

**iDOGI announces the installation of ‘Meridies’
A unique chandelier at Raffles London at The OWO**



iDOGI is proud to announce that a majestic chandelier, crafted over the last few years by iDOGI, creators of bespoke oversized artistic lighting, is now suspended from the magnificent dome above the grand marble and alabaster staircase at Raffles London at The OWO.

This dramatic staircase is in the centre of the Whitehall Wing which overlooks the regal Whitehall thoroughfare, opposite the official entrance to Buckingham Palace. The hotel is set to open later this summer for all to admire this glittering addition to the capital.

The chandelier was designed by iDOGI, an Italian company based in Venice, and is made up of an astounding 3085 elements and 96 lights. This breath-taking piece of art took approximately more than one year to complete from concept to shipping. This proves the level of detail, time and effort which went into creating such a magnificent light fixture.

The chandelier consists of two vertically-aligned globes made of the finest hand-blown and hand-crafted Venetian crystal. The two globes represent respectively the British and the Italian culture, united in their quest to create timeless beauty.

The name of this bespoke chandelier is 'Meridies'. This name was chosen to signify the close interweaving of arms (think of the meridians in our body) that are a symbolic reflection of the close-knit links that existed between the British Empire and the Republic of Venice (often referred to as Venice's Serenissima Republic, or the "Most Serene Republics").

Both the British Empire and the Republic of Venice were sovereign maritime nations based on trading. Although the cultures were different, they were both powerful in their reach and influence around the world, and in the beauty of the art and crafts produced and traded.

The iDOGI designers looked at geographical, cartographical, and historical references when researching this fabulous design.

It is designed to be a visual image of a union – in history and today. It intends to celebrate power, connection, and the ultimate strength of the unity of nations, while respecting their diversity. And in diversity, celebrating uniqueness.

To summarise, 'Meridies', a gem by iDOGI, creators of bespoke lighting have united with Raffles London at The OWO, to bring a new light, a new gleam and a new meaning to this grand entrance. To breathe new life into one of Britain's most historic buildings.

Matteo Canepari, Head of Design and Planning at The OWO says: *"iDOGI have defied the impossible by creating this majestic works of art to proudly light the way for all guests as they enter Raffles London at The OWO. The age-old tradition of Venetian Glass Masters has been perfected by their craftsmanship and their love for beauty. They combine this tradition with forward-thinking innovation. In this way the chandelier is perfectly placed in our Grade II* listed Edwardian masterpiece which has been passionately restored for future generations to enjoy."*

To understand the sheer size of the chandelier, the measurements are 230cm in diameter and 815cm in height. iDOGI deployed a large team to worked together in order to create this piece of art. There were three people on the creative team designing the light, four people on the technical team and three people on the glass master team. Furthermore, there were five people on the production team, who put together the chandelier's technical structure and applied all the decorative parts. Two team members were appointed for the final check of the light and four team members assisted with packaging the light ready to be shipped to London.

ENDS

Raffles London at The OWO - facts at a glance

- Opening Friday 29th September 2023
- Address: Whitehall, London SW1A 2EU
- 120 rooms and suites, designed by the late Thierry Despont
- 85 Raffles branded residences, designed by 1508 London
- 9 restaurants and three bars led by world-class chefs and restaurateurs including three unique dining experiences by chef Mauro Colagreco
- The Guerlain Spa at Raffles London featuring beauty and wellness experts Guerlain and health club by movement specialists Pillar Wellbeing comprising an extensive gym and movement studio, striking 20m swimming pool, complete with vitality pool, designed by Goddard Littlefair
- Event space comprises: The Whitehall Ballroom at 678 square metres; The Lawrence, pre-function area at 425 square metres; Morse Meeting Room at 94 square metres and Code Meeting Room at 89 square metres

About iDOGI: Since 1968, iDOGI, an Italian company based in Venice has defied the impossible by creating majestic works of art in the world of lighting. Highly skilled artisans and designers work together as a team with international architects and interior designers to create precious masterpieces for the most exclusive customers all over the world. The iDOGI vision is to bring unparalleled artistry into each creation – equivalent to Haute Couture. Excellence, tradition, and innovation are made into art. idogi.com

About the Grand Staircase at Raffles London at The OWO: The entrance hall is off Whitehall and when the Old War Office was opened in 1906 it was important for staircases in government buildings to convey the majesty of Empire, with architecture that, figuratively, brought visitors to their knees. The grand staircase is framed by the marble alabaster stairs and magnificent Portland stone columns. It

is two stories high, with a groined ceiling and Portland stone columns and the staircase displays a rich variety of stones: Painswick stone walls, English alabaster balusters, handrail of Brescia marble, paving and steps in Piastraccia Italian marble. Richly veined, they were opulently coloured to sumptuous effect, in shades of amber, aubergine and off-white. Historically at night, the grand staircase was lit by concealed lights behind the cornice and from bronze lanterns hanging in the corridors: the modern wonder of electricity. The entrance area has a black-and-white tile floor and highly decorative ceilings with neo-baroque fibrous plasterwork. It has an arcade and surrounding gallery above it.

About The OWO

Opening on Friday 29 September, the former Old War Office in Whitehall will open as The OWO. Situated at one of London's most historically important and powerful addresses, the building has undergone a monumental transformation and will be home to 9 destination restaurants and three bars, a 120-room Raffles London at The OWO, and 85 Raffles branded residences. At the helm of The OWO project is the Hinduja Group, an international multi-billion-pound turnover business with experience in the restoration and renovation of historic buildings and Onex Holding, a private investment group with a strong track record of developing and operating strategic and critical infrastructure. theowo.london

About Raffles London at The OWO

Opening on Friday 29 September, Raffles London at The OWO will host London's first Raffles Hotel, a prestigious new hotel in a landmark Grade II* listed building on Whitehall. Situated at one of London's most historically important and powerful addresses, the building has undergone a monumental transformation comprising 120 rooms and suites alongside 85 spacious private residences. raffles.com/London

About Raffles

Founded in Singapore in 1887, Raffles Hotels, Resorts and Residences are places where ideas are born, history is made and stories and legends are created. At each landmark address, distinguished guests and residents will find a world of elegance and enchanted glamour, where Raffles' renowned legacy of gracious service knows no bounds. As the authentic heart of a destination, Raffles champions fine art and design, and fosters culture in all its forms, guiding guests to make discoveries in their own time and way. Raffles' commitment to local communities is expressed through diverse initiatives with a unified mission to actively support the arts and the environment. From one generation to the next, visitors arrive as guests, leave as friends, and return as family. Raffles can be found in key international locations including Singapore, Paris, Istanbul, Dubai, Doha, Maldives, Udaipur, Phnom Penh and Bali; with flagship openings upcoming in London, Boston, Macau and Bahrain in 2023. Raffles is part of Accor, a world leading hospitality group counting over 5,500 properties throughout more than 110 countries, and a participating brand in ALL - Accor Live Limitless – a lifestyle loyalty program providing access to a wide variety of rewards, services and experiences. raffles.com | all.accor.com | group.accor.com