

EX: LIMERICK LEADER
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Impressive Hilton to open next February

By ANNE SHERIDAN

FROM El Paso to Beverly Hills, the hotel chain pioneered by Conrad Hilton nearly a century ago, will open its doors in Limerick next February.

Situated on the site of the former Jurys Hotel, overlooking the Shannon in the heart of Limerick city, the new impressive complex is part of the new look Limerick.

Another Hilton in Kilmainham, Dublin, is also due to open early in 2007. There are already two Hilton's in Dublin - one in Dublin 2 and another near Dublin airport, as well as The Mount Wolsely Hilton in Tullow, Co Carlow.

"It's important to note that these hotels will reflect the new modern face of Hilton with smart and innovative design, and a focus on additional lifestyle features for guests to appreciate and enjoy," said Howard Friedman, Hilton's Area President for the UK and Ireland.

Sources could not confirm whether Conrad's granddaughter, Paris, will be here



Claire Anderson, General Manager of the new Limerick Hilton

to officially open the hotel but said they are "expecting many high profile people from Limerick and the surrounding areas to visit and enjoy the hotel."

The seven-floor Hilton Limerick at the corner of O'Callaghan Strand and Ennis Road will have 184 bedrooms, as well as an entire floor dedicated to

executive travellers with an executive lounge. Exclusive terraces wrap around the executive rooms giving a sense of airiness and expansiveness.

And it is likely to be Limerick's most luxurious hotel with scenic views of the Shannon and the city. Formerly The Inter-continental, Jury's Doyle and recently The Strand, the new hotel will bring a touch of world glamour to the Mid West.

"The spectacular design of the hotel focuses on height, light and glass. Panoramic lifts to all floors offers a view over Limerick city available from no other building and a four story atrium and glazed winter garden overlook the river," said a spokesperson.

The hotel was already begun marketing itself as a prime wedding venue. It can cater for up to 450 people and 5.7 metre high ceilings add a feeling of grandeur. Brides will be pampered with the service of a wedding co-ordinator and use of the LivingWell health club and the Presidential Suite.

Lalco Developments, one of Ireland's leading development companies and Hilton

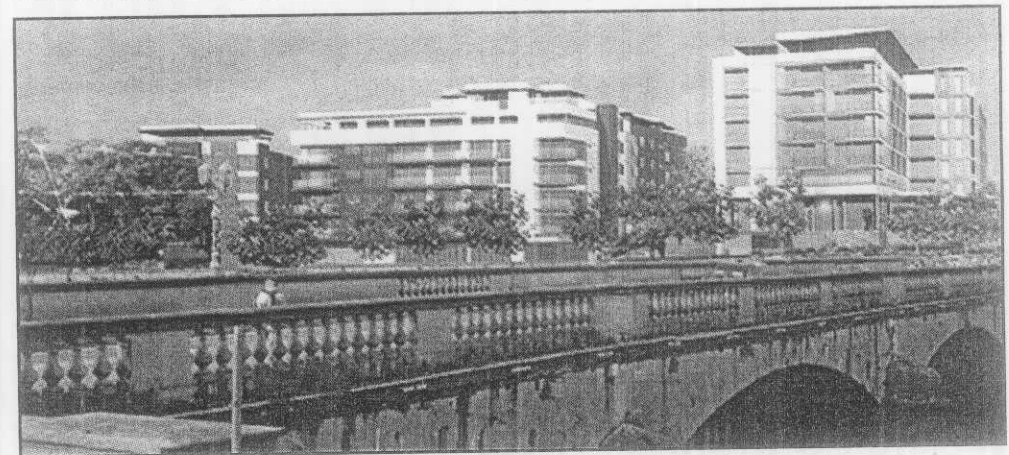
International are behind the venture, which will also include 137 deluxe apartments. John Lally, managing director of Lalco believes the new hotel will "regenerate a much-loved and key part of Limerick city's heritage".

Wireless internet will also be available throughout the hotel and each bedroom and executive room has been designed and laid out with the needs of the business user in mind. Plans also include a 130-seat restaurant, a cafe and hotel bar.

The LivingWell health club on the premises will have a 20 metre pool, hydrotherapy and plunge pools, sauna, solarium, cardiovascular and resistance gym and a beauty spa. The centre will be available to residents and members.

The Hilton chain was founded in 1919 by Conrad Hilton and in 1930, he opened his first highrise Hilton hotel in El Paso, Texas. Hilton became the first international hotel chain with the opening of

the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico. John Lennon and Yoko Ono held their first Bed-In for Peace between March 25 and March 31, 1969 at the Amsterdam Hilton in Room 902. This room has become a popular tourist destination. The chain has grown to over 500 Hilton branded hotels across the world and has partnerships with many airline and car rental companies.



An artist's impression of the Hilton Apartments

