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MARCH 2017

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LIMITED EDITION COVER
BY DO HO SUH

Checking In



ABOVE, SPACIOUS EXECUTIVE ROOMS OFFER MODERN DESIGN AND VIEWS ONTO A CENTRAL COURT

RIGHT, THE CENTRAL ROTUNDA LOUNGE HAS A SHALLOW DOME AND RELIEF MURALS ON A NAUTICAL THEME

London may not be under-endowed with luxury hotels, but until now they have tended to cluster around Mayfair and Park Lane. So Four Seasons' decision to open its second five-star London outpost on the eastern edge of the City financial district, midway between the West End and the investment banks of Canary Wharf, marks a striking shift in the capital's centre of gravity.

Four Seasons Ten Trinity Square occupies the former headquarters of the Port of London Authority. This grand Beaux-Arts building, overlooking the Tower of London, featured in the 2012 Bond film *Skyfall*. Built between 1912 and 1922, when London was the greatest seaport in the world, it exudes Edwardian self-confidence, with an opulent marble lobby and walnut-panelled reception rooms that have been carefully restored in a six-year, multimillion-pound programme of rebuilding and renovation.

The interiors of the 100-room hotel, which also has 41 serviced apartments on two new rooftop levels, were designed by Bruno Moinard and Claire Betaille of Paris-based 4BI et Associés (their previous work includes Cartier's New York boutique on Central Park and the rooms at Hôtel Plaza Athénée, Paris).

The centrepiece, quite literally, is the Rotunda, a glitzy circular lounge in the middle of the building. Its gold-ribbed dome is supported by barley-sugar columns and surrounded by relief murals intended to evoke the maritime heritage of the site.

Two restaurants open off the lobby: La Dame de Pic, the first UK offering from French chef Anne-Sophie Pic, who holds three Michelin stars; and an equally upscale Asian restaurant designed by Hong Kong's AB Concept, to follow later this year. Downstairs is the 1,680 sq m day spa, designed in a neo-Roman style by Joseph Caspari, which includes eight treatment rooms, a hammam and a 14m pool.

More unusually, the ground floor is where you'll find the nine Heritage Suites, their location capitalising on original 5m-high ceilings and period detailing. These open in May along with the third-floor Presidential Suite, which offers dining for eight and a small private terrace. But our vote goes to the Executive Rooms for their winning combination of size and more contemporary design. Eastward ho!★

10 Trinity Square, tel: 44.20 3297 9200, fourseasons.com/tentrinity. Rates: from £344



Port of call

The Four Seasons Ten Trinity Square, housed in an illustrious former maritime building, makes the City of London the place to drop anchor

PHOTOGRAPHY: CATHERINE HYLAND WRITER: CHRISTOPHER STOCKS

