



## Intelligence and security - priority

**Summary:** Commercial hotel property – automated security and entry system, with CCTV system

**Location:** Central London

**Budget:** £20,000

Miss S contacted thinkingbricks from a central London hotel, as a result of her central control system difficult to use and unreliable. The previous installer was not contactable, and Miss S did not know where to look for the system details. The systems were breaking down regularly, and thus not offering the guests the services they required.

thinkingbricks visited site to assess the systems and their condition.

In a plant room downstairs, there were a mass of cables, over 80 satellite set top boxes, and a number of control boxes and switches present. There were controls for the doors to the ground floor garage, the front lobby doors, the music system, CCTV surveillance and lighting and curtain controls.

The next step was to establish how we could make the systems in place more reliable. A full review of the cabling present in the property was undertaken and a detailed level design of the systems was prepared. It was obviously important to work with the existing cabling as there was no opportunity to run more without mess and impact on the hotel's guests.

One key element was the AMX central controller, which had been superseded since installation. Following revisions about 3 years previously from it's original state, other systems added had not been integrated well into the AMX. For example, some of the function buttons showing on the touchscreen controller in the reception area did not actually control anything.

The lighting control system was also not supported in the UK any longer.

The CCTV system had a number of obsolete parts, and was not connected in a centralised way to give the best reliability.

A real challenge...

In discussions with the hotel owner, it was decided to replace all the equipment in place with the latest equipment, and to provide a manual for the systems being put in.

thinkingbricks worked directly with system manufacturers (AMX, Lutron) to specify how the central control and lighting control systems could be updated and made simple to use. The CCTV system was also re-configured from scratch.



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home cinema • multi-room audio & video • lighting control • networking & system integration



The fee proposal was agreed with the hotel owner and the first phase of the works took place.

To ensure the guests were not affected, the installation took place in readiness for a switchover from the old system to the new system out of working hours. After pulling an 18 hour day, the two systems were switched across for both the lighting and central control systems.

Next, the replacement pan / tilt and zoom CCTV cameras outside and inside were replaced, and re-configured using the existing cabling and programmed into the AMX controller.

Alongside the cameras, a new DVR (digital video recorder) was installed, linked to the AMX and set up to display all the cameras at the reception and the office of the hotel owner. This new DVR replaced the two units in the previous installation.

The finishing touch was to install everything neatly into a secure 19 inch rack in the plant room.

The satellite boxes were constantly tripping due to the heat in the plant room, even with constant air-conditioning.

thinkingbricks assisted the hotel owner in sourcing a satellite TV specialist to replace the huge number of satellite boxes to a centralised system with over 1000 channels available. This new system will reduce the number of boxes, the heat generated and the costs of the plant room itself.

The next steps are a potential penthouse re-fit, as well as a review of the broadband network, wired and wireless for each of the apartments.

## **Final cost of installation:**

**£23,500 including labour and VAT**