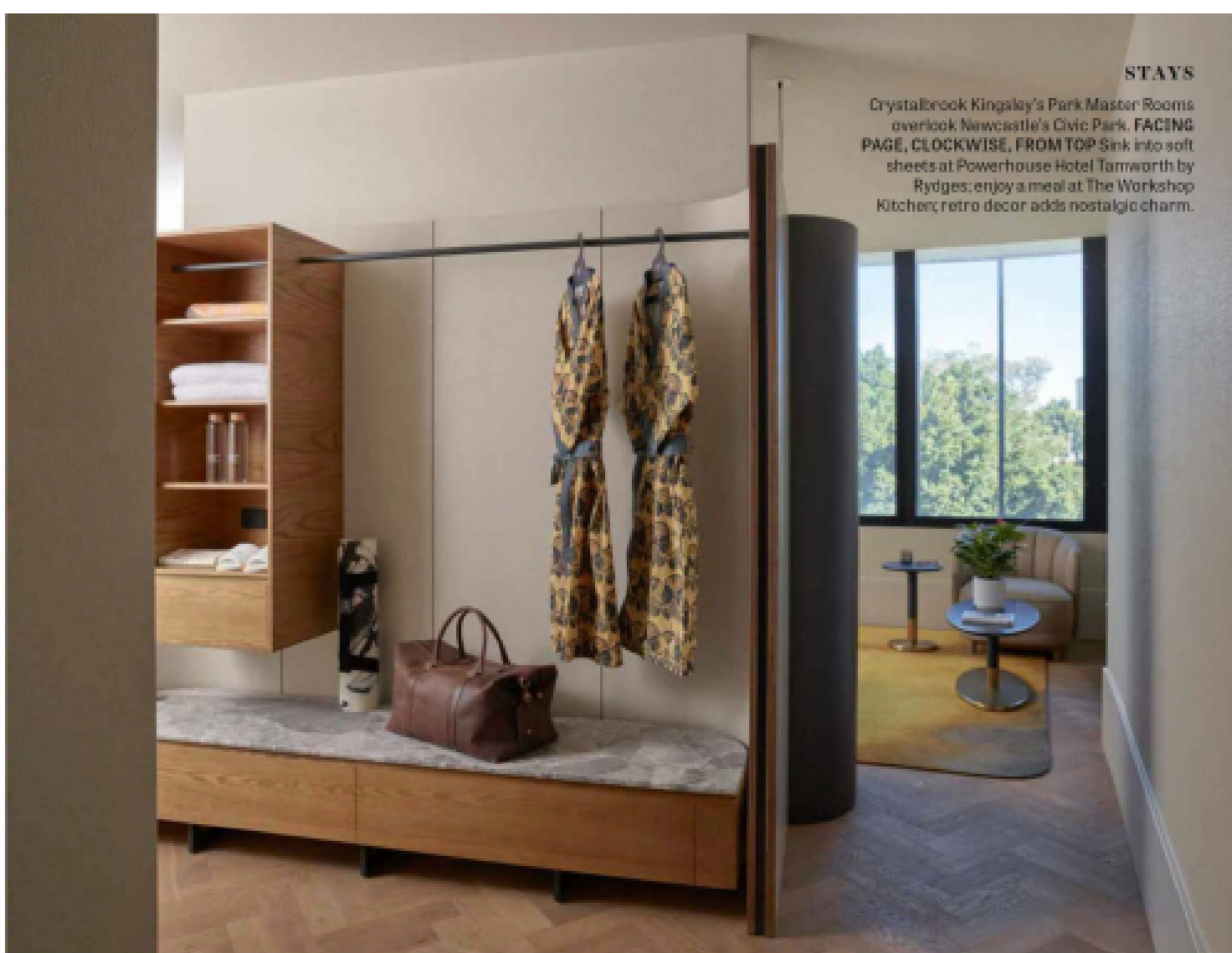


Crystalbrook Kingsley's Park Master Rooms overlook Newcastle's Civic Park. **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP** Sink into soft sheets at Powerhouse Hotel Tamworth by Rydges; enjoy a meal at The Workshop Kitchen; retro decor adds nostalgic charm.



CRYSTALBROOK KINGSLEY NEWCASTLE, NSW

Newcastle has come a long way since its beginnings as a mining town. Today, the harbour city has a thriving food and wine scene, thanks to its proximity to the Hunter Valley, and recent rise in funky bars, restaurants and cafes.

Now, Newcastle can also boast its first five-star hotel, the Crystalbrook Kingsley. The landmark Council Administration Centre – dating back to 1977 and nicknamed “The Roundhouse” by locals due to its circular shape – has been transformed into contemporary luxury accommodation.

The hotel's 130 rooms are spacious and feature stunning Indigenous floral motifs on the cushions and bathrobes. With a focus on sustainability, the hotel is also a single-use plastic-free environment.

Guests can dine at the rooftop Roundhouse restaurant, where meals are served along with panoramic city and harbour views. The restaurant is quintessentially Australian, with a focus on local, seasonal ingredients. And that includes the drinks – the Kingsley X Earp Distilling Co. Collab Olive Gin, made nearby in Newcastle, is a must-try. Visit crystalbrookcollection.com/Kingsley

SLEEP EASY

BYNG STREET BOUTIQUE HOTEL

ORANGE, NSW

Heading to Orange for a weekend of gourmet indulgence? Book a stay at the Federation-era Byng Street Boutique Hotel. Immaculately styled, the historical homestead offers luxury rooms and a sophisticated guest lounge. Visit byngstreethotel.com.au

BISHOP'S COURT ESTATE

BATHURST, NSW

The streets of Bathurst are lined with stately Victorian homes, including the elegant Bishop's Court Estate. Step from the hotel's gracious interior into its tranquil gardens and you're in another era. Visit bishopscourtestate.com.au

COAST HOUSE TASMANIA

CYGNET, TAS

This might be the world's best place to unplug and relax. Secluded on its own private peninsula, Coast House offers endless views over the Huon River. Soak it all in from the covered verandah, complete with firepit and outdoor fireplace. Visit coasthousetasmania.com

RED FEATHER INN HADSPEN, TAS

Built in 1842, this inn is brimming with historic charm. Plus, should the main accommodation be full, you can stay in a selection of other heritage buildings, including Murphett's Cottage, formerly the officers' quarters for the local jail. Visit redfeatherinn.com.au *CF*