

**PRESS RELEASE: Rydges Kensington Plaza Hotel Refurbishment works**

**DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2010**

Rydges Kensington Plaza Hotel, London is to undergo a comprehensive multi million pound refurbishment programme which will reposition itself as a four star deluxe hotel in keeping with the prestigious Kensington location.

The hotel has a history that stretches back to 1789 when Edward Lee of Brompton purchased the tenancy of a small copy hold estate of the manor. He owned 6 acres of land from the east corner of Gloucester Road to Old Brompton Road. Houses were built in the 1820's by William Blake who was a brick layer, it was he who built the house which is now Rydges Kensington Plaza Hotel. The main rooms for the families were located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor where they had afternoon tea and painted in the high ceiling rooms with large windows. The stair cases were invariably of stone decorated with iron balusters. Service rooms were confined to the basement, accessed from the street by stone steps for housekeepers and butlers.

The refurbishment commencing in January 2011 is designed to bring the hotel into the 21st century, equipping it to serve its guests for many years to come. The character of Rydges Kensington Plaza Hotel will be preserved by the retention of its well-known features.

The contract for project management and interior design was awarded to Trevillion Interiors who have a proven track record for hotel refurbishments and conversions in the UK.

Trevillion Interiors have been involved in the development of the refurbishment plans for the past 18 months, planning the configuration of new accommodation rooms, the development of a new fitness areas as well as the new restaurant, bar and conference facilities.

The refurbishment will be completed in September 2011 with 81 fully refurbished, luxuriously decorated bedrooms. Previously the hotel had 90 bedrooms, so fewer rooms will produce more spacious accommodation. The older, dated room décor will be replaced and all rooms will have state-of-the art ensuite facilities. The design of the rooms will include new bathroom fittings, wardrobe layouts and updated furniture configuration, as well as both wired and WiFi internet connection in each room and public areas of the hotel.

The two guest lifts will be refurbished and designed to match the new hotel decor.

A guest gymnasium will be introduced on the lower ground floor of the hotel.

The hotel will also inaugurate a new bar and hotel restaurant to rival any other in London.

The renovated hotel will be able to accommodate conferences and events for up to 90 and a variety of eight seater boardrooms all with natural light will also be available.

## Programme

The hotel will remain open during the refurbishment programme which will be carried out in stages as detailed below:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> of January to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 - Refurbishment of all accommodation rooms on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the hotel.
- 7<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April - Refurbishment of Polo Bar, Public Toilets.
- 14<sup>th</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 - Refurbishment of all accommodation rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> floors of the hotel.
- 4<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2011 - Refurbishment of the hotel reception (temporary reception in the Atrium Lounge)
- 9<sup>th</sup> May to the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 - Refurbishment of the hotel's Restaurant, with temporary relocation to the Atrium Lounge.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May to the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 - Refurbishment of all accommodation rooms on the ground floor and lower ground floors of the hotel.
- Lower ground floor building works will include a hotel gymnasium and a number of syndicate conference rooms all offering natural light.
- 4<sup>th</sup> July to 1 September, 2010 – Refurbishment of the Atrium Lounge into a purpose built conference facility with natural light and state of the art audio visual technology.

## Impact & Hours of Work

Building works will take place during the following hours:

9am – 6pm Weekdays

10am- 5pm Saturday and Sunday

\*Subject to change

Please note that no accommodation rooms will be affected by any form of scaffolding.

Regular updates and images will be distributed throughout the refurbishment works.

Rydges Kensington Plaza Hotel is managed by the Australian Hotel Group, Rydges Hotels and Resorts.

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