

CITY INN PICKS UP INTERNATIONAL AWARD

City Inn Westminster scooped the accolade of Best New Development at this year's International Hotel Investment Forum (IHIF), attended by over 1000 hotel industry senior executives in Berlin. City Inn beat off stiff competition from three other exceptional shortlisted hotels: the Ritz Carlton, Berlin; The Grove, Watford; and the Intercontinental, Warsaw.

The four nominees were compiled from a comprehensive list provided to the IHIF Advisory Board. The highly regarded expert board of 35 comprises representatives from the hospitality industry including CEOs of major hotel companies, advisors to the World Travel & Tourism Council, operators, hotel investment owners and consultants to the industry.

The 460-bedroom City Inn Westminster, London's biggest new build hotel in 30 years, was applauded in particular for its use of location, innovative contemporary design, facilities and service standards.

Jonathan Worsley, co-organiser of the International Hotel Investment Forum and consultant to CB Richard Ellis Hotels, said: "The City Inn Westminster rightly deserves this recognition not only for its cutting edge room design and accessories not normally found in four star hotels. They have created high quality food and beverage outlets that are destinations in their own right, attracting local and passing trade as well as residents. The owners have also set a new standard by offering free internet wireless access in all their public areas which will undoubtedly become the industry norm during the next few years."

On picking up the award, David Orr, chief executive of City Inn commented:

"We feel very lucky, winning this industry award for City Inn Westminster is unexpected and means a great deal, particularly in the light of the high standard of the nominees and the fact that we were chosen by our peers. Since my father and I created the brand, our aim has always been to create hotels that are modern and design-led yet understated, light and airy and welcoming. We still spend a lot of time working and evolving the design of our hotels to enhance the guest experience and are delighted that this has been recognised."

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City Inn Westminster opened in September 2003 and this is the second award for the hotel, having picked up Best New Hotel at the European Hotel Design Awards last year.

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Issued on behalf of:
City Inn Hotels

30 March 2004

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Notes to Editors:

City Inn was founded by Sandy Orr, Donald MacDonald and David Orr in 1995. Their vision was to create a hotel brand that combined contemporary elegant design and personalised service with a strong food offering in city centres across the UK. Eight years on, they are well on their way to achieving this goal. City Inn has grown into one of the country's most exciting new hotel groups, with hotels in Glasgow, Birmingham and Bristol as well as Westminster.

The company is continuing to expand with City Inn Hotels planned for Manchester and Leeds and is looking to take the brand into Europe and to the United States.