

**London based Douglas Wallace Architects wins competition  
to find UK's most creative tile application at Kohler Spa at St Andrews Golf Course**

<December 2007 > LONDON - When designer Beverly Bayes of Douglas Wallace Architects commissioned photographs of the stunning new Strata tiling installation at the Old Course Hotel in the grounds of St. Andrews Golf Course, she made a little bit of history. Not only did she win the Strata Tiles competition to find the UK's most creative tile application, she also captured the luxurious and tranquil atmosphere of the new Spa completed by Douglas Wallace at the Old Course Hotel, which is the first ever Kohler Spa system outside of the United States.

This award recognises the innovative material specification, as demonstrated in the winning photo taken by Nicolas Gentilli on behalf of Douglas Wallace, of the pool and thermal suite, which are key elements of the Kohler Waters Spa experience. The competition was organised by Strata Tiles in association with FX Magazine.

Strata Tiles were specified by Douglas Wallace based on their extensive range of tiling products in order to create the spa's luxurious and tranquil ambience; materials included mosaic tiles to create the bespoke design to the pool and large scale slate effect tiling to the walls and pool surround, complemented with panels of rugged stone from a local quarry.

The Kohler Spa bases the experience around the natural healing properties found in special mineral rich water. The focal point of the spa experience is the swimming pool, which culminates in a waterfall that, through regulated water flow, allows guests to enjoy the experience of a gentle massage and the natural healing properties found in special mineral rich water.

"I am thrilled to win the Strata Tiles Competition. The Kohler Waters Spa at The Old Course Hotel, St Andrews was a fascinating project to be involved with. It is the first Kohler Spa resort to be built outside of the United States. We chose tiles from Strata that reflected the relaxing quality of the water which is an integral ideal of the Kohler Spa brand," said Beverly Bayes, team leader, Douglas Wallace.

"We wanted to give architects and designers the chance to demonstrate an unusual and inspiring way to use tiles. Douglas Wallace won because they demonstrated the style, design and versatility of this uniquely tiled project. It was an honour to be able to take part in such an esteemed project", said Jonathan Wiles, director of Strata Tiles.

With offices in the Barbican area, Douglas Wallace ranks among the leading architecture practices in the UK and Ireland. The Irish owned multidisciplinary firm has created a formidable practice with turnover in excess of £12 million, over 180 staff, design studios in London, Belfast, Dublin and Galway and clients and projects across Europe.

Douglas Wallace works for a portfolio of UK, Irish and international clients. In addition to advising developers Edward Holdings on the full redevelopment of Bow Street Magistrates Court and Police Station into a new luxury hotel, restaurant and combined interpretative centre, the company is currently working on the Floreasca Centre in Bucharest and Queensmere and Observatory in Slough. The firm's UK clients include Harrods, Bang & Olufsen, London Town Hotels, Debenhams, Habitat, Bradford and Bingley Gap Holdings and Starbucks among others.

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

Strata Tiles was formed in 2002 by Trevor Horsley, Paul Wallis and Jonathan Wiles. Using their forty-eight years worth of combined experience and product knowledge, they have assembled a cutting edge range of products. As associate members of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and The Tile Association (TTA,) Strata Tiles ensure a high quality, professional service, committed to raising standards in architectural tile design.

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