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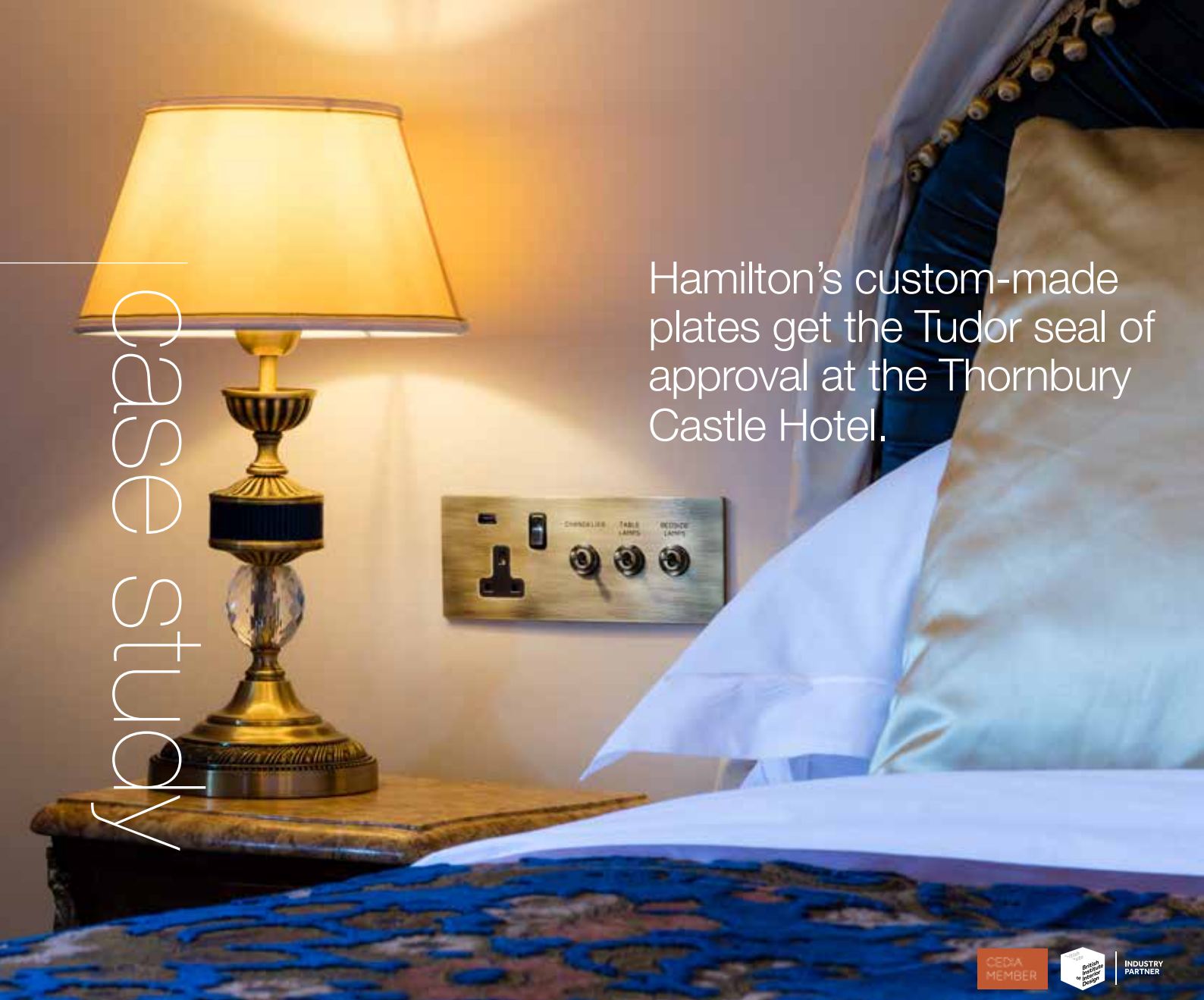
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case study

Hamilton's custom-made plates get the Tudor seal of approval at the Thornbury Castle Hotel.



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Decorative Wiring Accessories • Bespoke • Smart Lighting Control & Wireless Audio



The King Henry VIII Suite



■ Built in 1511 as an extravagant country retreat by Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham, Thornbury Castle has played host to many Kings and Queens during its time. Top of the royal guest list were Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, who spent a ten-day belated honeymoon there in 1535, two years after they were married as part of their 'Royal Progress Tour'. The King coveted the castle and took possession when Edward Stafford was conveniently found guilty of treason and executed – the estate was confiscated and remained part of the Crown Estate until 1554, when it was given back to the Stafford family. The castle also became the residence of Princess Mary, daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, which enabled her to get away from her father's court during her teen years.

Populated throughout history with both regal and wealthy guests, Thornbury Castle, a Grade I listed building, became a luxury hotel in 1966, and remains the only Tudor Castle in the UK operating as a hotel and restaurant.

The hotel has 27 bedchambers, fifteen of them featuring sumptuous four-poster beds, decorated using traditional materials and artisan design to create a unique regal experience. The castle hotel boasts six deluxe suites, including the recently restored Henry VIII Suite – the actual room where the King and his Queen, Anne Boleyn stayed during their ten-day royal tour. Along with the newly named 'Catherine of Aragon Tower Suite,' extravagant Tudor Hall and dining room, Thornbury Castle Hotel encourages guests to immerse themselves in the Tudor high-life.



■ The Brief

Under new ownership, the hotel embarked on a multimillion-pound refurbishment program to channel 1520s Tudor grandeur with 2020s contemporary hospitality. Due to its historic significance, all works commenced under the stewardship of Historic England. To meet the upgrade conditions to the electrical and lighting system, project architects, Childs Sulzmann needed to deliver a solution that used much of the building's existing infrastructure including: using existing wire ways; fitting new wiring accessories within existing recesses in the wooden skirting where possible; using existing wire chases and leaving the original 1500s stonework untouched.

A sumptuous bed is the centrepiece of each room, and it was decided guests should naturally be able to control the room lighting from the bedside position – at the simple flick of a switch. The design and finish of all wiring accessories needed to complement the rich Tudor décor. USB charge points, a modern-day *must-have*, needed to be incorporated into the final design. It was essential that this 21st century technology blended seamlessly within the 16th century luxurious surroundings.





■ The Solution

With 24-carat gilding used throughout the castle hotel together with gold finished tapestries, carpets, and Tudor-styled soft furnishings in many rooms and hallways, the decision to complement these with Antique Brass finished wiring accessories was not a difficult one. Electrical contractor, Electrico Limited, undertook all of the installation work and invited Hamilton to the project. Hamilton's popular Hartland collection, with its slim, sleek profile was the ideal box-fix design to harmonize with the ornate brass bedside lamps and dark wood panelling.

The desired bedside lighting control was achieved with custom-made plates from drawings supplied by the project architects, Childs Sulzmann. The plate functionality included control of the room chandelier, table lamps and bedside lamps within each room, plus a single power socket with 2.1A USB port for charging a smart device. Sheer CFX® was selected as the ideal design; a very flat plate with concealed fixings that sits almost flush to the wall, and again finished in Antique Brass with Black inserts. All three light sources are controlled with 3-Gang Toggle Switches – a retractive toggle for each light source – the perfect choice in a Tudor castle because they discreetly accentuate the period feel. To ensure ease of use by the guest, the function of each switch was clearly etched on the plate.

In some of the bedchambers, such as The Prince Arthur, the lavish dark wood bedhead is positioned up against the original stone wall. To meet conservation regulations, the custom-made plates were fixed to stained oak panels that were then affixed direct to the bedhead. When installing new accessories to original skirting board, the old recess was used wherever possible.

The desking area in each bedchamber required a second multi-functional bespoke plate. Sheer CFX® was again used for continuity, and the plate comprised: Double Switched Socket with Dual 2.1A/1A USB Charge Points plus an RJ45 CAT6 outlet for internet access. Everything one would need for using a laptop and to recharge other smart devices.



The Catherine of Aragon Tower Suite



The Prince Arthur room



Atmospheric lighting control was achieved through the inclusion of Casambi Wireless Control modules fitted within the custom-made back box of each wiring accessory. This enabled the gradual dimming of the lights where scene setting was required: in the guest's room upon entry and in zonal areas such as the hotel lobby and lounge. Sustainability is a pre-requisite, even in a Tudor castle, and the Casambi modules provided a master control switch ensuring all room lights are automatically switched off as guests leave.

An occasional table with a decorative table lamp was positioned in the centre of the larger bedchambers and deluxe suites. Again, a mixture of conservation and health & safety meant positioning a power socket within the original stone wall and to run a cable across the floor was not an option. Sheer floor power sockets positioned under the table, with a protective cover plate finished in Antique Brass, were used to deliver power to each lamp.

Each suite has a palatial bathroom, with either an ornate slipper bath, a walk-through wet room styled shower, or both. A Hartland shaver socket finished in bright chrome with black inserts was installed to complement the bathroom's polished chrome tapware, delivering a feel of luxury-meets-stately-opulence.



Retractive Toggle Wireless Lighting Control



Sheer Floor Sockets



Mult-functional bespoke plates in desking areas

“ I've worked with Hamilton numerous times and have always been impressed with the quality of work they bring to a project. Knowing Hamilton's ability, and I must say willingness to take on a brief for short run custom-made plates, sets them apart from other companies. A British manufacturer working on a very British project, it couldn't have been a better fit. ”

Tony Long, Project Manager, Electrico Limited.



■ The Result

The meticulous attention-to-detail delivered throughout this project by all concerned has contributed towards creating a totally unique guest experience of authentic Tudor hospitality. Candle holders would have replaced the decorative wiring accessories back in the day, yet nothing looks out of place. Hamilton's expertise at delivering bespoke solutions that integrate both seamlessly and sympathetically within a 'heritage' project proved invaluable throughout this project.

Tony Long, Project Manager, Electrico Limited said: "I've worked with Hamilton numerous times and have always been impressed with the quality of work they bring to a project. Knowing Hamilton's ability, and I must say willingness to take on a brief for short run custom-made plates, sets them apart from other companies. A British manufacturer working on a very British project, it couldn't have been a better fit – the dependable and trusted partner you need when working to such exacting standards."

Mike Cox, Childs Sulzmann Architects: "Hamilton was brought to our attention by Tony at Electrico, and it proved an excellent decision. Hamilton were able to take our working drawings and to supply prototypes of the bespoke plates for us to approve quickly. Manufacturing short-run custom-made items is not suited to everyone, especially when expectations are so high. We look forward to working with Hamilton again on future projects."

Simone Arcucci, General Manager, Thornbury Castle Hotel: "We are truly delighted with all of the recent refurbishment work, and we look forward to welcoming guests back to the splendour that is the Thornbury Castle Hotel. The standard of work throughout has been exceptional, and I know our discerning

guests will appreciate the effort that has gone into the fine details. My personal thanks goes to the team at Hamilton, and the way they collaborated with others on this project."



■ Products installed

Custom-made Control Plates:

Sheer CFX® Collection – All mounted on Antique Brass finished plates with concealed fixings, with Antique Brass switches and Black inserts, and a custom-made back box.

Plates installed include:

SVR-89C(SS1USB+3XTRT)AB-B – Single Switched Sockets with 2.4A USB + 3-Gang Retractive Toggle Switches.

SVR-89C(SS2USB+MOD-J45-C6B)AB-B – Double Switched Sockets with 2.4A/1A USB Charge Port plus EuroFix RJ45 CAT 6 Module Black

89DUS5B – 1-Gang 5A Unswitched Floor Socket

Additional Control Plates:

Hartland Collection – All mounted on Single/Double Antique Brass finished plates, with Antique Brass switches and Black Inserts.

Plates installed include:

SVR-79(3XTRT) – 3-Gang 10AX PTM Retractive Toggle Switch

SVR-79(2XTRT) – 2-Gang 10AX PTM Retractive Toggle Switch

SVR-79(TRT) – 1-Gang 10AX PTM Retractive Toggle Switch

79SS2AB-B – 2-Gang 13A Double Pole Switched Socket

79US5B – 1-Gang 5A Unswitched Socket

79TVB – 1-Gang Non-Isolated TV I in/I out

77SHS-B – Shaver Dual Voltage Unswitched Socket

about
Hamilton
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Hamilton Litestat is a British electrical solutions provider that designs, develops and manufactures innovative electrical accessories of the highest quality from its headquarters in Bristol. With a vast product range spanning, decorative switch plates and sockets, smart lighting control and wireless audio, it is a one-stop-shop for all wiring requirements for both the residential and hotel industries.

A family-owned and run company, Hamilton operates under the direction of Ian Hamilton and has grown since its inception to employ 120 customer-focused staff and distribute its class-leading solutions around the world.

Hamilton's outstanding reputation is built on delivering quality, both in terms of design and manufacture. It supplies the latest technology and 'smart' solutions, all supported by exceptional customer service. As an industry-leading company, Hamilton is ceaseless in its quest to produce pioneering solutions that are easy to install, competitively priced and have a stylish, desirable finish suited to any interior project.



For more information visit www.hamilton-litestat.com

uksales@hamilton-litestat.com | +44 (0) 1747 860088 | [f](#) [t](#) [p](#) [in](#) [@](#)



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