



► bottled water system, Vivreau. And there are no heated towel rails, with Latif claiming that the additional 2.5W energy consumption per room would have killed the entire concept.

Latif came across the boomerang-shaped building, originally designed by James Burland as part of the Falcon Wharf development in Battersea, and set about creating a hotel that would have minimal environmental impact without compromising on luxury, quality or comfort. Latif employed the services of design firm Latis for the planning, architectural design, and interior specification working closely with them as co-designer.

The hotel features 65 “smart” guestrooms, 15 apartments, seven riverside suites, two restaurants with indoor and outdoor dining, a champagne bar, lounge, and organic spa

with gym and pool, in addition to flexible meeting and conference space. Guestrooms are generously-sized (categorised as Big, Bigger, Even Bigger and Biggest) with the largest measuring up to 700ft². Each features floor-to-ceiling windows to take advantage of the natural daylight, and combines rich materials with fully recycled Hypnos beds and furniture crafted from sustainable timber.

Whilst some would say that the transportation of the bespoke, Latis-designed furniture from Pakistan does not constitute as being green, Krishan Pattni, Design Director at Latis argues that the concept is about finding a balance: “Being green is a challenging ethos to incorporate into a luxury hotel product. To overcome this we focused on a balanced approach that involved highlighting the key

areas of the design where the most significant impact can be achieved.

“We looked at the most effective way to introduce the concept within the context of a commercial project... finding a more cost effective means to procure the furniture has allowed the owner to invest more in sustainable technology.”

Reducing energy consumption through cutting-edge technology has been the main focus of the hotel. Partnering with global electronics giant Philips, Rafayel has become one of the first hotels to adopt a strategy to minimise its environmental impact through the proactive use of low emissions technology, setting a benchmark for future luxury hotels. The halogen-free, all-Philips solution has apparently attracted the attentions of other ►