



**A**fter almost three years, and at a cost estimated at £220 million, London's iconic Savoy Hotel reopened on 10th October after what is probably the most intensive hotel refurbishment project in history.

Built by theatre impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte, the Savoy opened on 6th August 1889. London's first luxury hotel, it featured both electric lights and electric lifts and was also to later pioneer en-suite bathrooms.

It attracted a stellar list of guests including Bob Dylan, Charlie Chaplin, Vivien Leigh, Errol Flynn, Katharine Hepburn, Laurence Olivier, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando and Marilyn Monroe; while Noël Coward, George Bernard Shaw and HG Wells were all regulars at the hotel's American Bar.

When it came to refurbishing the guest bedrooms, designer Pierre-Yves Rochon's main job was to untangle the mix of Edwardian and art deco styles that had evolved over the years. Now guests can choose one or the other. The 94 art deco rooms have cream tones, period maple furniture, murano glass chandeliers, and black and white marble bathrooms; while the 174 Edwardian rooms have rich floral bedding and curtains. No expense has been spared in their makeover, delivered at a cost approaching £800,000 per room.

Much of the investment has gone into building services - fire sprinklers, plumbing, electrics and air-conditioning - as well as the removal of asbestos and under-pinning of the hotel's early 20th Century riverside wall.

The main reception area has been transformed with a new marble floor, white marble columns and the removal of check-in desks. There is also a new colour scheme of white and celadon, a light green that is used extensively throughout the hotel.

At the centre of the hotel, the Thames Foyer now boasts a new cupola, modelled on the original. Next door is the dramatic black and gold Beaufort Bar.

## London landmark is restored to former glory

*The Floor Warming Company has played a significant role in the £220 million refurbishment of the Savoy Hotel, reports TSJ.*



**Top left: The instantly recognisable main entrance to the Savoy Hotel.**

**Above: One of the new art deco bathrooms, featuring black and white marble floors laid over The Floor Warming Company's electric UFH system, shown below**



As well as the five new bedrooms created in the space formerly occupied by offices - bringing the total up to 268 - the most significant addition is the 311sq metre Royal Suite which occupies the whole of the fifth floor river frontage.

Work started in January 2008 and was originally scheduled to complete in May 2009, but due to complications discovered once work had commenced, plus an upgraded specification, a new date of 10.10.10 was set.

To meet this revised deadline, main contractor: Chorus has been working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with up to 200 people regularly working nights. The team has included fibrous plaster specialists and up to 300 specialist decorators.

One of the specialist sub-contractors was The Floor Warming Company who has installed its electric under floor heating mat system in over 80 bathrooms, including the Royal Suite.

Richard Bevan, Technical Director, explains why the company's products are frequently specified on these flagship projects: "It's simple. If an architect wants the best, and the safest, systems on the market they come to us. We back up our quality with an installation service and 14 years of technical know-how. Whether selling in store or installing the mats on a large or small project we have a proven track record, when it comes to quality and safety nothing comes close."

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