



Thistle Hotel

Bloomsbury, London

Situated in the heart of London, the Edwardian style Thistle Hotel in Bloomsbury is one of the city's most prominent hotels. Owned by CIT, a private real estate company, the building recently underwent extensive refurbishment to continue offering its guests excellent service and comfort. As part of this renovation, the latest in climate control technology from Daikin UK was installed.

The hotel has a selection of 95 bedrooms, including family and interconnecting rooms, as well as meeting suites and a popular cellar bar. It was essential that the temperature control system of the building could manage the varying needs of these areas whilst ensuring energy efficiency. With an unusual building structural design following various extensions and changes of use and configuration over the years, plus space constraints and varied usage, the replacement system also had to be versatile.

The Thistle Bloomsbury first installed Daikin air conditioning in 1997 and has worked with the company ever since. With the ability to create a solution that would meet the demands of the challenging building, and following years of reliable performance and a good working relationship, mechanical, electrical and plumbing consultancy, RHB Partnership recommended Daikin UK for the major refurbishment project.

To meet the Thistle Hotel Bloomsbury criteria, the new system had to be carefully tailored. As the hotel was to remain operational throughout installation, the system had to be installed with the least possible disruption to guests, meaning

that it had to be capable of being fitted floor by floor. Also as not all rooms were large enough for ceiling concealed fittings, the system had to be versatile enough to work in conjunction with wall and ducted units.

CIT, the building owners, also specified that the solution had to be capable of delivering unparalleled energy savings and be as environmentally friendly as possible whilst offering reliability and cost efficiency. Finally, the system had to provide easily and centrally managed comfort for guests whilst allowing them to control the temperature of their own rooms.

Solution:

A bespoke solution was provided by Daikin UK that was centred around its award-winning VRV III technology. Featuring external units of up to 54hp, the design flexible system is ideal for meeting the demands of larger structures, especially those that are internally complex such as the Thistle Bloomsbury. Meeting all relevant planning regulations and requirements, the system also features superb energy efficiency in line with client expectations.



To ensure that each area of the hotels – 95 rooms, meeting rooms, bar and restaurant along with administration areas - would be heated and cooled adequately, Daikin's Intelligent Touch Controller was also installed. Unique throughout Europe, the touchscreen computer allows building temperature to be carefully controlled either at the unit or remotely via the internet. With additional units in each of the rooms, guests are able to control the climate of their suites to meet their needs. The Intelligent Touch Controller allows energy use to be carefully monitored, and can automatically switch heating on or off when guests check in or out of their rooms, further aiding efficiency as energy is not wasted heating or cooling vacant rooms.

Importantly for energy efficiency and guest comfort, the system can be easily managed to ensure that temperature control is directed to where it is needed most within the building. This intelligent control offers a minimum of wastage and guarantees that customers are kept in comfort during their stay at the hotel.

The VRVIII Heat Recovery System from Daikin was selected for its supremely low energy consumption and ability to offer massive savings in comparison with similar systems. To provide simple management of the system, Daikin's Intelligent Touch Controller was integrated into the building management system, allowing central temperature control and pre-programmed functions.

Daikin provided ducted units and wall mounted units for the bedrooms that could not accommodate ceiling units. These discrete units allowed for temperature control without noise disturbance and provide the most efficient method of installing the system within the building.

The Conclusion

The new system meets all of the hotel's requirements and through careful planning and consideration has provided an efficient method of installing new climate control system in a building with numerous structural constraints. Offering low maintenance thanks to the VRV III ability to run diagnostic checks, such as monitoring refrigerant levels, at the click of a button, the new system also delivers savings in time and servicing costs.

"We have worked closely with Daikin UK on many projects over the years and are familiar with its systems," said Mr. John Reilly of the RHB Partnership. "In the case of the Bloomsbury Thistle it was the flexibility of the products that allowed us to install new air conditioning floor by floor with the minimum of disruption to the hotel, which continued to remain open during the refurbishment."

The project marked a successful venture for all of the involved parties. Hotel management were especially pleased with the ease with which the project was completed and the comfort that it could afford residents and visitors. For Daikin UK and the RHB Partnership, the scheme was another example of a logistically and technically complex project completed to brief with careful specification of products and professional experience.

