

TOWERING PERFORMANCE

THE FLAGSHIP REED SMITH OFFICES IN BROADGATE TOWER, LONDON, FEATURE BESPOKE CEILING SYSTEMS FINISHED IN THREE DIFFERENT SHADES OF RED BY SAS INTERNATIONAL. AIS MEMBERS SAS INTERNATIONAL AND INTEGRA CONTRACTS WORKED CLOSELY TO DESIGN AND DELIVER THIS COMPLEX CEILING SYSTEM.



Project Broadgate Tower
Location London
Architect Gensler
Main contractor ISG plc
Ceiling contractor Integra Contracts
Manufacturer SAS International
Completion date March 2010

The ceiling systems were specified by architects Gensler, who were brought in by Reed Smith to design and fit out 15,400m² of space over 13 of the skyscraper's 35 floors. The new headquarters at Broadgate Tower, provides a home for the firm's 650 staff. Two floors are fully equipped

with client facing space, one holds the restaurant and a social hub for employees, seven floors accommodate the lawyers and their assistants and three house support services, IT and human resources.

The main goals of the new office were to create a space which fosters relationships, provides a bright and uplifting environment for staff, ensures the ability to adapt with changes to the business, and also enables strong sustainability performance.

SAS International's system 120 and 150 metal ceilings with concealed suspension grid, and system 130 with exposed suspension grid were specified by Gensler in three shades of gloss red, in keeping with the company corporate branding.

Main contractor ISG appointed Integra Contracts to carry out the ceiling installations at Broadgate Tower. With its vast knowledge of ceilings and its experienced design team, Integra Contracts was considered the preferred contractor to carry out this difficult and challenging installation.

Integra Contracts' managing director Warren McCarthy said: 'Soon after the initial concept was proposed our design team worked closely with SAS International from early design stage to ensure the fabrication and installation of this bespoke ceiling was carried out with military precision.'

Communication is of paramount importance when there are many teams working together and this project was no exception. SAS International and Integra Contracts worked closely with the M&E consultants to identify any issues from the outset. These were highlighted and solved at design stage, saving vital time on the installation of the ceiling. In addition, particular consideration was given not only to the functionality and durability of the ceiling system but also its aesthetic appearance.

As a bespoke colour was specified extra time needed to be factored into the design stage to cater for the sample and manufacturing process of the ceiling tile as each colour needed to be specifically mixed for the three different types of ceiling tile. This meant multiple samples were produced by SAS International in different shades, tile size and gloss levels prior to decision.

Matthew Kobylar, project designer at Gensler, comments: 'SAS International met the challenge of mixing the specified powder coating colours to fit the exact

design requirements of the brief and also created bespoke sized ceiling modules to accommodate our design. SAS was very helpful in developing its system to fit our needs and provided good quality, delivery and service. The ceiling system combines excellent durability with design flexibility and a stylish finish.'

Because of the complexity of matching the different colours used for the tiles, the design layout of the ceilings had to be finalised prior to delivery and installation. Ceiling tiles were delivered to the site numbered so the contractor could set about installation to the agreed design template.

Integra Contracts worked in conjunction with the M&E consultant prior to fit out as items such as grilles, CCTV and fire alarms had to be factored into the ceiling design. Warren McCarthy from Integra continues: 'The difficult bulkheads and interface details took some careful planning but with the help of SAS we overcame all possible problems and also incorporated the M&E trades to ensure the overall look was sleek and innovative. We feel the variation of three different tile sizes, three different shades of colour and gloss content with the paint finish adds to the overall appearance of the ceiling. It was only through the various mock ups and samples were we able to achieve this.'

SAS ceiling tiles can be specified in over 200 RAL colours, as well as textured paint, natural metal and wood effect finishes. Meeting demanding project life cycle specifications, SAS's metal products are guaranteed for a minimum of 25 years. At the end of their life these products hold a residual value and can be recycled, ensuring products do not end up in costly and unsustainable landfill sites. Before a guarantee is underwritten, each batch of finished products is subject to a series of eight tests, including adhesion, gloss level, pressure and impact.

SAS International is one of five UK in house approved applicators of Interpon D architectural powder coatings. This quality assured paint provides a thick layer of durable covering to a metal surface, and is often specified by architects as a preferred choice.

McCarthy adds: 'The months of design and development that went into planning the methodical design, manufacture and delivery were not in vain as the installation proved to be smooth and snag free. This was a challenging project but one that Integra Contracts is proud of.'

In conclusion, SAS International's brand manager Malcolm Stamper said: 'Broadgate Tower is a good example of how parties being involved with a project at early design stage can save vital time on installation whilst eradicating any concerns at an early stage. Communication is the bedrock of the success on any project. A manufacturer who can offer design service from the outset can help substantially with evolving design plans and any challenges that may arise on site.'

Gensler was able to achieve a LEED-CI silver certification for the sustainable measures undertaken in the design and fit out.