



# LOUNGING IN LUXURY

Award-winning interior designer Heterarchy works its magic on the Regency Hotel in South Kensington.

The new luxury lounge at the South Kensington Regency Hotel is something of a marvel. 'It was previously the gym' says Tony Matters of Heterarchy. 'It had fully-tiled walls and a Jacuzzi tub in the centre of the room.'

To look at the space now, you wouldn't know that it was once a gym, nor that the space was transformed on a modest budget. It has been finished to an extremely high standard, with walls covered in stretch fabrics, rich wood veneers or smooth surface finishes and folding panels to reflect its different uses – breakfast in the morning, a workspace for guests during the day and a relaxing lounge and bar area in the evenings. So how did Heterarchy do it?

'We developed ways for lining the walls

The self-service counter with integral pull-out bar

without removing any of the old tiles – this included two layers of fabric which are lit using concealed LED lighting. Other walls are lined with veneered panels in walnut, while some are simply lined with mdf and painted.'

Functionality has also been designed into the room, reflecting its multi-purpose use. The self-service counter has a fully staffed pull-out bar for guests in the evening, and there are discreetly-located power points for laptop charging. Close attention has been paid to the acoustic performance of the space – the use of multi-layered fabric on the walls plus a separate snug area all help to reduce airborne noise. 'A lot of thought went in to every single element of the scheme' says Matter.

The experience was also a learning curve for Heterarchy. 'We learnt a tremendous amount in a short space of time about operational requirements and practical considerations' adds Matter. 'Designing within tight cost constraints was both challenging and enjoyable.'

The end result is testament to Heterarchy's thought and application. It also gains approval from the client. 'We're delighted with the end result' says Harish Patel, owner of the Regency. 'It sits well with the historic fabric of our hotel. It feels like such a special place to be.' **hl**

**Heterarchy** 0116 283 2342  
**Regency Hotel** 0207 373 7878