Arcus Consulting: Case Study

UFI Learn Direct Sheffield

Project Objectives:

The brief for the project was to improve the quality and flexibility of the current conference and meeting room facilities at Learn Direct Headquarters building in Sheffield. The facility was to include breakout areas and ensure that the spaces provided would be sustainable by being easily adaptable to meet UFI's constantly evolving environment.

Arcus were awarded the commission following a mini competition involving the Consultants on the OGCbuying.solutions 'Workspace Strategy, Space Planning, Design and Implementation' Framework. OGCbuying.solutions is an agency of OGC established to deliver value for money gains from central government and the wider public sector through a dedicated, professional procurement service.

"What seemed like an impossibly tight deadline was achieved on time and within budget despite some difficult changes to the scope of works. Arcus and their nominated contractor, were both extremely professional throughout. Work was mainly carried out during normal working hours and despite this, there was no disruption to staff at our Head Quarters. Our decision to award further work to Arcus is a further demonstration of our satisfaction with their work on this project."

Greg Freeman, Corporate Services, UFI Learn Direct

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Arcus Solutions:

Arcus provided a 'one-stop-shop' for UFI by offering Architectural, Interior Design, Project Management and M&E Engineering services to give UFI a fully refurbished multi-functional area that is accessible to all.

The design process began by creating a large open space with pods of activity areas which were separated by frameless glass partitions into flexible work and non work areas. The clever use of translucency makes the working environment light and airy, to avoid the feeling of being "boxed in". This creates an environmental balance in spaces, allowing privacy without walls.

The creation of such flexible spaces as part of the design challenge was achieved by carefully selecting colours, materials, lighting and furniture chosen to create a balance to suit the adaptability for any environment. The lighting was fitted with movement and solar sensors enabling them to change output levels by maximising the daylight and reducing the carbon footprint of the building. Indirect lighting was given preference to provide a high quality visual environment.

Delivering Value:

During the construction phase of the project, UFI still occupied both wings and all three floors of Dearing House. In order to ensure that UFI enjoyed seamless continuity to their normal operating services, temporary accommodation was provided on site, which was fully integrated with existing communications and IT networks. The co-ordination and move management strategy provided by Arcus resulted in UFI benefiting from a disruption free build.

Attention to detail was given to the sustainability of the materials and textures used in various elements such as floor coverings, furniture and furnishings. Extra care was taken to choose materials which were recyclable and renewable without compromising the quality or the standard of the scheme.

The result was not only a project successfully delivered within 2 months from inception to practical completion but also within UFI's budget. Arcus were subsequently appointed to provide a similar service in connection with the refurbishment works required at mezzanine floor level and to two further break out areas.

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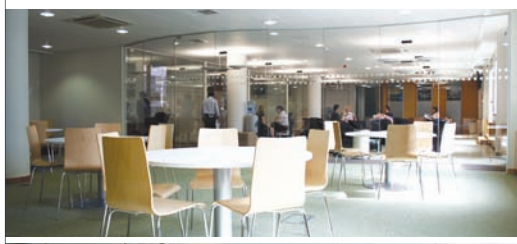
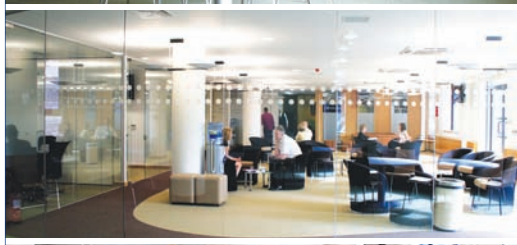
Overview:

Client: Learn Direct, Sheffield

Services: Design, M & E Engineering and Project Management

Value: £200,000





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