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Inspiring Hospitality Design

Lighting-up London's



hot spots



St Pancras Renaissance Hotel



Gilbert Scott Restaurant, St Pancras

Lighting is one of the unsung heroes of hotel interiors; it is an essential force in creating atmosphere whilst bespoke lighting installations are frequently commissioned to enhance the identity of a hotel brand. Working with architects and interior designers, **CTO lighting** has collaborated on some of the most illustrious hospitality projects over the last twenty years. As a luxury interiors brand it has a reputation for creating high quality, hand finished, British made products. They are seen as one of the go-to specialists for bespoke lighting for many of the world's leading hotels.

Founded by **Chris and Clare Turner**, CTO Lighting is newly headquartered in Islington, North London within a converted listed building where they also have a new showroom. Having spent years honing their craft; and creating their own Studio collections as well as working with a small coterie of established designers their ranges use materials such as solid brass, copper, silk, hand-fritted and hand-blown glass. As a trained engineer Chris Turner has an eye for detail that can be seen in his brilliantly executed designs; so too the impeccable finishes and an understanding of scale which all combine to make it a company that is easy to partner with on large interior projects and fit outs.

Knowing that good lighting has transformative powers - quite significantly in hotel interiors, where ambiance, form and function are key to the success of a project and show-stopping bespoke lighting installations can literally become star of the show - 5* hotel projects almost demand the use of these unique designs. >



The Rosewood Hotel, London

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Global interior design superstars, Tony Chi Associates, designed the interior of the London Rosewood and needed to specify a range of lights for several areas of the hotel: the front entrance, the Mirror room and the now famous Rose bronze Gallery. In addition they had to work with the constraints of a listed building and the emergency lighting system. It was a time sensitive project and they was given four months to produce the lights in accordance with a very strict brief, as Chris Turner explains “We were given a set of drawings by the designer, who was extremely discerning, no detail too small but with a no-expense spared budget it allowed us to use the very best materials available.”. They used a combination of Italian woven leather, French mesh copper alongside glass and metal, which added more than a touch of glamour to the overall effect.



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“A deeply complex project” is how Chris Turner described the Gilbert Scott Restaurant in St Pancras. The giant bell-shaped lights which measure 900mm x 1000mm each, are part of two sets of six cascading “bells” floating high above the diners using incandescent bulbs to maximum effect. The lights could not weigh more than 100 kilos in total, due to the restrictions of the listed building’s ceiling, so they needed to be made from glass fibre and painted to look like antiqued bronze, rather than use metal. They had the added pressure of installing the bells in a short time frame over the Christmas period. Designed by David Collins Studio, it was a lesson in design engineering and the interior designers were “fastidious about the detailing with every millimeter being accounted for” according to Chris. With no room for error, it was an expensive project that proved so effective in this sensitive interior scheme.



The Chiltern Firehouse

Still reigning supreme amongst the glitterati and possibly the most infamous of all London hotels with its Michelin starred chef **Nuno Mendez** restaurant and its famous bar, The Chiltern Firehouse is a byword for popularity. Three lights were designed specifically for this project: A bronzed brass shade pendant that worked as an uplighter; Mouth-blown reeded glass spheres centred around a delicate bronzed brass frame used as pendants and a series of bronzed brass wall sconces with cotton shades to diffuse the light. CTO Lighting was commissioned directly by the owner **André Balazs** and procurement agency **Studio KO** whilst working alongside lighting design supremos Isometrix. The one stipulation was the use of incandescent bulbs throughout the scheme, to enhance and reflect the homey, vintage style interior with its mahogany walls and old world sense of style. With its characteristic use of quality materials including

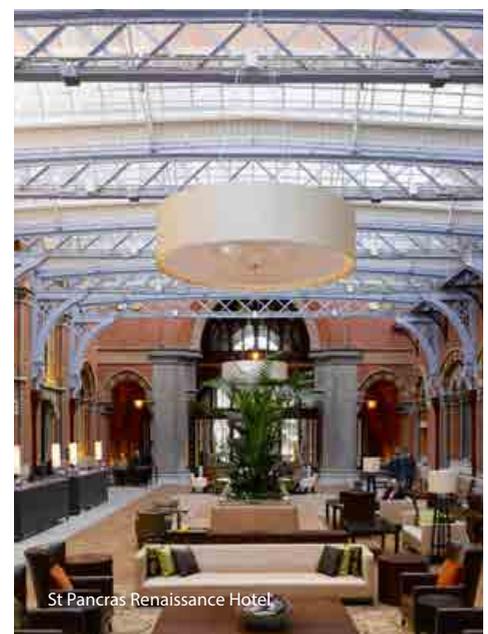
glass and metal, they created a journey of timeless designs throughout the different areas of the hotel whilst ensuring consistency and integrity with the interior.

St Pancras Renaissance Hotel

Multi-award winning hotel interior designers, **GA**, commissioned lighting for the bar and restaurant area of the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel. Extra large round and long light drum pendants are suspended majestically in the cavernous space. The pendants were finished in dove grey silk (with a durable white lining) and opal diffusers. Each shade was made by hand by skilled artisans in the UK.

We are grateful to CTO Lighting for writing this article for GS Magazine.

To find out more about their work and their projects please contact +44 (0)20 7686 8706 or visit www.ctolighting.co.uk



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