CASE STUDY RAFFLES LONDON AT THE OWO



The OWO, a Grade II* listed Edwardian baroque landmark completed in 1906, has been transformed into an outstanding placemaking destination that now includes the luxurious Raffles London at The OWO and 85 exclusive Raffles residences.



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THE SOLUTION

Philip Payne supplied bespoke lighting solutions to Raffles London at The OWO, particularly its Mini Cylinder (250FC) range and custom fittings, to address the unique challenges presented by the building's diverse spaces.

The team worked closely with EPR Architects, engineering consultants and construction contractors to ensure every aspect of the lighting design met both aesthetic and safety requirements. Cameron Cole, project lead at Philip Payne, explains some of the challenges the business was able to overcome during this unique project.



Q: What were the main challenges in designing the emergency lighting system for this historic building?

A: The main challenge was creating a lighting system that would be virtually invisible under normal conditions yet provide clear guidance in emergencies. We had to match colours, create custom mounting solutions, and find innovative ways to meet safety standards without altering the building's unique character.

Q: How did you approach the diverse interior spaces of the OWO?

A: We utilised a variety of products to suit each area's specific needs. Our 250MC mini-cylinder ranges were used throughout the building, with rod lengths varying to accommodate different ceiling heights. The 250MC model provided additional flexibility in mounting options, and we designed a special 250FC fitting specifically for this project to meet unique requirements in certain spaces..

Q: Were there any particularly complex areas to work with?

A: The swimming pool area with its spiral staircase presented a significant challenge. Through collaborative problem-solving with EPR Architects and other parties, we devised a solution that slightly altered the escape route, allowing for discreet signage placement without compromising safety. Our custom-designed 250FC fitting played a crucial role in addressing this unique challenge.

Q: How important was colour matching in this project?

A: Colour matching was crucial to ensure our fixtures blended seamlessly with the existing decor. When presented with a doorknob as a colour reference, our team successfully recreated an English antique finish in our factory in Solihull. This attention to detail was essential in preserving the building's timeless elegance while incorporating modern safety features.

Q: How did collaboration contribute to the project's success?

A: Collaboration was key to this project's success. We worked closely with EPR Architects, the engineering consultants and construction contractors throughout the five-year duration of the project. This involved numerous on-site consultations, allowing for real-time problemsolving and refinement of solutions. Our handson approach ensured that every aspect of the lighting design met both aesthetic and safety requirements. "Our approach was to create a lighting system that would be virtually invisible under normal conditions yet provide clear guidance in emergencies. The key was in the details – matching colours, creating custom mounting solutions, and working closely with the architects and engineers to find innovative ways to meet safety standards without altering the building's character."

Cameron Cole, Philip Payne

"For nearly a decade, our hospitality team played a pivotal role as architect on the repurposing of The OWO. We are immensely proud to see our passion, dedication and hard work come to fruition. Transforming this purpose-built fortress, with its immense scale and complexity, into a welcoming premises has been a collaboration like no other – and one of our most challenging yet equally rewarding projects."

Geoff Hull, Board Director, EPR Architects

LUMINAIRES USED



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