



► hotel developers and architects, keen to see its use of sustainable methods. But the numbers speak for themselves. Utilising Philips' fifth generation lighting, the latest advances in LED technology, the collaboration has produced an impressive 80% reduction in energy consumption. According to an energy audit carried out by Philips, this will translate to a cost saving of almost £130,000 per year. LED spotlights are used in the bathrooms, whilst lamps by Lirio (owned by Philips) feature in the bedroom and lounge area. Colour-changing LEDs are used behind the 13m long curved glass counter in the bar, as well as on the façade, to transform the building at night. Philips has even installed jetlag recovery panels with chromatherapy light in each of the seven executive suites.

The hotel is serviced by a closed air conditioning system designed with heat recovery technology to retain heat from the

exhaust air and re-use this to heat fresh air being drawn into the building. In this way the system collects natural heat produced by solar gain and guest occupation reducing overall heating loads.

A rainwater harvesting system forms an integral part of the project, as does VDA's micromaster room automation technology used to control lighting and temperature within the rooms. The interface also allows guests to monitor their own energy usage through the latest Philips Aurea and Ambilight TVs.

After a £25m investment, the real challenge for Latif now is to deliver the eco-luxury design to the guest. Whether this concept will become a blueprint for the future, or fall by the wayside as the systems prove too costly for the international hotel groups with thousands of rooms on their books remains to be seen. Only time will tell. But those involved in the creation of new hotels ought to take note. ■

EXPRESS CHECKOUT

Rafayel on the Left Bank
34 Lombard Rd, London, SW11 3RF, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7801 3600
Web: www.hotelrafayel.com

➤ 65 guestrooms
🍷 Banyan in the Thames, Left Bank Brasserie, MyChelle's Baketique
🍹 Crystal Bar
🧘 River Wellbeing Spa, Gym
+ Event space

Developer / Owner: Iqbal Latif
Architectural Designers: Latis
Contractor: EAD Ltd
M&E Consultant: Eng Design Ltd
Structural Consultants: R.C.A Structures Ltd