

# WFC scoop NAS



At this years NAS Design Partnership Awards ceremony, **WFC** was awarded winner of the Leisure category. **Can Faik** speaks to **WFC**, about the award winning, The Delaunay project...

**H**aving been shortlisted for the NAS Design Partnership Awards three times previously, including a runner-up slot for Manchester 235 in 2007, leisure-industry fit-out contractors WFC were delighted to pick up a Winner's award in 2012, for their work with David Collins Studios at The Delaunay.

For WFC, the award was endorsement of its philosophy that the role of a successful fit-out contractor is to support the objectives of its clients and their designers. WFC is not content with its current reputation as a professional contractor with a personal touch, but is always striving to be the contractor of choice for clients and employees alike.

WFC were introduced to the Delaunay project by Keytask Project Management, with whom they had worked at Babylon on the 7th floor of Kensington Roof Gardens, and Lutyens Grill in Fleet Street. WFC were appointed as main contractor after they had successfully bid for the work in a competitive tender.

The project was an attractive proposition for WFC, as it met all the criteria of the projects we love working on: respected clients, a renowned designer, a high profile location and the opportunity to showcase what we are capable of. With a 30 year track record, WFC has

**We are extremely happy to have won this award: we recognise the quality in our work, as do our clients, but it's nice that the industry also does.  
Onwards and upwards!**

**Steve Howle, Managing Director**

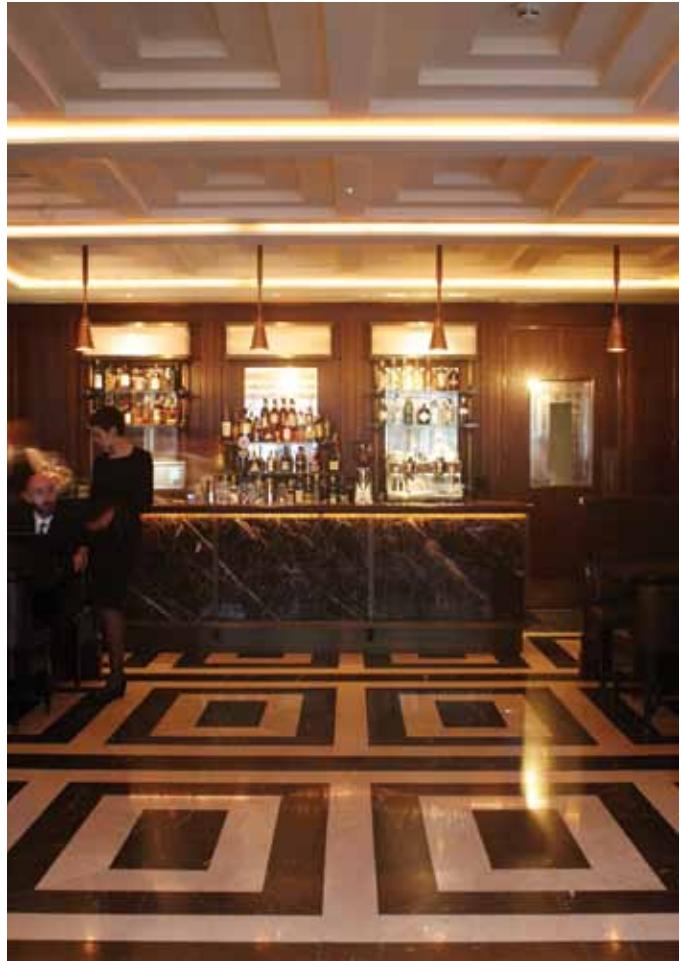
the expertise and resources to complete complex refurbishment and fit-out contracts to a high standard, working with our clients to make the best use of their budgets. We also pride ourselves on our ability to complete fit-outs and refurbishments in challenging timescales.

The WFC team was on site for 20 weeks, partly due to the extensive services installations required to service the huge kitchens. With the plant space on the roof 10 floors above the restaurant, this was a significant logistical challenge as it involved accessing the risers at each level, where the floors were occupied by other tenants.

Part of WFC's responsibility was to take on a design co-ordination role. This entailed overlaying all aspects of the design from the architect, interior designer, services, catering and other sub-contractors, to ensure compatibility. With over 700 contract drawings from design team consultants and key supply chain sub-contractors, such as Hills of Shoesburyness who supplied the majority of the high quality joinery work that can be seen within the venue, it was essential that all parties were working together. WFC adopted a "partnership" approach to ensure that this happened.

Development of the detailed design was a time-consuming process. The requirements of the client and their designers were understandably very

# award in 2012



exacting, and sympathetic integration of the services into the scheme was a demanding task requiring both creativity and patience.

As with any project of this scale, there was always going to be an element of design evolution. With several parties having an influence, this was one of the more challenging aspects of this particular project and managing this process was critical to the successful outcome of the project.

The project was headed up by Managing Director Steve Howle and managed by Contract Manager Nick Moffat. Steve Hudspeth was responsible for day-to-day management of the site, including co-ordination and supervision of up to 60 tradesmen and sub-contractors at any one time.

The success of the project, and the partnership between WFC and David Collins Studios, can be judged by the fact that the team went on to deliver Zedel (Piccadilly) and Colbert (Sloane Square) for the same client, who commented :

"There can be no greater testimonial for WFC than the fact that we are on our third project with them – builders are not often invited back!... It is not just that you can trust them, that they deliver when they say they will, that they respect budgets and that their work is excellent – it is the added pleasure of having a builder who understands our business and also the meaning of customer service". (Jeremy King – Rex Restaurant Associates).



From left to right: Steve Howle (WFC), Jeremy King (Rex Restaurants), Shayne Brady (David Collins Studios)