

HOTEL GUEST ROOM

Armour Hotel



Armour Hotel is the latest brain child of Armour Home - one of Europe's leading distributors & manufacturers of AV and home entertainment products. Armour Hotel has been established to work with designers, consulting engineers and installers to provide home-away-from-home entertainment systems specifically for hotels. AV equipment is simply plugged into a wall socket and the contents can be enjoyed in any area by using a remote control or keypad. All wires are completely hidden from view and sound is pumped through discreet in-ceiling speakers. Armour, 01279 5901111 www.armourhotel.co.uk

Tonik at the Millennium Hotel, Chelsea Football Club



Tonik recently designed two state-of-the-art, contemporary penthouses for long stay guests at the Millennium & Cophorne Hotels at Chelsea Football Club, Stamford Bridge. The Chelsea Suites combine cutting edge technology with high-end interior styling associated to a premiership side. CS Contract Furniture supplied bespoke furniture pieces for the project. Tel: 02079407150 www.tonikdesign.co.uk

Benson Karim

Founded in 2007, Benson Karim are based in South London. Small but highly skilled, the team are able to produce several hundred frames a month.

Upon entering the premises of master-framers, Benson Karim Ltd, you see that every piece of wall space is adorned with grand round frames and hand-cast convex mirrors, some spanning 6 feet across, at varying stages of completion. You search for the tools, and craftsmen, required to make these beautiful works of art, but instead you see large pieces of whirring hi-tech machinery.

Ben Bendien and Dr Neil Watson, founders of Benson Karim understand the inspiration behind their innovative frame making technology, and of course the technology itself - an example of ingenious knowledge-transfer, which is set to make a profound and immediate effect on the industry.

"My sole aim has always been to retain the highest quality of product whilst reducing costs through the use of technology" says Bendien, an art engineer with over 30 years' experience.

Bendien has invented and successfully marketed

a number of new technologies, including simulated ivory and reproduction canvass paintings.

"The making of round frames has always been prohibitively expensive and time consuming," Says Watson.

"Ben and I realised years ago that the traditional joinery methods used to construct a round frame have not changed in centuries. It represents a huge investment in effort, only to be inevitably hidden by a finish, be it gold leaf or paint."

"Put simply, we use technology which uses extrusion to carve out the desired shape and style of frame," explains Neil, "We operate True Helix 3-axis CNC machine centres capable of 3D surfacing, which are accurate to 0.01mm."

"Machinery has progressed to such a level that with the right programming, the most beautiful profiles can be carved," Ben

adds. "It's truly amazing, and in no other way would we be able to produce frames of the size and standard we do, without making them immensely expensive."

BK's choice to specialise in round frames



is a clear statement of their skill; a complex geometric challenge for any craftsman, if they can produce these, they can do anything. Using ethically sourced wood, a frame made by cutting-edge technology combined with traditionally made hand-cast convex glass illustrates their deep understanding of high-quality mirror production. Benson Karim's master gilder, Anna Errikson, has previously supplied her work to an impressive client list which includes David Hockney, Brett Whitely, Ralph Lauren and Gucci.

Benson Karim, 0208 6910099 www.bensonkarim.com

