

sleeper

HOTEL DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & ARCHITECTURE

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ISSUE 40 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012



PIGGING OUT
A COUNTRY HOUSE
HOTEL WITH A TWIST

CHIC & UNIQUE
MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S
NEW PARIS PROPERTY

45 PARK LANE
AN ART DECO GEM FROM
THIERRY W. DESPONT

INGE MOORE • MARTINHAL VILLAGE • RADISSON EDWARDIAN GUILDFORD • HOTEL ICON - HONG KONG



Hotel Indigo

Glasgow

Words: Catherine Martin Photography: Courtesy of IHG (unless otherwise stated)

Highly commended at the European Hotel Design Awards 2011, Hotel Indigo has been designed by Ica Architects and Ica Interiors to pay tribute to its industrial past.

Since its launch 2004, Hotel Indigo has aspired to combine the individuality of a boutique hotel with the consistency and reliability of a brand. Having made its mark in the US with 33 properties in operation and a further 42 in the pipeline (as of November 2011), InterContinental Hotels Group have taken the concept international.

Hotel Indigo Glasgow – the third property to open in the UK as part of an expansion plan that lists Birmingham, York, Newcastle and Edinburgh in its pipeline – adheres to brand criteria by being located in an urban centre close to businesses, restaurants and entertainment venues. As the brand dictates, every Hotel Indigo is individual in its design. Each building that has been transformed into a Hotel Indigo has been carefully chosen to reflect the heritage of not just a building but a city. And while standards don't dictate the number or size of rooms in a property making it ideally suited to conversions, a significant amount of renovation had to be undertaken at Hotel Indigo Glasgow. Ica Architects transformed the disused office building that once housed the city's first electric power station through the addition of a fifth floor extension that increased the number of guestrooms by 25 per cent, and removal of the central staircase to make the public ►

PREVIOUS PAGE: Ica Architects transformed a disused office building that once housed the city's first electric power station through the addition of a fifth floor extension THIS PAGE: The Indigo Room is a 34m² open plan living area and bedroom



► areas more accessible. In addition, the Art Deco black granite frontage was altered to create two new entrances with revolving doors providing a greater sense of arrival.

Despite the challenges faced with renovation, Ica's efforts paid off when they were shortlisted and subsequently highly commended at the European Hotel Design Awards in the category Architecture of the Year: Conversion of an Existing Non-Hotel Building to Hotel Use.

Working alongside, sister company Ica Interiors was commissioned to create an experience that was truly reflective of the building's past and local community.

"Built in 1892, the building on Waterloo Street was originally the Glasgow Electric Lighting Station just ten years after Thomas

Edison first patented his electric distribution system and electric light bulb in America," explains Ica Director Chris Fegan. "It was the hub for electricity distribution in the city and as such literally lit up Glasgow. The design brief was to capture the building's historical significance, represent this in the finished hotel and perhaps help light up an area of Glasgow which badly needed a high quality boutique hotel to service the influx of business travellers drawn to the area by Glasgow's growing financial district," he continues.

The building's rich history is the inspiration behind the design with existing period features retained and restored to provide a backdrop to the modern yet classically influence interiors. "Bright and bold colours

which have become a recognisable element of the Indigo brand are found throughout the hotel," comments Fegan. "The bedrooms continue this theme marrying classical detailing with contemporary furniture and fittings."

Bespoke digital wallcoverings depicting local architectural sites feature throughout the guestrooms and give a sense of place, while casegoods by Houghtons and Select Contract Furniture are unique to the hotel. Rooms also feature 32-inch flatscreen TVs, iPod docking station, and complimentary Wi Fi along with walk-in rainfall shower and Aveda toiletries in the pod-constructed bathroom. In addition to the 93 Executive, Superior and Deluxe rooms, The Indigo Room is a 34m² corner suite with views of the city and open plan ►



LEFT: Limelight Bar & Grill features furniture by Protocol and Morgan, metallic silver pendants by Chelsom, and artwork by 25 of the city's leading artists focusing on entertainers and personalities that have shaped the cultural history of Glasgow **ABOVE:** Guestrooms marry classical detailing with contemporary furniture and fittings

► living and bedroom space.

Hotel Indigo's F&B offering, Limelight Bar & Grill, is once again locally inspired in both its décor and fare. The bistro-style dishes combine locally sourced ingredients while the cocktail list features concoctions resurrected from Glasgow's days gone by.

Ica Interiors has complemented the period features and hardwood flooring with armchairs, bar stools and banquettes by Protocol and Morgan Furniture upholstered in hot pinks and citrus lime. The bespoke Chelsom-manufactured pendants hanging over the tables are based on the 'Welcome' collection and feature metallic silver outer shades with coloured pongee linings.

The restaurant's masterpiece is its artwork. With Glasgow School of Art being the first

building to be illuminated by the Electric Lighting Station, Ica commissioned 25 of the city's leading artists to create works focusing on entertainers and personalities that have shaped the cultural history of Glasgow over the last one hundred years. Unique to this property, the artwork stays true to Hotel Indigo's criteria of creating hotels that reflect the local culture, character and geography of the surrounding area.

As sister companies collaborating on the project, Ica Architects and Ica Interiors have been able to create a seamless flow of spaces throughout the hotel. Concludes Fegan: "The simple fact that we are all in the same office and constantly interacting enabled us to deliver a co-ordinated service which was a perfect fit for this complex project." ■

EXPRESS CHECKOUT

Hotel Indigo Glasgow
75 Waterloo Street
Glasgow G2 7DA
Scotland
Tel: +44 (0)141 226 7700
<http://hotelindigoglasgow.com>

94 guestrooms
Limelight Bar & Grill
Fitness Suite

Owner: Chardon Management
Operator: Hotel Indigo
Architect: Ica Architects
Designers: Ica Interiors
Principal Contractor: Bowmer & Kirkland Ltd
FF&E Co-ordinator: Chardon Management