The Ned, City of London

A transformation of the former Midland Bank into a destination hotel offering a unique guest experience. Almost 100 years ago, Midland Bank approached celebrated architect Sir Edwin Lutyens (known to his friends as ‘Ned’) to design their new headquarters in the City of London. The end result — built between 1925 and 1939 and occupying the corner plot between Poultry and Princes Street — was an architectural masterpiece.

After passing through a number of hands, the building was eventually sold to an investor and EPR Architects invited to help convert it into a unique hospitality offering. So began the complex process of planning permissions and legal approvals, added to the design challenge of incorporating all the operational needs of a large hotel into a former bank within the constraints of its listed status. The end result however was achieved through a sensitive refurbishment; with the extensive banking hall transformed into a lobby, reception and main dining area; the three basements (including the original vaults) converted into a bar, spa and gym; former offices transformed into bedrooms with the adjoining secretaries’ offices converted into ensuite bathrooms; and the bank’s domes and rooftops lending space for a restaurant and bars.
The Grand Banking Hall, the 'belly' of the building, has been transformed into a luxury food court-esque space, which holds eight restaurants and up to 850 diners. The building's old, wood panelled bank tellers' cabins now hold booth seating. The former central reception desk previously manned by bank staff has been transformed into a stage for jazz performances, which will be seen and heard from most of the restaurants.
For decades, the Grade I listed building stood as a symbol of fiscal stability, with ornate doors, high vaulted ceilings, and vast marble-clad banking hall. The bank’s original vault, complete with a twenty-tonne, two metre wide vault door has been converted into a bar. It is widely believed to be the inspiration for Fort Knox in James Bond’s Goldfinger.

Many of Lutyens’ original features have been restored and refurbished, such as the stone and marble staircases, period chandeliers, plasterwork, walnut panelling, green verdite columns, and parquet and black-and-white flooring. Fittings unique to the building’s heritage, such as wooden banking counters and safety deposit boxes, have also been carefully preserved.
Offering a new experience for the City of London, The Ned has quickly transformed the financial district into a week-round destination, channelling the glamour of the building’s heyday and embracing its eccentric spaces.

Ned’s Club Upstairs has a rooftop outdoor swimming pool and terrace along with bars and restaurant all offering unrivalled views of The City’s other landmark buildings.
"THE NED DEVELOPMENT PRESENTED MANY DESIGN AND TECHNICAL CHALLENGES. THE SYDELL GROUP HAS BEEN DELIGHTED WITH THE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE EPR TEAM; THEIR ARCHITECTS WORKED VERY HARD WITH OUR TEAM TO ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING DETAILED DESIGN SOLUTIONS DELIVERED WITH SERVICE AND DILIGENCE."

Stuart Adolph
Vice President — Development — UK
The Sydell Group