



# The Macallan Distillery and Visitor Experience

Speyside, Scotland, UK

## Awards

2018  
Scottish Design Award

2019  
RIAS Regional Awards for Best  
Commercial Building & Special Category  
Award for Best Use of Timber Award  
RIBA Award for Scotland



**Location**  
Speyside, Scotland, UK

**Date**  
2012-2018

**Client**  
Edrington

**Cost**  
£140 million (includes build and production equipment)

**Size**  
14,800m<sup>2</sup>

**Structural Engineer**  
Arup

**Services Engineer**  
Arup

**Landscape Architect**  
Gillespies

**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



Macallan has been making single malt whisky since 1824 and The Macallan Distillery and Visitor Centre is a building designed to allow for easy expansion and increased production 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.

The cells are reflected above the building in the form of a 13620m<sup>2</sup> gently undulating green roof formed by a timber gridshell which covers the whole site and embeds the building in a native wildflower meadow. Set into the naturally sloping contours of the site, the design makes direct reference to ancient Scottish earthworks and blends the building as much as possible within the surrounding natural landscape, while maximising the opportunities for species diversity and habitat creation.

The client was committed to reducing operational energy and embodied carbon and the distillery is powered by renewable electricity backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin, (REGOs); by Renewable Gas

Guarantees of Origin (RGGO); by biomethane, instead of natural gas, and from on-site biomass which uses the waste product from the mashing process known as 'draff', and an additional local biomass plant. Waste heat from the production process supplies hot water and underfloor heating to the Visitor Centre via heat exchangers and all the cooling water extracted from the local River Spey for condensing the spirit is returned to the river, a process which is constantly monitored by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, (SEPA).

By doing this, all electricity and 90% of heating demands in the production facility come from renewable sources. The result in upfront carbon figures of 585 kgCo<sub>2e</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> (stages A1-A5, B4) is significantly lower when compared to a standard production facility.

The Macallan Distillery project is a clear example of using a nature-based system to enhance biodiversity; a project which celebrates the whisky-making process while respecting the landscape that has inspired it.