

News release

## Hotel staff build bicycles for guest use

**Hilton London Bankside launch first fleet of bicycles with Bamboo Bicycle Club**



Hilton London Bankside is excited to launch its very own fleet of bicycles for guest use, with a twist. In a new partnership with local business, Bamboo Bicycle Club, the hotel now offers guests use of 6 custom-built unique bamboo bicycles, built from scratch by hotel staff – under the expert guidance and tuition of the team at Bamboo Bicycle Club. Fully tested by bike-riding engineers, the bicycles are beautiful, robust, easy to ride and environmentally friendlier than standard bicycles.

With its focus on good design, and on supporting local London businesses, Hilton London Bankside wanted to offer guests something a little bit different to your average Boris-bike, and so engaged The Bamboo Bicycle Club, a company based in east London specializing in teaching people to build their own amazing bamboo bike from scratch. Set up by cycling enthusiasts James and Ian, The Bamboo Bicycle Club has created a community of bike builders, creative thinkers and cyclists across London and further afield. They have conducted research with Portsmouth University and worked closely with Oxford Brooks University & UCL to advance the development of bamboo bikes.

The bicycles have been made in Bamboo Bicycle Club's London based workshop. The bikes were first designed digitally to test the build and allow for initial analysis. A frame-building jig was then set up which allows the frame to be built accurately with the correct alignment. The bamboo tube is cut to shape using a mitered joint, and once cut to size, the

tubes are joined together using a hemp composite wrap. The frame is then finished and waterproofed and finally the components including the wheel and handlebars are fitted.

Hilton London Bankside's dream-bike-building-team consisted of Phoebe Zachariaki, Waitress at OXBO Bankside; Milan Pun, Gym Leisure Assistant; Liz Thompson, PA to General Manager; Andrew Evans, Security Manager, Liana Nastase, PR and Marketing Executive and Georgina Morgan, PR and Marketing Manager.

"We are delighted to partner with Bamboo Bicycle Club to create these brilliant bespoke bicycles for our guests to enjoy. The building process was a great team building exercise for our six chosen bicycle-builders from different areas of the hotel staff. Hilton London Bankside constantly invests in team member development and this shows clearly in our consistent positive staff feedback and job satisfaction. Each of the bicycles will be named after the team member that built it, with a message to let the rider know who hand-built their bicycle".

James Clarke, General Manager, Hilton London Bankside.

The bicycles will be securely stationed outside Hilton London Bankside from this week and available for hotel guests to use at any time during their stay, free of charge. Cycling is a great way to explore Bankside and the surrounding neighbourhood, with plenty of cycle routes taking in some of the best of London – pop down to Borough Market, discover the micro-breweries and foodie gems of Bermondsey or soak in the green spaces of Greenwich Park.

Hilton London Bankside will also create its own bicycle trail map of the local area and guests can purchase a delicious picnic box from OXBO to enjoy on their bike ride.

Stay at Hilton London Bankside from £239 per room per night based on two people sharing, including breakfast. For reservations visit [www.londonbankside.hilton.com](http://www.londonbankside.hilton.com) or call 020 3667 5600.

For more information on Bamboo Bicycle Club visit [www.bamboobicycleclub.org](http://www.bamboobicycleclub.org)