

An Open Invitation

Scottish Re Limited is thrilled with everything its new City office brings to its business. The Re-insurer and M Moser worked closely together to create a fresh, open, stable and dependable image, impressing visiting clients with a visual statement of the reinsurer's business commitment, while at the same time making all the UK and international staff feel perfectly at home in their new office.





Cover: Clocks with charged phosphorous faces indicate the 10 different time zones where Scottish Re conducts business, displaying a desired international dimension.

Top: The passage created by the two sets of columns channels the two arms of the office space. The choice of column rather than glass allows for continuity of material – in the reception area, the cool brightness produced by limestone.

Middle: The contrast of colours and geometry in the lounge area creates a modern and understated feel. The façade is accessible from the lounge if a breath of fresh air is desired.

Bottom: The workplace has “plenty of space to breathe, walk around, communicate.”



Scottish Re's move from Windsor to the City of London, the core of its client territory, was a brand led decision. The intention was to create an elegant workplace interior not just to please clients but to instill the spirit of the company among existing staff and impress it upon any new staff they wish to recruit. Indeed, as one of Scottish Re's core values, "spirit" emphasizes the company's dedication to providing its people with the opportunity to "prosper in a dynamic and collegial environment".

M Moser was tasked with assisting through the whole process of workspace selection and creation to ensure alignment of intention and results. The brief highlighted continuity and openness as key themes. The client also desired a modern and understated overall feel.

One of the latest Richard Rogers' buildings, Tower Bridge House was eventually chosen

for its prestige as well as its sheer beauty as a stunning piece of architecture – high ceilings, column free floor plates, and an abundance of natural light, the very spirit of continuity and openness.

Utilizing the building's versatility, the office interior was designed as one contiguous space, with open office area adjacent to the full length windows and the west façade, and enclosed offices partitioned using floor-to-ceiling glass, commanding a full view of the Tower of London.

The heart of the whole office lies in the reception/lounge area. As the geometric centre of the workspace, the "heart" needed to be highly functional. The question therefore arose as to how the reception and the lounge should be divided to encourage activity and flow while maintaining functionality. The real ingenuity in the design is to be found in the very way this focal area is defined and enlivened by two sets of columns, one behind the reception desk and the other backing the kitchenette in the lounge. Sized, spaced and

angled specifically to utilize the natural light conditions and to create flow of openness, these columns are delightfully majestic, evoking a sense of strong support and dependability without the overflow of secrecy and harshness too often brought about by solid partitioning. The choice of column rather than glass allows for continuity of material – the reception columns are of limestone, the same as the reception floor and in keeping with the cool brightness of the whole reception area; the lounge columns are of stained walnut, matching the flooring in the kitchenette.

A hint of freshness in the form of aquamarine lounge carpet brings about a progressive feel with plenty of space for free thinking. The contrast of colours and the geometry in the area creates the modern and understated feel sought for by Scottish Re.

This is how Scottish Re created through its new London office a corporate image which appeals to both staff and clients. And who wouldn't enjoy working for, or working with, a company of such open-mindedness? ■



Top and Bottom: Full length windows and floor-to-ceiling glass partitioning combine to utilize natural light conditions. The minimal glass partitioning is offset with a rebated, substantial, dark wood veneered door designed to compliment the white monolithic furniture and chocolate carpet.

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